



LOCALGUIDES-SLOVENIA.COM

DRUŠTVO REGIONALNIH TURISTIČNIH VODNIKOV SLOVENIJE

ARGOS- Association of Regional Tourist Guides of Slovenia

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To

Ljubljana, January 31, 2019

**FEG ExBo**

**Ms. President Efi Kalampoukidou**

E mail: [fegsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:fegsecretariat@hotmail.com)

**Subject: AUSTRIAGUIDES collaboration and respect of area specific knowledge**

Dear colleagues,

In the last summer and December 2018, we have noticed a number of tourist guides with a badge Austriaguides guiding in our capital Ljubljana, town of Piran and Bled lake.

As a new association (since October 2016), we are working very hard on explanation of the definition of a tourist guide and especially of the area specific knowledge. We worked very closely with our government in the winter 2017-2018 regarding our new legislation. We managed to keep the profession of tourist guide regulated, however the explanation of the area specific knowledge is misunderstood. There are some guides, who are strongly supported by tour operators, who explain and spread the advantages of being a part of EU as a wider working range: you can openly guide in the areas where TG is not regulated and in countries where TG is regulated you just get a permission of local authorities. That is the explanation of guides from KPTVS- Club of Professional Tourist Guides of Slovenia.

As a member of FEG (and WFTGA), we try to spread the right meaning of area specific knowledge. However lately we have noticed, that not all FEG members follow the standard of our profession. Among them are Austriaguides who are working close with the group of Guides as I mentioned above and call themselves KPTVS- Club of Professional Tourist Guides of Slovenia. Two of their members introduce themselves as G Guides.

Somehow we do not understand, why Austriaguides do not respect the standard (they were also one of those ones who worked very hard on implementation of standard- or it looked so). The first surprise for us was, when there were members of Austriaguides from Carinthia at our AA fair in Ljubljana in January 2016 explaining to us locals that they can guide in Slovenia without any problem. Secondly, we noticed they work closely with KPTVS and thirdly we noticed a great number of them really guiding in Slovenia.

As members of FEG and WFTGA, we think, we should respect the definition and the standard of our profession: no matter is the profession in the country regulated or not. To us professionals it is very

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clear what area specific knowledge means. It is a part of our code of ethics to respect our colleagues all around the globe. That means, we should encourage our members that they act as tourist guide only in their area –the specific region and in the others as a tour manager only. Next to that, we think any collaboration with groups of guides who do not respect our standard means automatically agreement with their opinion - no respect of professional standards.

On the other hand, last year we have organized so called Alps Danube Adriatic (ADA) regional convention in Bohinj in 2018. This was a three-day professional convention where guides from different countries in the region mentioned were presented. Guido Lion presented professionally FEG- we are very thankful. Austria guides refused to come. The next convention will be held in Grado in Italy in January 2020. It is a convention where guides from the region meet, discuss, learn, exchange ideas and network for a successful cooperation.

Remember, few years ago, you have sent a letter to one of the associations in Slovenia regarding this topic. The result was establishment of our new Association of Regional Tourist Guides of Slovenia. On the other hand, we would expect the same from other members of FEG: We would like to have more clarification about the topic.

Let us know, what you think about this situation. For our members it is very confusing when logos of FEG members are exposed on the leaflets of the programs who are organized by guides who do not respect our profession.

Kindly awaiting your response, best regards from Slovenia,

Mateja Kregar Gliha

President

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