Digitalization of Natural Heritage of Harghita County.
Safe mountain tourism.
Mountain tourism, climbing and mountain cycle paths in Harghita County.

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Some basic facts about Harghita county:

Area of Harghita county: 6639 km2.

The topographical features of our county gives us an excellent opportunity for eco- and active tourism since:
- More then 60% of the county is mountainous terrain, which means approximately 4000 km2 (if we divide this area with 50 citizens, we arrive to the conclusion that one mountain rescuer has to cover more than 80 km2).
- It has two National Parks.
- It has more than 30 natural reservations.
- It has 1700 km tourist trails (from which more than 1500 km were renovated by us).
- It has a lot of Rock climbing trails, especially at the Red Lake – Bicaz Mountain pass area (majority of these were renovated by us).
- It has almost 30 active ski slopes.
- Nearly 500 km of mountain bike routes were made in the last period.
The significance of the preservation of our natural heritage gained priority in our days. Our Public Service puts emphasis on the prevention of accidents and the preservation of the nature.

Since the county boasts many natural assets, there is a need for the exploration and categorization of this assets. It is our responsibility to preserve these values and pass them to the next generations.
Digitalization

The digitalization in our county has three major categories:
- The digitalization of the mountain trail routes.
- The digitalization of the rock climbing routes.
- The digitalization of the mountain bike routes.
Besides this, our Public Service creates maps and uploads the coordinates of the mountain shelters to our website.
The mountain rescue teams are the depositors of the cornerstones of hiking in Harghita county.

The goals of digitalization:
- facilitation of mountain rescue missions;
- the creation of an accurate database;
- standardization of the gathered data;
- the development of hiking opportunities;
- the creation of a safe environment for the visiting tourists;
- offering help for citizens and organizations who work in tourism;
- the extension of current touristic programs;
- the inclusion of rarely visited touristic destinations in to the touristic programs.
The digitalization of mountain trails entails:

Since the 1970’s there was no large scale rehabilitation of mountain trails like in the “Safe mountain tourism in Harghita county” program, organized by the Mountain and Cave Rescue Public Service of Harghita County Council.

- to assess and to measure with GPS the mountain trails;
- to clean, to mark with paint and boards the mountain trails;
- to prepare, organize and standardize the data gathered from the first two steps;
- To digitalize the data gathered and to make this digitalized data available to the visiting tourists.
The creation and digitalization of rock climbing trails

Objectives:
- to assess and to measure with GPS the rock climbing trails;
- to clean and to mark the trails;
- the creation of topological maps of the trails;
- to digitalize the data gathered and to make these data available to the visiting tourists.
The creation and digitalization of mountain bike trails

Objectives:

- to assess and to measure with GPS the mountain bike trails;
- to clean, to mark with paint and boards the mountain trails;
- to prepare, organize and standardize the data gathered from the first two steps;
- To digitalize the data gathered and to make these data available to the visiting tourists.
Maps and publications

In the last 3 years we finished the tremendous work of creating and digitalizing the maps of three different mountain ranges in Harghita county. The next step will be the creation of a unified database which will make it easier for visiting tourists to find the appropriate touristic programs for them.

The finished maps are the following:
The touristic map of the Harghita mountain range,
The touristic map of the Ciuc mountain range,
The touristic map of the Hasmas mountain range.
The Pogány- Havas Micro-regional Association collects Romania’s most beautiful and oldest trees of which they already gathered 3187 and they have already 174 registered users on their homepage.

The aim of the project: to collect data about the oldest and most beautiful trees in Romania, using standardized data collection tools. This project will be realized with the help of volunteers.
Natura 2000

Thanks to the online database they can control the activity present in the parks:

- Logging
- Constructions
- Quarry
- And other kind of activities

The natural preservation objectives of the Parks appear digitalized on their homepage:

- Wildlife management zones
- Flood protection zones
- The list of the protected plants and wildlife in the area.
Thank you for your attention!

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