



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves

Imre Szarvas

Geotur DU V. 4.3 Case Study 3 / Page 330

C1.- TRAINING COURSE

Grupo de Desarrollo Rural Subbética



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible



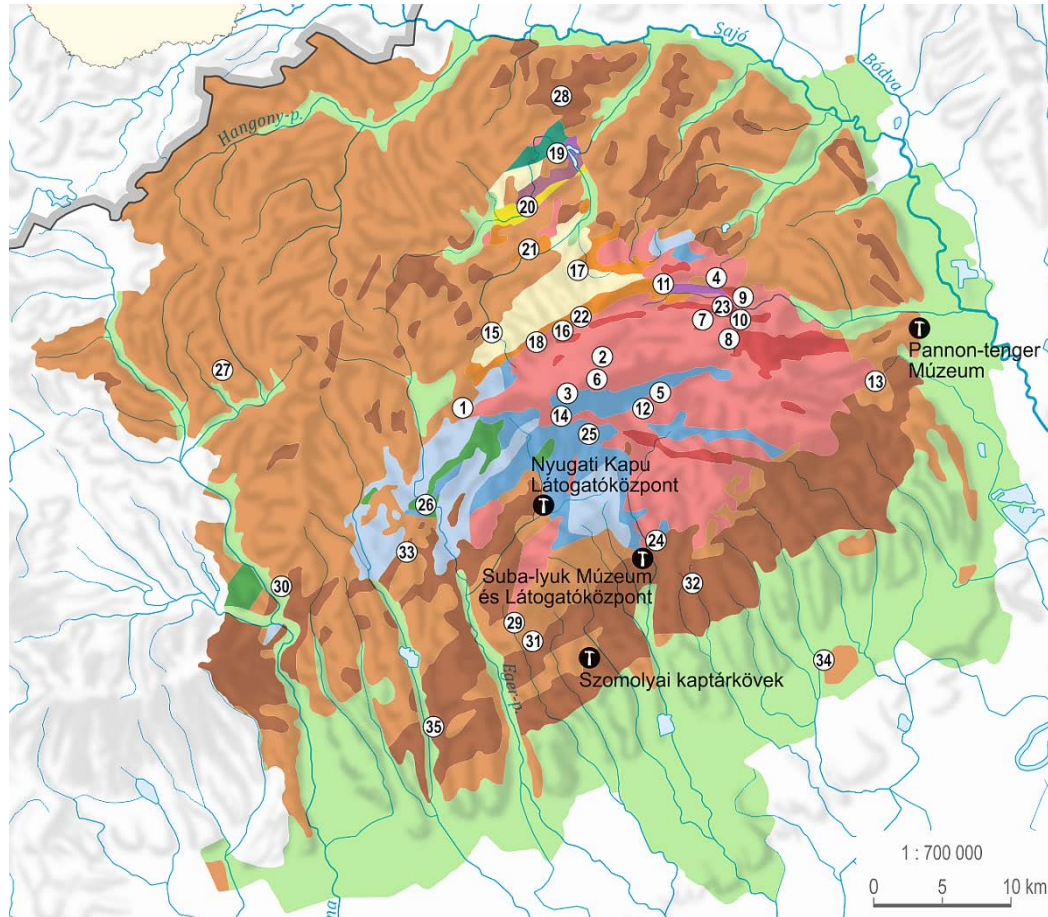
UNIVERSITY OF
BUCHAREST
—VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA—

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



- Negyedidőszaki üledékek
- Miocén piroklasztikum összlet
- Harmadidőszaki üledékes kőzetek
- Kréta konglomerátum
- Mónosbéli formációcsoport
- Középső–felső-jura magmatitok

- Jura üledékes képződmények
- Triász vulkanitok
- Triász üledékes kőzetek
- Perm üledékes kőzetek
- Karbon üledékes képződmények
- Devon kristályos mészkő
- Ordovicium-szilur-devon homokkő és agyagpala



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



The geopark has a successful ongoing activity in cooperation with the staff of the Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD), which is the manager of those protected natural areas. This constant outreach targets the youths and local population in order to raise their awareness to their surrounding geological heritage, to the nearby geosites through programs held in two touristic caves of the aspiring geopark.

Both the so called Anna and the Saint Steven Caves are situated in the neighbourhood of Miskolc City, which is an educational center in Northern Hungary and hosts even a university town part.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



The specially protected St Stephen's Cave is an intermittent spring cave formed by karst water coming down from the eastern edge of the Great Plateau of the Bükk Mountain. The cavity was formed in Middle-Upper Triassic limestone. Construction of the cave's walkways began in 1927 and was opened to the public in 1931. The total length of the passages is 1514 m, the vertical extent is 101 m, and the length of the touristic section is 170 m.

The guided tour lasts about 30 minutes. The temperature in the cave is +10°C all year round, so visitors are advised to wear suitable clothing.

