OLD MOUNTAIN-NEW PRACTICES: a circular economy focused on people and nature

CHALLENGE
Stara Planina and its villages, with unique history, culture and natural attractions for many years were forgotten and nearly depopulated. With development of winter and rural tourism, area sprang to life, but consequences of tourism activities put under the pressure biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services of the area. Constant increase in number of tourists and TSP puts the problem of excessive waste in front of local communities and municipality due to the lack of CE equipment, but more importantly due to the lack of educational and awareness raising activities. The change is inevitable and the initiative came from the communities itself, supported by municipality.

OBJECTIVES
Overall objective of the proposed project is to contribute to the reduced pressure on biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services of the BGB (Region), through CE education, capacity building, and networking of the key actors in Stara Planina area. Specifically, project aims to create and promote sustainable CE model for small touristic villages of Stara Planina through cooperation and development of mindful consumption habits among inhabitants and TSPs to put leftovers of household and tourist consumption into circular economy.

APPROACH
Partnership-based approach with local stakeholders and involving them from the preparatory phase; Data collection and research; Tailor-made trainings, joint meetings, action planning for the target groups; Communication, networking, promotional events, e-outreach; Transboundary cooperation of Stara Planina communities with small mountain communities in Bulgaria and North Macedonia; Inclusion, accessibility, equal opportunities for all.

WHO IS DOING IT?
Lead partner: TEAM association-Odorila, Teteanu, Milan;
Location: Balkan Green Belt (BGB), Republic of Serbia/Eastern Serbia/Zecevarski Region/Municipality of Knjazevac; National Park Stara Planina (Old Mountain);
Duration/Time frame: 14 months;
Where can more information be found? www.eu-team.org and project Facebook/Instagram profiles