

A PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

# VIA DINARICA





# THE DINARIC ALPS REGION

- Over 200 mountains
- 20 national parks
- 19 protected UNESCO sites
- 2,200 km of rivers
- 200 natural lakes
- 15,000 caves
- 70,000 medieval monuments





# VIA DINARICA: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- Countries engaged:  
Albania, Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, Montenegro,  
Croatia, Slovenia, Kosovo,  
Serbia
- Creating year round  
outdoor tourism offers
- ‘Walking the Via Dinarica’  
pilot project and key  
achievements







# Connecting naturally



## White Trail

This is the main trail along the entire length of the Via Dinarica that follows the natural flow of the highest peaks of the Dinaric Alps. The white trail includes all of the highest peaks in each respective country. Although there are a plethora of activities along this head trail, such as mountain biking and rafting, it's main function is as a hiking trail.



## Green Trail

The Green Trail is exactly that, green carpet of forests that meander through some of the lower mountains of the Dinaric Alps. The Green Trail is made up of two-wheeled trail blazers with hundreds of kilometers of well maintained bike trails. Hiking and walking with the rich wildlife of this eastern front, makes a great option for soft adventure.



## Blue Trail

The Blue Trail veers towards the coastline and the crystal clear waters of the Adriatic Sea. The mountains may be smaller in this part but no less attractive and challenging. It includes some of the best coastal and hinterland hiking in Europe always accompanied by the fresh smell of medicinal herbs and the breeze of the Mediterranean.



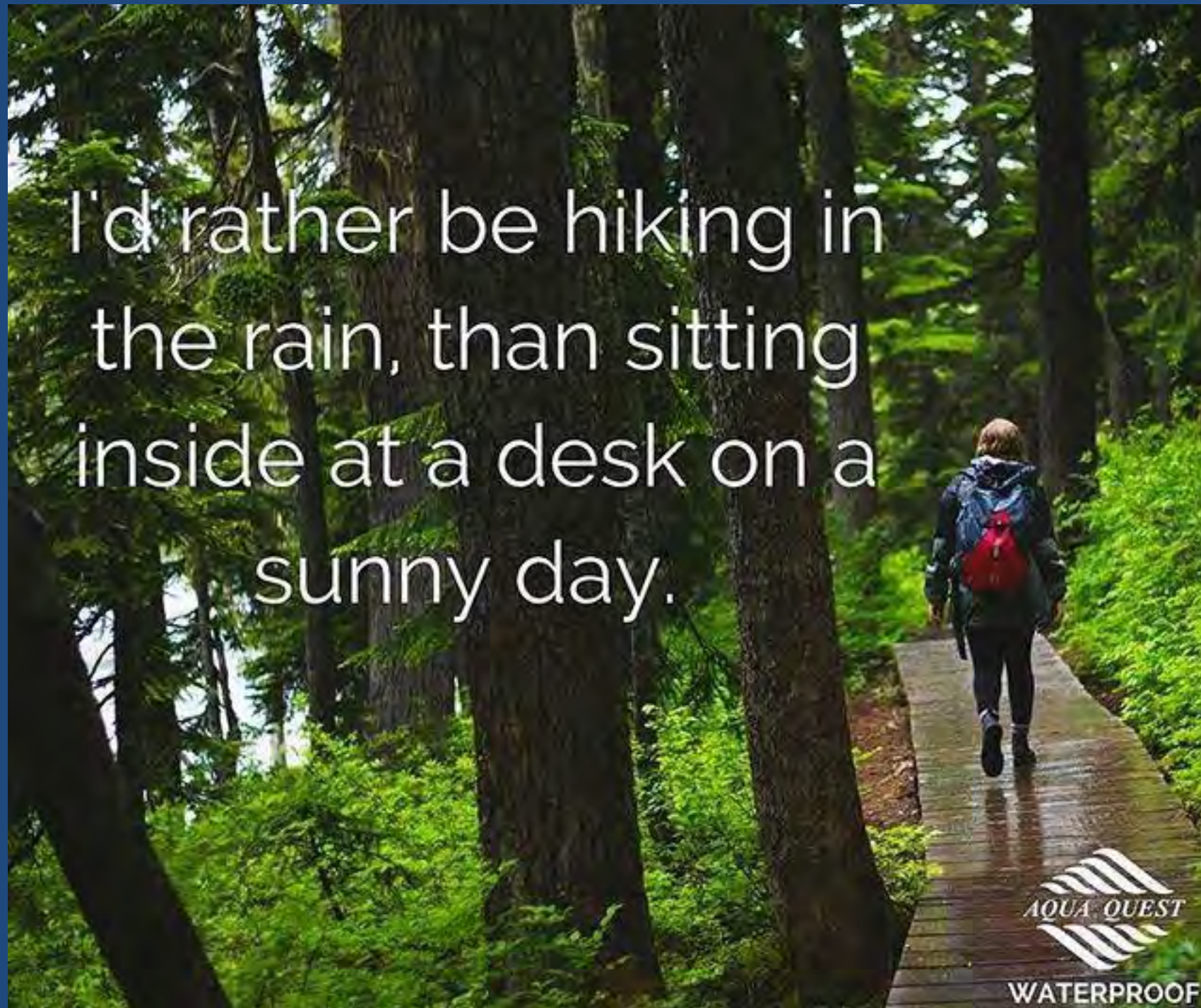
# ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY

**For years many attempts to protect the environment were unsuccessful. Our wish to protect the precious environs taught us that we must find alternative solutions to sustainable development –**

**A new balance must be found between economy and ecology.**

***It is no longer an option!***

*There is no such thing as bad weather...only bad gear!*





# WHY WE SEEK NATURE

- Hiking
- Biking – Mountain & Road
- Just being in nature
- Snow shoeing
- Alpine Climbing
- Scientific research
- Picking/harvest seasons



# DEVELOPING THE TRAIL(S)

- Via Dinarica initiative builds on potentials for tourism development: extraordinary beauty and valuable natural and cultural heritage
- Forges partnerships at local and national levels – community participation
- Targets mostly underdeveloped rural areas with high unemployment rates and poorly developed tourism infrastructure
- Promotes tourism for the purpose of sustainable economic development of the region, while preserving the environment and respecting the socio-cultural diversity and authenticity of local communities.







# SYNERGIES WE ARE SEEKING

- Economy and ecology
- Small scale organic agriculture as added value to tourism product
- Solar and wind energy sources
- Cultural and natural heritage
- Local community ownership with government assistance
- Opportunities for youth and elderly in rural areas





