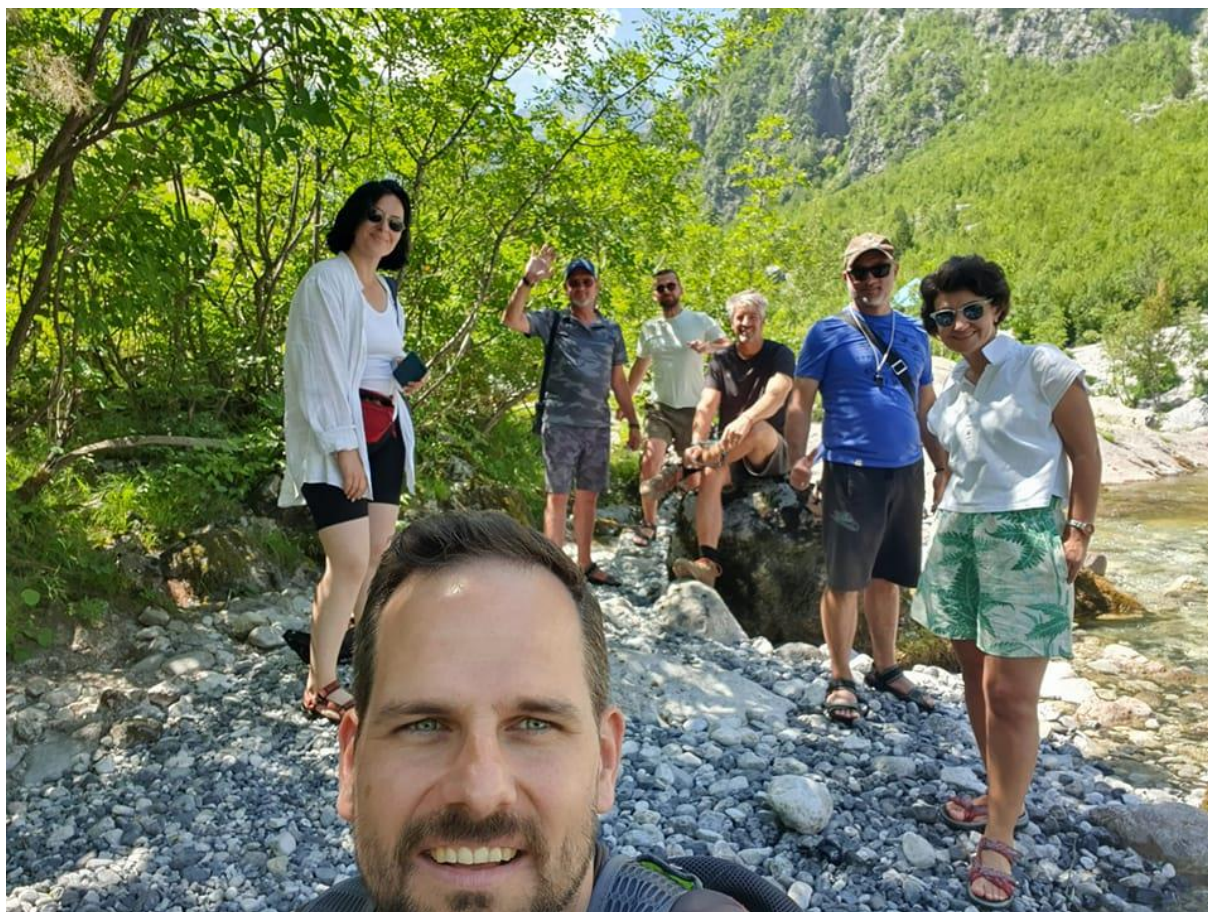


Visit of Attila Várhegyi at the Sport University of Tirana in the framework of Erasmus+ (ICM) staff mobility

SUT – Outdoor Camp (2022.06.30-07.07)

During my visit to the mountain camping site of the Tirinai Sports University (06.30-07.07), I had the opportunity to observe the local campsites and their operations. Back at our own university, I have taken part as an educator and have organized entire camping trips including all the educational material presented on them and this performing this task is still under my jurisdiction. During my time here in Tirana it became clear to me that their educators have a completely different role compared to us. According to the local model, these educators are merely “accompanying” the children, while an outdoor company is hired to manage learning materials and excursions. There is some benefit to this model from a certain perspective, since the person who is most experienced in the given field is the one delivering all the learning material, however this scales back the role of the educators.



Due to the unique and inimitable natural features in Hungary, the students have the opportunity to try out real/live situations while they are practically cut off from the outside world. Although we can't say that this would be a classic “survival camp”, you can really only rely on each other to solve any problem, since help is a few hours away at best. However, in order to avoid and resolve emergency situations, at least one doctor is present in every camp. The same can be said about this camp. This provides sense of security and is a practice that we should consider adopting as well.

I would like to point out that in accordance with our own system several educators were present during the camp, which always guaranteed the presence of at least one educator for each group. This is a big help in any given situation.

During the camp, we observed that the students used matching uniforms, which were the products of famous manufacturers with a very extensive history. As you would expect from such manufacturers, their products performed excellently under any weather conditions and in any situation. I would recommend that based on this example – and following my suggestion several times beforehand – our university try to initiate collaborations with manufacturers who are based on the sports professionals of the future.

In the span of 1 week we have spent there, we had the opportunity to gain insight into almost everything, so in addition to the overwhelmingly positive experience, we noted some development opportunities and organizational differences as well. Personally, I cannot start organizing a camp with such a lack of information. Although the program of the camp must be adaptable due to the mentioned climate and location conditions mentioned above, we arrived with an almost no information at all. Neither the length of the tours nor the program of the day was completely clear. (This could easily be a local characteristic!) Based on our domestic experience, the students definitely need more information than this and at the same time we are showing them a good example of what kind of information they need to give to the teams and their “varying preparations level” with whom they will later work together.



The university's lecturers put a lot of effort into promoting their university and show its best possible side. They have huge ambitions, they are motivated and hope that their professional plans will be realized in the future, so their university could undergo a huge development. They are open to all hold excursions in all regions and would be happy to get to know the methods there and utilize them within their own methods. In short, they are very motivated to create a large joint knowledge sharing system and would be happy to take part in it. I see a huge opportunity in the cooperation with the university, since they have some truly unique and inimitable natural wonders that will always be at the center of the world of recreation through outdoor activities. A colleague of mine, with whom we intend to summarize our further ideas in another document, accompanied me on this trip.