

Social Ecological Institute Poland, is the name of EcoTourism Poland

The Social Ecological Institute is a non profit ngo, registered in 1990, working mainly on sustainable development of rural areas by educating farmers, local governments, local communities on organic farming, agricultural biodiversity, local food processing and ecotourism. The work methods are to create local public-private-social partnerships and networks, activate local communities through workshops, participation, networking, supporting local organizations and international exchange with organizations pursuing similar goals. Our main area of work is north-east Mazovia, characterized by small farming (average farm size 8 hectares), low income and high unemployment rates, but also valuable nature areas (Natura 2000). Many projects aim at educating small farmers to organic farming, local food processing, agro and ecotourism, in order to allow them to create new revenue sources. In 2009-2010, we lead a project titled "A model ecotourism network between Bug and Narew rivers", including 13 rural communes. In the project we facilitated the creation and adoption of an ecotourism development strategy for the region, we created an ecotourism certification system for rural tourism, and a network of 26 ecotourist places and services. Over 200 people took part in 2010 in our workshops, seminars, conferences and study trips in Poland and abroad.

The role of the organization who initiated the project will be the general coordination- being responsible for good communication between partners, overall project calendar, fulfilling of all activities and goals, leading the evaluation, and organising all events happening in Poland (national and international workshops) as well as recruitment of polish participants to the project and organization of their mobilities and disseminating project results at national level.



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