Brief presentation of Harghita County and Harghita County Council
Sofia, 12 May 2016
First CD-ETA project partner meeting

Harghita County Council
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• Romania: in the South East part of Europe
• Central Development Region
• Romania is structured in 41 counties
• Harghita: in the middle of Romania, at the eastern border of Transylvania
• Surface: 6639 km$^2$, 2,8% of the country.
• In the county there are 4 medium sized cities, 5 towns and 58 communes.
• The capital city of Harghita county is Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc). (38.966)
Harghita County- Geographical data

- Harghita county is situated on the plateau of Transylvania, in the central part of the Eastern Carpathians.
- Mountainous area, about 60% of total surface is dominated by mountains.
- Over 2000 mineral water springs - utilized for therapeutic purposes.
- Woodlands which lay on more than 30% of the county’s surface.
- Forest heritage: about 228.614 hectares (73% fir trees and 19% beech).
- 35 protected areas, national parks.
- Harghita county is composed of three regions: Udvarhely, Csík and Gyergyó.
Ethnic region of Szeklerland

- territories inhabited by the Szeklers, a Hungarian people living in Eastern Transylvania, centre of present-day Romania.
- autonomous region until its role was replaced by the county system.
- approximately 670,000 Szeklers in three counties (Hargita/Harghita, Kovászna/Covasna, and Maros/Mures)

Resources, opportunities:
- Mineral water springs
- Woodland
- Eco-agriculture
- Active tourism
- Ecotourism
- Rural tourism

Hungarians in Romania
Demographic and economic data

- Total population: 310,867 (2011)
- Population density: 46,82 pers/km²
- Rural population: 57,41%
- 82,89% Hungarians (Szeklers), 12,60% Romanians and 4,49% other nationalities.

Main economic activities:
- wood processing
- printing industry
- garment production
- food processing
- agriculture
- tourism

GDP Harghita (2013): approximately 1,536,80 millions EUR
Tourism

Pentecost pilgrimage

Mineral water spring

Red Lake

Saint Anne Lake
Tourism

Cultural and religious tourism (Pentecost pilgrimage)
Tourism

Gastronomy tourism
Local culture

Folk architecture:
The character of the folk architecture is primarily determined by the building material standing at disposal: pines.

The buildings of this zone are characterized by high or at least medium-high roofs. The boards of the houses and stables were kept together by wooden nails.
Local culture
The artistic talent, the creative force developing the traditional forms can create real masterpieces.

For those who see it for the first time, it is a delightful experience to watch the noble lined raw ceramic rising out of the shapeless clay on the quickly rotating turntable in a few moments only.
Folk furniture

Harghita county is the easternmost region of the painted furniture widespread in Europe.
Folk art, tradition
The traditional folk costumes:

1. Romanian
Traditional folk costumes

2. Csángó
Traditional folk costumes

3. Szekler
Tradition – folk dance
Hargita County Council

- elected authority of county public administration,
- based on the principles of local autonomy, decentralization of public services, legality and citizen’s consultation regarding local problems of main interest.

- Responsibilities:
  - coordination of the local council’s activities (municipalities, towns and villages)
  - public services
  - contributes to the local economic growth by means of development programs
Thank you for your kind attention!