



Environmentally Responsible Action Group

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1 - 6 October 2007: ERA group representative attended the Forestry Training given by the Ministry of the Forestry. ERA group presented during the training on the “Destructive Human Impact in Rugova Region,” which was accompanied by video footage.

28 September - 4 October 2007: ERA group hosted capacity training on project development for youth organizations in regards to the Youth in Action program priorities of Europe. Organizations from the SEE region and from EU countries joined us in developing project proposals under the frame of creating a trans-boundary conservation area, commonly known as the Balkan Peace Park. This was the 2nd meeting of the “Peace and Environment” sub-project group, which is coordinated by ERA.

16 September 2007: ERA group held the inauguration of the Waterfall Trail as part of the Municipality of Peja’s YOUTH DAY. The dedication of the Waterfall Trail to youth environmental education and nature exploration marks the first opening of a constructed trail in the Rugova region, and is just the beginning of many ecotourism initiatives from ERA group.

11 September 2007: FotoMaratona ran for 12 hours where youth from Peja, Gjakova, and Prishtina were given free film from ERA to photograph social and environmental issues in Kosovo today. Their photos were exhibited at the YOUTH DAY on 16 September, where the top three photographers were given awards of free weekend stays at the touristic ventures in Rugova. This project was a part of the “All Different, All Equal” campaign.

July - August 2007: ERA group’s intern from Colgate University helped coordinate and implement the Waterfall Trail project. She was ERA’s first international intern, and her internship not only allowed us to complete the Waterfall Trail but allowed us to provide jobs to locals and aid in local and sustainable development of the region.

7 - 10 June 2007: ERA hosted the 1st meeting of the “Peace and Environment” sub-project group that was developed from the framework of “youthNET - Creative Partnerships with SEE.” This sub-project groups aims to support the vision of the Balkan Peace Park movement. ERA group serves as the main coordinator of this project assisted by Interculturelles Zentrum of Austria.

March 2007: ERA organized a mountaineering excursion to Jezerca Peak of Albania dedicated to cross-border cooperation in the region. Approximately twenty people took part in the winter hike to the highest peak in the proposed Balkan Peace Park, half from Kosovo and half from Montenegro, and were also joined by mountaineers from Italy. The hike started at the border between Kosovo and Montenegro, and continued up into the highest mountains of Albania.