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Invitation

**THE INCREDIBLE BELASITSA
PHOTO CONTEST**



The Belasitsa Beyond Borders Project is co-financed by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU)



We would like to announce The Incredible Belasitsa Photo Contest in the frame of the project: “Belasitsa beyond Borders – Transboundary Cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt”.

The Contest is open for everyone and will take place from 1st September 2013 to 30th October 2013.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

- The main goal of the Contest is to select photos presenting the beauty of the region of Belasitsa/Belles Mountain in three countries (Bulgaria, Greece and FYR Macedonia) – its nature, culture and people.
- The 45 best photos selected from the contest will be used for elaboration of a traveling exhibition promoting Belasitsa as an eco-tourism destination.
- Some of the 45 best photos will be used for elaboration of an image brochure and information boards in the area.
- The 45 best photos will be published on the web portal www.belasitsa.com.

WHO MAY ENTER

- Amateur or professional photographers.
- Representatives of the project partner organisations can enter the Contest but cannot be awarded with 1st, 2nd or 3rd place prizes

GENERAL RULES

- Photographs will be accepted under three major categories: **Nature**, **People** and **Culture**. The category of each photograph should be described in the Entry form attached to the present announcement.
- Photographers can attend the Contest with no more than 6 different photos in total regardless of categories. If a photographer sends more than 6 photos only the first 6 will be included in the contest.

HOW TO ENTER

- Photos will be only accepted via email in an electronic format.
- Submission e-mail address: vladimir.milushev@biodiversity.bg
- If the photographs are bigger than 15 MB in size please send them in separate mails or via on-line server.

- The file name of the photograph must include the photographer's name and the title of the picture such as: Firstname_Surname_Title.jpg.
- The name of the file must be written in Latin letters.
- The e-mail must also include an Entry form. The Entry form is attached to the present announcement.
- Deadline: 30th October 2013

PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS

- Photographs must be in an electronic format.
- No print or film submissions will be accepted for entry into this Contest.
- Minimum size for each photograph should be at least 6 megapixels (approximate 2832 x 2128 pixels). Resolution can be calculated by multiplying the pixel width of the image with the pixel height.
- All digital files must be in one of the following file formats: JPEG(JPG) or TIFF.
- The photograph, in its entirety, must be a single work of original material taken by the Contest entrant.
- By entering the Contest, entrant represents, acknowledges, and warrants that the submitted photograph is an original work created solely by the entrant, that the photograph does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or entity, and that no other party has any right, title, claim, or interest in the photograph.
- Applicants should note that manipulated photos cannot be submitted. Image cropping, cutting the disturbing elements, changing the orientation, full touch image correction, correction of brightness, contrast or sharpness setting, white or colour balance **does not count** for image manipulation, as well as transformation of colour photo to black and white.

JUDGING

Judging will be done by a commission consisting of at least five members of the project team. The 45 best photographs will be chosen based on the following criteria:

1. Representativeness of of the region of Belasitsa/Belles Mountains. The emphasis is the Belasitsa/Belles Mountain itself. A very small percentage of photographs from the adjusting region will be accepted (Lake Kerkini, Lake Doiran/Dojrani, Monospitovsko Marsh, etc).
2. Attractiveness;
3. Creativity;
4. Photographic composition and quality.

Three best photographs will be chosen for each of the categories of the contest – Nature, People, Culture.

Winners will be chosen not later than November 15th 2013, and notified by e-mail.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Period: from 1st September to 30th October 2013

Winners Announced: November 15th 2013

LICENSE

By entering the Contest, all entrants grant an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive license to project partners, to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of the entries in connection with the Contest and promotion of Belasitsa, in any media now or hereafter known, including, but not limited to: display at a potential exhibition promoting Belasitsa as an eco-tourism destination; elaboration of image brochures and information boards, etc.

Project partners will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such use.

WINNERS LIST

Winners' names will be available online at www.belasitsa.com after November 15th 2013.

AWARDS

The authors of the first three photographs in each category will receive awards - comfortable trekking backpacks, Tourist guidebooks, maps, T-shirts.

The ones qualified at first place in each category will get additional surprise awards.

DATA PRIVACY

Entrants agree that personal data especially name and address (settlement and country only), may be processed, shared, and otherwise used for the purposes and within the context of the Contest and any other purposes outlined in these Official Rules.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE

The present Photo Contest 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 (Bulgaria), The Management authority of Lake Kerkinis (Greece) and EA Planetum – Strumica (FYR Macedonia).

The project is co-financed by German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU).