



## **Climate change, artificial snow and factors for development of tourism in Bulgaria**

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Geographical position, historical heritage of culture, natural, ecological and social and economical conditions are recognised of all as basic factors for the tourism development. Bulgaria possesses these facts and this is the reason during the last decade the summer and especially winter tourism to develop at accelerated rates. The beautiful and appropriate for skiing Mountains Rila, Pirin and Vitosha are among highest on the Balkan Peninsula. Together with the Rodope Mountains, Mountain Osogovo and the Balkan Mountains Range they all are excellent places for tourism. The rapid building of hotels, facilities and shopping centers leads to a significant augmentation of the Bulgarian tourists as well as a great amount aliens. There are four bigger winter resorts - Bansko, Borovets, Pamporovo and Witosha, and fifteen smaller ones in country. The widening of pistes and facilities creates a number of infrastructural and communal problems. At the same time the climate change affect water resource in Bulgaria and especially the surface run off that is formed mainly from snow and rain precipitation. A blanket of snow is not kept all the season round and the need for producing of artificial snow is appears. Thus a number of automatic snowmaking systems of different companies were installed. It creates conditions for use of the runs from the end of November until mid-April. A lot of people and NGOs that work in the domain of environmental protection currently protest against the annihilation of forest, green areas and artificial snow production knowing the essence of this problem but no reactions from the responsible authorities till now. The problem related to the climate change and artificial snow production, and its effects on the environmental and water balance in Bulgaria are described in brief in this paper. The need for carrying out case studies

in this field is emphasized. Thus the effective measures for sustainable development of the mountain areas could be elaborated. These measures should be a part of the river basins management plans where will be planed a balanced usage of the environment and water resource in these areas. In this way the geographical position, historical heritage of culture, natural, ecological and social and economical conditions will be protected for the future generation.