A further 50 m of the developed tourist section (the Black Room and the Mine shaft leading to it) is used for respiratory therapy purposes.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



The respiratory therapy (speleotherapy) section

At the end of the chained corridor branching off from the Theatre Hall - in the Black Room - there is a medical use. The room is used by adults and children with upper respiratory complaints for 3 hours a day on weekdays, in addition to their sanatorium treatment. Patients are accommodated in one of the inner rooms of the cave, where about 20-30 patients stay each session.

The healing properties of the cave are due to the fact that the air is microbiologically almost sterile, i.e. free of dust, germs and medical allergens. This is due to the constant temperature of around 10°C, the humidity of almost 100% and other climatic factors, not to mention the beneficial effect of the cave environment on the nervous system.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

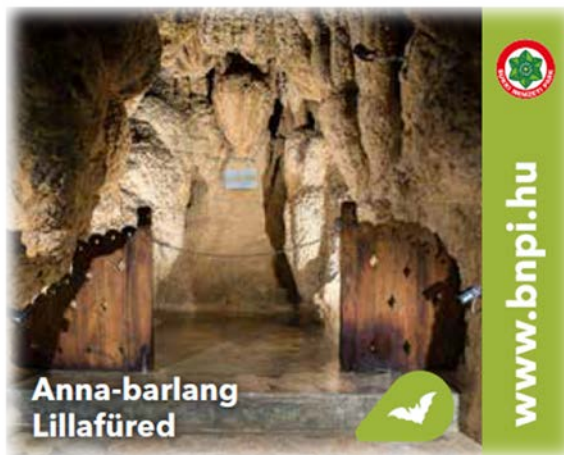
Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



The length of the passages of the Anna cave is 570 m, of which 208 m is accessible to the visitors. The cave was formed in the travertine of the Szinva spring.

The development of the cave system is dating back from 150,000 to 200,000 years ago. During the tour one can observe various plant fossil remains.

The Anna spring, which is very abundant and flows from the enclosed area of the cave, provides a very significant part of Miskolc's drinking water supply.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's touristic caves



The main goals of the outreach:

- To make the students know more about the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's touristic tasks and its developments from first steps.
- Make local people more sensitive about the unique geosites of their nearby surroundings.
- Raise awareness of the importance of the caves.



It is extremely important that university students in Northern Hungary be familiar with the ecotourism offers of the region, and that lecturers and students are also involved in the regional development work related to the Geopark. Thus, students from two large universities in the region were able to visit the geological values of the geopark.

Addressing high school students is considered important as well. At the secondary school level, a pilot project was developed and implemented together with the Eventus Vocational School in Eger, within the framework of which students can get to know the geological values on educational field trips several times a year.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



According to surveys, the citizens of Miskolc do not, or very rarely, visit the caves, which are otherwise close to them. In the St. Stephen Cave the geopark launched a series of programs specifically for locals. They were able to visit the cave at a discounted ticket price.

During the organization and the elaboration of the tour, the geopark team paid special attention to the fact that the citizens of Miskolc would get acquainted not only with the geological, but also with the cultural and historical values related to the cave, which has an extremely important identity-enhancing role.



The program strengthened pride in their narrower living environment and increased the positive attitude of the local population towards geotourism. At the same time, it is also important to highlight that geological exploration of caves in the Geopark area is still ongoing.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



Youth also should get to know their wider environment. They hear and learn about the natural and geological values in their vicinity. They see and experience what tourism sector offers in live, and they can hear reports on strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats from professionals' previous experiences.



Students of the Miskolc University visiting the caves



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



The series of programs are adding value to the Geopark and local communities. They introduce the local population to the values of the geopark (geological, cultural, archaeological), thus strengthening their identity and attachment to the area. Furthermore, the positive attitude of the local population towards geotourism can be increased. Last but not at least, it's also important to reach the citizens of Miskolc. According to the statistics they are also part of the visitors, but they are the rarest, as the geopark experienced, they mostly visit this type of attractions only once or two times in their lifetime.

„If we consider the locals as our target, we have to highlight them the fact, that those geosites represent not just geological values, but they can carry cultural and historical assets as well.”





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



The caves are the most visited tourism destinations in the region, they are visited by Hungarians and foreigners alike.

To take advantage to this fact the caves can play an important role in the geological and geographical education. From kindergarten to university students the geopark welcomes them all.

University students visit the caves during their professional fieldtrips to know more about the formation of caves and other cave related knowledge.

Anna Sinter Cave

●●●●○ 29 Reviews

#4 of 6 things to do in Lillafüred
Caverns & Caves

What travelers are saying



"Unique place in Hungary"

This is more or less an unique place in Europe with this wonderful limestone creations. If You don't...[Read more](#)

●●●●● Reviewed October 26, 2020



"Amazing natural creations :) 2."

