

Visit of Milassin Ákos at the Sport University of Tirana in the framework of Erasmus+ (ICM) staff mobility

I had the opportunity to participate in the mountain tourism camp organised by the Sport University of Tirana in Albania within the framework of Erasmus Staff Mobility between the 30th of June and the 7th of July.



Our university's firm intention is the internationalization, which could be a good step in the future of a long-term cooperation with the University of Tirana. I participated with Attila Várhegyi in this event and Dr. Miklós Bánhidi participated in the University's sea camp two weeks before us, therefore we got a comprehensive picture of the recreational camps in Albania.

This cooperation is really important for us, as due to its natural features, Albania could be a special location for organizing one of our recreational camps in the future. We spent 6 days with Attila Várhegyi in the camp at Theth National Park.

The event itself lasted for 10 days, but we still got a comprehensive picture of the implementation and actively participated in some individual program elements.

The management and the faculty of the University of Tirana welcomed us with great joy and hospitality. They seemed to attach a great importance to a future collaboration and were really open to any cooperation.

When we arrived, we were welcomed by the University's management of 6-8 people along with the rector.



From the Department of Recreation point of view it could be a really important site in the future, since our country has neither a sea nor a high mountains. During our stay, we could

detect several times a sudden change in the weather conditions, which is not possible at home. Therefore we could pass on this knowledge to our students in theory only. Apart from this, the area is perfect for longer walking tours with high elevation differences and I would emphasize on the exceptionally beautiful natural environment as well. The camp and our accommodation, which was located in a valley, were surrounded by 2400-2700 meters high mountains. The milieu already spoke for itself, especially visiting nearby attractions.

During these 6 days with Attila, we got an insight into the local recreation opportunities, along with local sights and the procession of the camp. Interestingly, the instructors of the university don't participate in specific planning and implementations, the camp run by a local business. Therefore the students are among experts in all aspects, whether in terms of walking tours, rock climbing or theoretical education.

The rector of the University considered the future partnership to be extremely important and we had the opportunity to talk informally about it already. During our stay, Attila and I kept thinking about the implementation of an outdoor recreation camp, which we thought it could be implemented in about 10 days, the Theth National Park and the coastal countryside could serve as venues for both as we don't have any of the sites within the borders of our country.

The representatives of the University of Tirana really liked the idea and stated in advance that they would help and coordinate with the locals in all organizational work in the future.

The only strange thing we have experienced (which was not a negative one, as it probably stems from the mentality of the local people), that although we had an agenda, a program plan, from our point of view, who have a lot of experience in camp organizing, most of the time things just happened. It was difficult for an outside observer to see a thoughtful planning and its management. It was especially noticeable in the planning of the meal breaks.

From my side, I definitely consider it worthwhile to cooperate with the University of Tirana in a long term as from a recreational point of view it can be an excellent place to carry out camps, for student exchange programs or guest teaching activities in the future.