



Name of the speaker:

**Thierry Joubert**

Organisation:

**Green Visions Ecotours //Via Dinarica**

## About you

*Include here a short biography/presentation of the speaker or presenting organisation. In 3rd person. Max. 100 words.*

Thierry is Dutch from Curacao in the Dutch Antilles. He came to volunteer in refugee centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) during the conflict in the '90. Fast forward twenty five+ years, and Thierry decided to make Bosnia his home and together with friends set up Green Visions. Bosnia and Herzegovina's first ecotourism and outdoor adventure business. Since 2000 he has been instrumental in shaping responsible tourism in the highland communities in BiH and the Western Balkan region. Thierry has been actively involved in the creation of the Via Dinarica long-distance trail, connecting 8 Countries in the Western Balkans.

## LinkedIn profile

*If you agree to share your profile with other participants, please copy/paste your url here (optional)*

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thierryjoubert/>

## Theme

*Choose the theme that was attributed to your presentation from the dropdown list*

How to avoid the hidden costs of tourism development?

## Title

*Insert the title for your presentation, 2 lines max.*

**Via Dinarica Hiking Trail - Connecting Naturally the Mountain Communities in the Western Balkans**

## Summary

*Describe here the main content of your presentation. Max. 220 words*

All along the Adriatic tourism is booming and growing at a rapid rate. Yet the hinterlands of the Dinaric Alps lay undiscovered. Mountain communities are struggling to make ends meet, with younger generations moving away to work in the Urban and coastal areas of the countries in the Western Balkans.

To bring attention to the social and economic realities of these communities, we created the Via Dinarica, and stitched together ancient footpaths, shepherds' trails, and hiking routes to provide easy cultural access for worldwide visitors. More than just a trekking path however, the corridor provides travelers a way to learn about the misrepresented Western Balkans embroiled in war 20 years ago—peacefully, naturally, and in cooperation.

The Via Dinarica is a walking trail connecting 8 Countries, 2,000 Kilometers, 160 Stages, through +23 National Parks. Travelers can now hike safely through the entire Western Balkan region.

The presentation discusses the creation of Via Dinarica and how it continues to be a powerful tool for the development of the Western Balkan Region.