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**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP**

**LAKE KERKINI NATIONAL PARK – A HEAVEN FOR THE NATURE LOVERS**

**21-26 July 2014**



Photo: Kostas Papadopoulos

**International Youth Camp 21-26 July 2014**

**Lake Kerkini National Park, Greece**

**Please register up to 20 June 2014!**

The project "Belasitsa Beyond Borders – Transboundary Cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt" is co-financed by



# INVITATION

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

### Lake Kerkini National Park – A Heaven for the Nature Lovers

**21-26 July 2014**

We would like to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Youth Camp under the frame of the project “Belasitsa Beyond Borders – Transboundary Cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt”. The camp will gather young people from Bulgaria, Greece and FYR Macedonia on the territory of Lake Kerkini National Park, Greece.

#### **Event information**

The camp is focused on the active involvement of youth in nature conservation and sustainable development activities. It will be a chance to learn more about nature protection, management of protected areas, as well as sustainable tourism as a tool for economic development. The participants will get to know the mission of Lake Kerkini Management Authority, the beautiful nature of the National Park and experience the lifestyle of the locals.

The camp will include three major components:

- 1) Lectures on biodiversity, nature conservation and sustainable tourism.
- 2) Practical conservation activities aiming at supporting the work of Lake Kerkini Management Authority – cleaning of the lake, renovating tourist infrastructure, monitoring of rare and endangered animal and plant species, etc.
- 3) Field trips to some of the most notable historical, archeological and cultural sites in the region.

#### **Terms and conditions of participation:**

- All participants must be between 18 and 30 years of age
- All participants must come from Bulgaria, Greece or FYR Macedonia
- Work language: English
- Accommodation in the hostel “Archontiko” in the village of Kerkini
- Food in the hostel “Archontiko” in the village of Kerkini
- Necessary equipment: comfortable walking boots and clothes
- Participation fee – 25 euro per person for the whole camp period
- Travel costs: the participants cover their own travel cost to the venue and back. The organizers will be responsible for the travel in the area during the time of the event.
- Maximum number of participants: 15 people (5 per each country)
- The camp starts at 11:00 am on 21 July 2014 and finishes at 12:00 on 26 July 2014

## **Venue: Lake Kerkini National Park**

Belasitsa Mountain is divided among three countries – Bulgaria, Greece and FYR of Macedonia, as the three borders come together at Tumba Peak (1880 m a.s.l.).

The National Park of Lake Kerkini includes the biggest part of the mountain in Greece, the lake Kerkini, part of the river Strymonas and many villages. It has a multiple value in local, national and international level. The park offers a numerous options for development of the area supporting the agriculture, fishing, tourism, recreation, education and the scientific research.

The lake was formed in 1932 after the construction of a dam in the river Strymon near the village of Lithotopos. The main purpose was to control floodwaters of the river Strymon and retain suspended materials, as well as to irrigate the plain of Serres.

The lake of Kerkini and its surrounding area is a habitat of at least 300 bird species as 50 of them are included in the Red List of Birds for Greece. The mixed colonies of 10 different bird species nesting in the riparian forest along the lake shore make the site one of the most important wetlands not only in Greece and but across Europe. Due to its biodiversity richness the lake was declared a nature protected site (Ramsar site) back in 1971 and Lake Kerkini National Park was established in November 2006.

The biodiversity of the area is significant. Apart from the birds, there are also important species of amphibians (11 species), reptiles (26 species), mammals (more than 58 species), fish (30 species), plants (more than 800 species) and invertebrates (more than 2000 species, 20 of which are new species for the scientists including a new genus!). The biggest population of buffalos in Greece inhabits the area around the lake.

## **For registration & more information**

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The present International Youth Camp is organized in the frame of the project “Belasitsa Beyond Borders – Transboundary Cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt” which is jointly implemented by the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation – Branch Belasitsa (Bulgaria), EuroNatur (Germany), Belasitsa Nature Park Directorate at the Executive Forest Agency (Bulgaria), Management Authority of Lake Kerkini (Greece) and Environmental Association Planetum – Strumica (FYR Macedonia).

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