

***ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING EXCHANGE INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
HOSPITALITY SMEs IN THE BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN REGION***

Subsidy Contract No. BMP1/1.3/2616/2017

**Company name: Stakevski Houses Complex**

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Source: <https://www.facebook.com/Stakevtsi/>

**Country/region of operation:** Stakevtsi village, Bulgaria

**Sustainability dimension:** environmental, heritage-based

**Description of the enterprise/initiative:**

Complex "Stakevskite kashti" consists of three houses - Berchinata house, Anina house, Marina house. Each one of them has its own landscaped yard, garden lighting, water area, barbecue and many places for rest. At the disposal of the guests is a conference hall and a dining room with 28 seats in which there is a TV, music system, fireplace, barbecue and fully equipped kitchen, which can be used by the guests or the meals can be prepared by the staff on request.

The complex provides opportunities for hiking, horse riding, children's camps, weaving and knitting, photo hunting and sightseeing.

**Social/ community impact sought:**

Complex "Stakevski Houses" sought to offer opportunities for recreation and entertainment in the nature - attractive tourist routes and different types of tourism activities according to the interests of the visitors.

**Stakeholders:** people of all age

**Approach applied:**

Stakevski Balkan is a quality and good place for mountain tourism. The village is applying for the best tourist destination in Bulgaria and in Europe for 2009, and its land is fully included in two protected areas of the European ecological network NATURA 2000. Precisely because of the rich and wild nature, accessible to everyone because of the proximity to the village, the owners decided to establish the complex in the village with pure mountain air, full of herbs and fresh grass, and make sure everyone can touch them, enjoy the quiet and peaceful evenings, cricket songs and fireflies!

**Innovation applied:**

The complex provides opportunities not only for relax and active/ adventurous tourism but innovatively adds craft making to its capacities. The visitors have the chance to learn about the equipment and the way of working with the vertical loom, the basic materials used in the Chiprovtsi carpets - wool and cotton, the painting of the yarn with natural paints, instruments in the carpets and weaving techniques, historical facts about the appearance of the carpet, etc. Moreover, there is a workshop for handmade knitwear and souvenirs.

Another innovation is the hobbit house, such as the one of Bilbo Baggins, specially built for the little guests.

**Social impact and business results achieved:**

The owners have managed to create a place where people want to come back once they have visited it. By constantly enhancing the number of available attractions, the complex welcomes more and more guests each year.

The complex organizes summer camps for children aged 7-12 years. For 7 days, they learn and have fun in the nature, ride, shoot, go hiking, paint, create, cook, sport, take care of animals on the farm, look for hidden treasures, etc. The Children's Camp is an unforgettable summer adventure that strengthens the physical forces and provokes the child's creative potential. After another tense school year, this is an opportunity for complete relaxation and exciting adventures in the fresh mountain air and beautiful scenery. For a week, children make new contacts, learn to communicate, work in a team, get used to being more independent, cope with situations, gain confidence, and grow.

**Financial situation / sustainability of the business model:**

The sustainability of the business is ensured by the location of the complex - its land is fully included in two protected areas of the European ecological network NATURA 2000. It is a place that has preserved history and nature, untouched by man, home to rare wildlife habitats, birds and plants. The creation of Stakevskite houses allows application of preservation measures as well as gives opportunities for various activities to be performed close to the nature without harming it.

**Key success factors:** environmental protection, resource-efficiency, location

**Challenges and problems:** Only one of the Bulgarian cell operators has coverage in the village which added to the fact that on the territory of the complex there is no Wi-fi, makes the places inappropriate or less appropriate for people who have to stay online or on the phone even during the holiday.

**Year when the enterprise was created:** 2008

**References (web-site, intent links, video, etc.):**

<https://www.stakevci.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/Stakevtsi/>