

## **Workshop: Ideas of implementing a European (Primeval-) Forest Trail**

A trail, the people and places in Europe should connect, is sustainable if it is gone by young and old people. Hikers wish experiences with nature just as meetings with people. At the same time they would like to find out and exchange about changes in the environment as well as about social and technical changes which are for the regional living conditions relevant.

### *Economic woods and primeval forests in Central European and East European low mountains*

Peripherily low mountain regions rich in wood in Central Europe and East Europe are areas with the biggest inhabitant's losses to be expected. Today above all the timber economy in these regions carries a large part of the economic added value. Forest death and other environmental damage lead to a conversion in the forestry to more stable mixed forests. With the reconstruction of primeval forest cells living spaces are created for the preservation of the biodiversity. In the Carpathian woods there are the last preserved original primeval forests of Europe.

So that wood and landscape are also maintained in future, the population in these regions rich in wood needs an economic perspective. Two important pivots for an economic and cultural participating of these regions in the development of Europe form the timber economy just as the ecological tourism.

### *Ecological tourism*

In wooded middle mountainous regions a health tourism has its tradition. National parks and nature reserves carry the development of an ecological tourism in these regions. In Western Europe hiking guides or forest guides, nature reserve houses, teaching paths and similar facilities connect the tourism with environmental education. In East European low mountain ranges the ecological tourism is still underdeveloped.

### *(Primeval-) forest trail as a European footpath to treasures of the forest nature and to timber competence centres*

The way of the European (primeval-) forest trail orients to already marked and described European long distant hiking trails which lead from the west of Europe up to the Black Sea coast. Between the Ukrainian west border and the Black Sea any European are not yet defined.

### *Multiple strategy*

The project of the European (primeval-) forest trail pursues a multiple strategy:

1. Learning and transfer by personal getting to know of other living conditions and economic systems in the forest regions,
2. Networking of significant actors along the whole trail to strengthen the ecological tourism and its intercultural, environmental-pedagogic and regional-economic qualities and to develop a timber economy based on sustainably managed woods,
3. Development of qualification and infrastructures along the eastern road part (polyglot hiking guides, trail mark and care, lodging places, cooperation between timber competence centres).

### *Measures "walking"*

- Marking concept:  
workshops with organizers in Romania and in the Ukraine,  
GPS data for important, road points difficultly to be oriented,
- Lodging concept:  
Lodgings in places, with mountain farmers, in forester's houses, in youth hostels,  
Lodgings register and provide information,
- Qualification and environmental education concept:  
training of hiking and landscape guides, event annual summer schools, trainee's  
exchange, educational journeys
- Marketing and networking concept:  
Proof of realized stages, intercultural walking, marketing for the whole trail on internet and  
polyglot information, e.g. maps with tourist information, travelling and plant guide books.

*Measures „sustainable regional development and timber economy“*

- interlinking and partial construction of regional timber competence centres, for  
an improved added value with lasting effect, informing from these and other regions along  
the primeval forest route by events brought together become,
- polyglot project data bank that of the primeval forest route, forest regions and her wooden  
clusters, around information for cooperation,
- convention to the duties to be received of a state one forest supervision and a sustainable  
forestry,
- concept of primeval forest cells and their integration in regional strategies ,
- regular Trias conferences of representatives of the nature conservation, the timber economy  
and the ecological tourism.

*Process*

- Preparatory meetings with the key initiators
- Address of potential cooperation partners
- Spreading of the idea with decisive bearers in politics, economy and administration
- Definition of the organisation form and agreement about the financing
- Establishing of a central control group as well as several regional groups
- Working forums at regional and European level
- Event of intercultural hiking days in varying stages of the route as  
"celebration and inspection" (the achieved celebrate, other necessary measures recognise)