



Montenegro

Projects/Initiatives

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Montenegro under the theme of Sustainable Tourism convened a project, in December 2005. The project used the New Power of the Rafters as the driving force in sustainable tourism and the creation and implementation of regulation policies for rafting skippers (people who take tourists for rafting activities). The objective of the initiative was to build the capacity of rafting skippers; to involve them in the work of the working groups; set the base and implement training programmes for rafting skippers; organize training; determine relevant institution for licensing (in this case National port authorities) and carry out registration of their business; and, certification of 15 rafting skippers.

Rafting on the river “Tara” is one of the most attractive tourist attractions especially for foreign guests. However, there was no clear regulation, no licensing process for service providers in place. In the long run, this endangers sustainability and quality of the attraction. In order to improve rafting service, reduce safety risks and protect natural resources of Montenegro, which are of crucial importance to the uniqueness and attractiveness of the tourism potential of Montenegro, it was necessary to define an institutional framework for rafting service including creation of professional standards, training programmes and licensing procedures. Working groups consisting of rafters’ representatives, the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Maritime and Transport, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Labour and relevant institutions such as the Secretariat for Justice, Secretariat for Sport, National Park Directorate, and Navigation unit of the Ministry of Interior were formed with facilitation from the UNDP to address the issue. This working group engaged the Centre for professional education to work on concrete and detailed resolution of this issue. Creation of the professional standards and national training program for rafters (rafting skippers) was the first of its kind in Montenegro where with the facilitation from UNDP Montenegro, rafting skippers actively participated in the creation and implementation of the National Training program for rafting skippers.