

How Our Communities Work

We work directly with the community.

Here is what happens!

The Community

We partner with communities that agree to work toward Global Sustainable Tourism Council destination criteria and BSST requirements.



The Community Plans

A Community Organization makes an inventory of tourism assets, develops a strategic plan of action covering environmental, social and sustainable economic goals.



The Community Tour

As part of the booking, there is a full day "Get to Know the Community" experience tour created by the Community Organization with SRDI assistance.

The tour must cover the community activities that preserve and protect local ecological and cultural heritage so the traveler can experience daily life.

The entire community should benefit economically.



Booking Flow

- Travelers book a minimum of two-nights with breakfast and the "Get to Know the Community" tour.
- On the web portal the traveler selects Request to Book which goes to SRDI & the Community Organization and accommodation to check availability.
- The accommodation must reply within 24 hours to SRDI and the Community Organisation.
- If available, the accommodation must block the time. SRDI sends an invoice to the traveler who must pay within 48 hours.
- The Request to Book is cancelled if the payment is not made.



Expenses

The Community Organization is responsible for the smooth running of the "Get to Know the Community" tour and monitoring accommodations.

It does not do this for free. SRDI adds Community Organization administrative costs in the tour price of 10% of the tour cost. The Community Organization has income from travelers too!



The Community Organizes

One main requirement is the formation of a Community Organisation: a group of dedicated people from all community members - residents, businesses, local government and NGOs. They need not be a legal entity but have written roles and responsibilities and meet regularly.



Accommodations Join

Travelers need places to stay for an immersive, cultural experience. The Community Organization recommends the accommodations and gathers information for the web-portal. Guests must book a minimum two nights that include breakfast.



Guides and Translators

Most travelers only speak their home language or English.

The Community Organisation must make sure there is at least one English speaking contact and guide.



Payment disbursement

- From 1 to 3 days (depending on Covid issues) before a guest arrives, SRDI sends the accommodation its payment directly.
- A 3% commission and bank costs are deducted from the payment to the accommodation.
- From 1 to 3 days (depending on Covid issues) before a guest arrives, SRDI sends the Community Organisation the "Get to Know the Community" tour payment for distribution.
- The Community Organization distributes the tour payment to vendors and keeps 10% for administration fees.



Activities

A Community Organization should design extra activities - bird watching, cooking classes, art lessons and others! These are placed on the web portal with availability and prices - but the guest pays on arrival. It is a great way to convince guests to stay longer!



Follow-up

The Community Organization meets regularly to review and make plans, adjusting when needed and discuss issues and follow-up with community members to make sure the community benefits from sustainable tourism.

SRDI will put each Community Organization in touch with other member communities to share experience and ideas.



This is how the BSST Program works with communities. Communities are the main point of contact through a Community Organization.

The Community Organization should always include members of the entire community so that planning and implementation benefit everyone and approaches are sustainable.

If you have any questions, please contact us!
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The Black Sea Sustainable Rural Tourism Program

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