



2nd NEWSLETTER OF 4GreenInn project

**Launching press conferences of the project**

During the second four-month period, the 1st press conferences of the project were held - on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 in Sevastopol, on 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 in Galati and on 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2014 in Burgas.

The press conference in Burgas was attended by the major local media and widely covered by them. One of the project goals - innovative models for sustainable management of protected zones - focused the attention of Burgas residents and of Vaya Lake in particular, who believe that the lake should be promoted and visited but also protected for future generations. The idea of a virtual visitors centre was discussed with stakeholders. Interested NGOs expressed willingness to participate in the training for sustainable management of protected areas which will be held in Romania in June 2014. Local stakeholders - universities, companies, administration, environmental institutions and local media participated in the first press conference of

the project organized by SERDA in Romania. All of them expressed willingness to participate in the project and to contribute with their activities for the achievement of its goals.



*The press conference in Galati, Romania*

The press conference in Sevastopol gathered more than 50 representatives of the Ukrainian and Russian scientific circles (MHI, Institute of the Biology of Southern Seas, National Nuclear Power University, Moscow State University), students of the ecological faculties, activists of the environmental movement, journalists and representatives of the tourist companies. The 4GreenInn project was presented in detail. There was also a report on the situation around the Belbek River valley - territory that needs serious environmental protection. The event was marked by an active discussion on the ecological problems which are hovering over the Sevastopol and Crimean zone at present. One of the topics that caused greatest interest was creation of the Black Sea Ecopedia and choosing the territory to be most thoroughly examined by the project. The conference was widely covered by local media, including Sevastopol State TV Channel, NTV, and number of news agencies. As a result the working relations



*The press conference in Burgas, Bulgaria*

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were established with a number of specialists in protection and management of the natural areas. As this conference follow-up the project specialists participated in the round table discussions and meetings held by the local research and academic institutions covering the ecological issues.



*The press conference in Sevastopol, Ukraine*

### State of the art research of the protected zones in the partner countries' regions

In January 2014 the partners started the elaboration of the state of the art research of protected zones, one of the main project results, part of the Black Sea Ecopedia internet platform. The research will include the current state of the protected zones, their mapping and the best practices from partner countries regarding management of protected areas. The information on the protected areas processed within the research surveys, part of the common data base, will be user-friendly and available over the internet.



### ASSOCIATED PARTNERS CORNER

(The original article is published here: <http://www.salttolife.biodiversity.bg/bg/>)

Sunny and amusing was the winter holiday dedicated to Atanasovo Lake - Atanasov day. For a second consecutive year, a „name day“celebration of the famous Black Sea lagoon was organised within “Salt of life” project on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014. This year, with the cooperation of Burgas municipality and Cultural Centre Sea Casino, the holiday was organized during the weekend and attended by more than 70 people. In the beginning, PhD Svetla Dalakchieva (ornithologist) gave an interesting presentation of some of the most characteristic birds of Atanasovo Lake which nest, migrate or spend the winter in the area. She kept the audience’s attention for an hour with a lot of pictures and curious facts about the birds. At the same time, the children’s group was very excited, lively and involved in lake’s biodiversity activities. The children could draw the birds, make puzzles with their body parts, solve crosswords and make bird models with play dough. The most difficult task was to find and arrange the body parts of a 3D model of a mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and little egret (*Egretta garzetta*). In the end all guests received a certificate “*Atanasovo lake birds specialist*”.

The “*Salt of life*” team prepared a picture quiz about the birds’ biodiversity, which enabled all visitors to distinguish some of the most widely seen birds around Atanasovo lake - the birds` paradise - not only for Burgas, the city of thousands wings, but also for the whole Bulgaria.

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