

## **THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ECOLOGY AND CULTURE EIA ECO-ART CENTER EIA**

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Eia is a member of The Green forum, BEN and GEN (Global Ecovillage Network)

### **ECO TOURISM**

Istria is an ideal territory for the development of eco tourism as an economic activity which would provide viable economic development of the local communities and saving natural and cultural values.

The association Eia, activities and projects of its own uses for the development of the eco tourism. Web page is under construction and there will be informations about eco-locations and accommodations, food, old trades, riding, etc. in a district of Bale and wider (about 30km around).

Since Eia is giving an example of life in a harmony with the nature, people from all parts of Croatia and around the world are coming to take a rest, to learn because that way of life motivates them.

### **EIA AND PERMACULTURE**

Electric energy is obtained from the sun and wind by means of windmills and solar panels.

Rainwater collects from the roof and it filtrates so it can be used for washing and watering of the plants and for a drink is used spring water which has to be brought from the Motovun.

The forest is cleaned from old branches and trees, underbrush clears also so there is enough firewood.

There is an outer compost WC in a usage and there is a plan of building of the internal one too. Compost pile makes from the waste of the trees and animal faeces.

There are plans for building a lake in a purpose of irrigation and so making milder microclimate.

It can be seen ecologic building of the wood houses and there are also plans for building a circular house which would serve as an educational center. Under construction is a wooden stable for the animals (nanny goats, donkey, horses).

The education of the local inhabitants is also forseen and workshops how to start with eco tourism/eco food/eco building/sources of the energy...

As soon as organization of the eco-center is completed we will offer touristic contents (a contact with the domestic animals, riding, growing of eco vegetables, fruits, honey, spices and salubrians plants, walking...).

## **PROTECTION OF THE NATURE**

The top priority of the eco-art center Eia is protection of the natural and cultural inheritance of the territory around and inside of a district of Bale. It is well-known that Istria has rich cultural and inheritance resources, natural resources, different ecosystems etc. Of such kind, Istria has a huge potential for the viable development.

The association Eia and eco-art center Eia have been working on a sensibilisation of the local inhabitants in a way of campaigns for the protection of the nature, by public displays of pictures and photographs, workshops and seminars with children of a different ages, by marking and celebrating the ecology dates (for example: The day of youth in the square of Pula).

There is a plan for building a workshop-room of the old trades (pottery, work with rests of the wood). The workshop would be used for the education of the visitors (especially the young people).

## **BUILDING OF THE OBJECTS OF THE ECO-CENTER**

The center has got an area of 17000 square kilometres to be used (property of Atilio Dandrić) for the aims of the center. Since we need a room for the accomodation of 30 persons at least (average number of students in a classroom) we think that it should be made the example of eco-building (traditional eco-building by stone, lime, building by straw and lime) because it is also one of the themes of the center.

Building is a prerequisite for work of the center through the whole year because the work in an open area depends on the weather. Work of the eco-art center has been sponsored by few donors and in actions of cleaning and preparing of the territory, about hundred volunteers have been included from Croatia and the rest of the Europe. We hope that local companies and local authority will help us too.

## **EDUCATION**

Since 2003 when Eia has been established – The association for the ecology and culture, huge efforts have been put in the education and protection of the landscape (workshops, seminars, displays, school in the nature). Throuh the contact with domestic animals, walking through the nature, working in the garden, creative workshops, music, pottery, wool, etc. students and other visitors familiarize themselves with ecological habits in everyday's life.

## **THE POINT OF THE CENTER – A VISION**

The vision of the eco-art center is viable development through harmony living of people and the nature. The main point of the center is a custody of natural and cultural values of district of Bale and Istria by means of:

- taking the advantage of a free time, be creative, educate the students, citizens and public
- preserving different species and ecosystem
- preserving cultural and traditional values
- stimulation of ecological way of thinking and acting
- stimulation of volunteerism.

In a purpose of gaining the main point, it is longed for developing and preserving of collaboration of cultural, artistic and ecological associations which act in Croatia and in foreign countries, so the center could be a global, international settlement with multicultural center in the future.

## **FROM 2003 TO 2006**

The project of the center called «Eco education for a better world» is made as a result of three year work (2003-2006) of the association for ecology and culture Eia on education and sensibility in a field of ecology, protection of the nature and everything living and development of eco tourism.

Since there are needs for education in today's world of local citizens and students about perserving of natural resources and touristic visiting of natural untouched landscapes, accordind to our opinion, it is necessary to promote a viable developmenatl resolvings.

In eco-art center we are making everything already said, and in a further reconstructin of the territory, making infrastructure and building of educational center, we could realize activities in a wider and more quality capacity through the whole year.

## **THE PROJECTS**

Our intention is to bulid one space for reception and education about 30 people and to equip it as a classroom for the students and visitiors ( for realising the project «Eco education for a better world»).

An existing programme of school in a nature is made by the point for the students to learn about biological differenties, acting in a nature and her endangered.

It is also planned a construction of ethno workshop in eco-art center where would be collectioned traditional items and tool so the visitors of the center could be introduced with cultural and traditional inheritance of the territory and connect it with today's development of permaculture.

The project of education of citizens and young people would be realized through February and March 2006 by the point of stumation of better managing of natural resources and more efficiency protection of the nature and mankind by the point of intersector collaboration because of gaining minimal pollution and destroying of eco system.

Activities which would be a part of this project are possibility of discussion, presentations, workshops, making of educative materials.

The project «Eco – education of the young people for a better world» has begun in October 2005. It is planned to last till October 2006. The project is being realized through collaboration of infant nursery, elementary school and high school.

All presentations and workshops holds in the eco-art center Eia and they are adapted to the age and interests.

Even though the project by it's activities has been planned for 2006, it is immagined as a continual activity (many years), where would grow and qualify a basis of people who are interested in permaculture. The eco-art center would help to provide for the construction of a eco – village.

## **INFO MATERIALS**

In 2006 has been planned a preparation and printing of pamflet which would present natural and cultural inheritance of a district of Bale with explanation of base of concepts (sush as eco-tourism, viable development, what is EIA).

## **CONTACT**

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## **LOCATION OF THE ECO-ART CENTER:**

- 3 km from Bale in the direction of Krmed (10 km from the sea, 16 km from Rovinj, 23 km from Pula)
- from the direction of Rijeka or Kopar
- way out –Rovinj / Kafanar
- after 4 km on the right for Pula / Bale
- after 6 km on the left in the direction for Krmed and from crossroad 300 m on the right from the signfor EIA
- after 300 m of forest way there is eco-art center Eia