An other must see attraction if you are visiting Lillafüred. There is a guided tour in every hour. ...[Read more](#)

●●●●● Reviewed June 13, 2019

[See all reviews](#)

[Improve This Listing](#)





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



St. Stephen Stalactite Cave

44 Reviews

#2 of 6 things to do in Lillafüred

Caverns & Caves

What travelers are saying



"Great!"

Is not something extraordinary, but the efforts of the personal and guides for exposure this cave is e...[Read more](#)

Reviewed September 7, 2019



"Plesant walk"

The cave is nice, constant 10 degree Celsius, so dressing up is a good idea. The guide is helpful. T...[Read more](#)

Reviewed September 4, 2019



©All photos (73)

The geopark tries to show them in practice how a geopark (which can be different in terms of geology, nature conservation, spatial development and tourism), can be built up as a tourism destination - i.e. how to start tourism product development and branding in a product-based tourism focusing on destination based on geological values.

An important objective of these professional programs is to initiate a joint reflection with university students of tourism in the hope that they will be able to play an active role in the development and implementation of programs and projects based on the attractiveness of the geopark.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's touristic caves



It is crucial to have knowledge of the local citizens. Furthermore, the geopark has to keep in mind the usage of a suitable way of communication. The role of the research and tourism group's members are also mandatory parts of the whole picture.

Skills that follow are the important to develop in order to successfully manage the activity:

Active Listening, Adaptability, Communication, Creativity, Interpersonal Communication, Management, Problem-solving, Teamwork, Public speaking, Storytelling, Verbal communication, Visual communication, Creativity, Critical observation, Critical thinking, Design aptitude, Innovation, Problem solving, Research, Thinking outside the box, Tolerance of change and uncertainty, Troubleshooting, Value education, Willingness to learn, Conflict management and resolution, Talent management.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



Which are the main problems that this activity faced/is facing?

Problems, tasks to be solved:

- Management of a large number of visitors in the area.

- Finding a balance between presentation and conservation issues.

- The effect of the artificial light in caves (light-generated flora in caves), to the natural cave environment.

- For university students: Emphasize the field education and fieldtrips for university students. Currently is limited.

- Communication of the Geopark Values.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves



Anna Cave, Lillafüred



Download our application and
bring your mobile with yourself,
to never miss a program!

The cave was discovered in the beginning of the 19th century, and was opened for tourism in 1927 after the introduction of electric lighting. The 400m-long cave was formed in lime tuff by the Szinva Waterfall. The travertine-covered petrified moss curtains, pine leaves and roots on the walls and ceilings of the chambers offer a magical, unique view.

The most successful element of the program so far has proved to be that local residents can get an idea of the geological and cultural values of their narrower living environment. Both caves of the geopark can be accessed and virtually explored with the help of a mobile application (GUIDE @ HAND BNPI). Promoting this is also effective among locals.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's touristic caves



The caves could also provide place for introducing local geoproducts and geoproducts to the visitors. The caves and their products/services are represented at the accommodations also.

The geopark and the BNPD introduced the "Geo-kult" program, which contains discounted ticket prices for the citizens of Miskolc. They will know the caves not just only from geological and touristic perspective but in addition they gain connection with the local history and folklore, in a way strengthening their link to their environment and identity.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Youth and locals in the aspiring Bükk-region Geopark's turistic caves

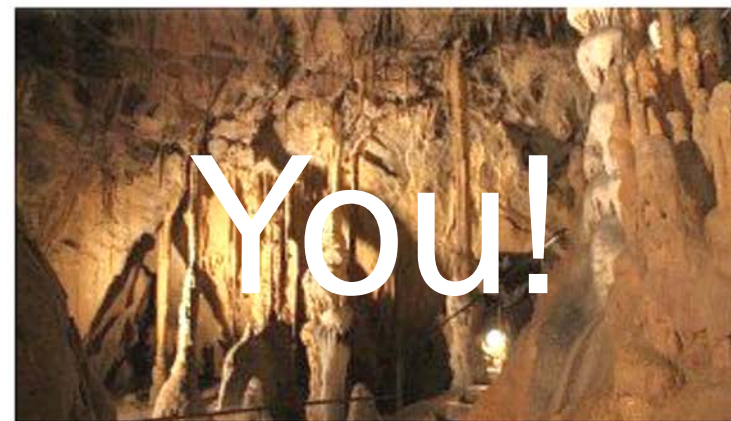


The BNPD, as stakeholder of the geopark introduced an online ticketing and booking system, so the issuance of a paper-based ticket was bypassed. Visitors can pay for tickets through multiple payment systems. One of the main goals is to use as little paper as possible, thus reducing the environmental impact.



ANNA-BARLANG

📍 MISKOLC, LILLAFÜRED



SZENT ISTVÁN-BARLANG

📍 MISKOLC, LILLAFÜRED