

Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia - SOS

22. September 2014

Podčetrtek

General about SOS

- established in 1992
- the biggest representative association of local authorities in Slovenia
- 175 member municipalities (out of 212)
- Covering inhabitants 1,609.904 (out of 2.046.976)
- organized in three sections regarding different needs:
 - Section of city municipalities (big municipalities)
 - Section of municipalities with administrative unit headquarters, (medium municipalities)
 - Section of other municipalities (small municipalities)

Tasks of SOS

- assert and represent common interests of municipalities in relation to state bodies and international organizations,
- consider draft laws relating to municipalities, and provide initiatives to the Government, the National Assembly and the National Council,
- organize debates, trainings,
- exchange experience and strengthen local self-government,
- inform its members of the Association's activities and topical issues concerning local self-government,
- cooperate with Slovene and foreign organizations of local and regional communities,
- design joint development projects,
- encourage and promote intermunicipal cooperation in Slovenia and abroad,
- represent municipalities' interests in negotiations

Working bodies of SOS

- 16 commissions + 4 working groups
- App. 250 representatives of member municipalities operating within these groups thus:
 - coordinate legal acts and regulation act within working areas that are important for the municipalities,
 - share and exchange good (and bad) practice,
 - point to inconsistencies and problems and recall management of SOS and its member municipalities,
 - jointly prepare solutions to their common problems,
 - recommend solutions to the management of SOS.

Commission for tourism

Tourism is an important issue of daily work with members and governmental level, main tasks are to coordinate legal and regulation act, promote joint projects, capacity building of members. Some topics:

- Tourist tax (lump sum for holidays hous & ship owners)
- Private accomodation renatal “room-renters” – local inspection
- Tourism Promotion Act (2010-...)

Older topics

- Project Castle investment promotion (JAPTI – 2010)
- Winter holliday – change of school timetable(2009)
- Initiative project micro-touristic manager (2008)
- Touristic vine transversal

Tourism and municipalities

Tourism should be the domain of the private sector and entrepreneurship, however, municipalities have a key role in **ensuring the long-term success in the development of tourism** in the area.

- Legal basis - Local Self-Government Act (21.art)
- municipality also carries out tasks in the field of hospitality, tourism and agriculture

The Promotion of Tourism Development Act (ZSRT)

- article 19 provides that :
- the planning, organizing and implementing policies to promote the development of tourism at tourism areas are within the jurisdiction of municipalities.
- This must follow the guidelines of the Strategy of Slovenian tourism.
- ZSRT in article 20 says that funds for planning, organizing and implementing policies to promote the development of tourism provided from the budget of the municipality.

The Promotion of Tourism Development Act (ZSRT)

- This law also stipulates that the municipality in a tourist area to promote tourism development to ensure:
 - Information tourist activity,
 - editing and maintenance of tourist signage
 - promote the development of integrated tourism products tourist area,
 - marketing of a comprehensive tourist offer at the level of the tourist area,
 - development and maintenance of the common tourist infrastructure,
 - Development and maintenance of public spaces intended for tourists
 - organization and implementation of events,
 - awareness and encouraging the local population to a positive attitude towards tourists and tourism
 - other services that are in the tourist area free offer to tourists.



SOS - NALAS

- NALAS is a network of associations of local authorities of South East Europe. The Network brings together **16 Associations** which represent roughly **9000 local authorities**, directly elected by more than **80 million citizens** of this region. The NALAS Secretariat, based in Skopje, is responsible for the overall coordination and the implementation of the activities. NALAS was **created in 2001**.
- Within NALAS's TF for sustainable tourism SOS is a member.
- Two “products”:
 - Position paper “SEE TOURISM GOES LOCAL”
 - Sustainable Tourism Planning Toolkit (draft – with Assessment)



SOS – AAA TCP TOURISM

Main areas of TCP on Tourism:

- linking the interests of the tourism stakeholders within the AAA, with special emphasis on sustainable tourism development
- development of tourism in protected areas and Natura 2000 area
- promotion of cultural and natural heritage
- accessibility of the region and sustainable mobility
- impact of climate change on tourism development in the region AA
- The role and importance of tourism in the macro-regional strategies - MRS (Adriatic Ionian, Alpine and Danube). Finding ways to stimulate joint projects under MRS
- raise the quality of tourism
- development of social and accessible tourism
- capacity building of stake holders through events, publications, study visits



MEMBERS TCP TOURISM

KARLOVAC

Mrs. Dina Begić, director of the County Tourist Board
and Eva **SOBOTIK-PAVAN** as a coordinator

KÄRNTEN

Dr. Winfried Steiner

KOPRIVNICA-KRIŽEVCI

Zdravko **Mihevc**, direktor Turističke zajednice Koprivničko-križevačke županije

KRAPINA-ZAGORJE

Sanja **ŠKRINJAR**

director of the Tourist Board of Krapina-Zagorje County

VARAŽDIN

Elizabeta **DOLENC**

Varazdin County Tourist Board

SLOVENIA

Saša Kek, SOS



Invitation to other AAA members:

- **BURGENLAND**
- **ISTRA**
- **MEĐIMURJE**
- **STEIERMARK**
- **VAS**
- **VIROVITICA - PODRAVINA**

to nominate a members/contact persons to
TCP on Tourism **stays open**