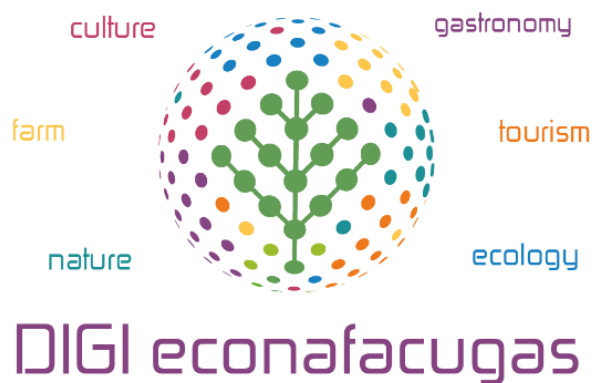


Report: Workshop on Current and Potential Rural Tourism Linked to Agricultural and Forestry Activities - Case Study: Rural Tourism in the Transylvanian Highlands

Date: 16-19 July 2023

Location: Richiş Village, Transylvanian Highlands, Romania



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

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DIGI-ECONAFACUGAS partners



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Fundación Monte Mediterráneo (FMM) – Spain



ProPark-Fundatia pentru Aarii Protejate (PRO PARK) – Romania



Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik (HOCHSCHULE) – Austria



Občianske združenie Lišov Múzeum (LIŠOV MÚZEUM) – Slovakia

Participant list (Annex I)

Attendees	Organisation Name
Judit Torres	CESEFOR
Miryam Palomo	CESEFOR
Ernestine Lüdeke	FMM
Jakub Dvorsky	LIŠOV MÚZEUM
Monika Slaninoua	LIŠOV MÚZEUM
Andra Croitoru	PROPARK
Dana Dragomirescu	PROPARK
Veronika Hager	HOCHSCHULE
Monika Winzheim	HOCHSCHULE

Introduction:

The workshop on "Current and Potential Rural Tourism Linked to Agricultural and Forestry Activities" took place in Richiș Village, situated in the scenic Transylvanian Highlands of Romania. This region is renowned for being the largest ecotourism destination in the country. The workshop's objective was to analyze the profile of rural, ethnocultural, and ecological sustainable tourism demanders, and explore economic activities in the rural environment that are potentially linked to nature tourism.

Arrival and Accommodation:

Participants arrived at Sibiu Airport on July 16th, and the ProPark team warmly greeted them with cars for transportation. For early arrivals, a secondary meeting point was arranged in Sibiu city center. Participants were then taken to the accommodation site, Casa Noah, in Richiș Village. The accommodation provided comfortable individual rooms with shared bathrooms in three different houses within the village: the Yellow House, Great House, and Blue House.

Agenda

Time schedule	Activity	Short description
16 July		
15:00	Sibiu Airport	Pick up the participants with ProPak cars. A pin location will be provided.
16:00 – 17:00	Arriving in Richiș Village	Check in of the participants
17:00 – 19:00	The story of Richiș Village	Warm welcome from the ProPark team and the host followed by a short-guided walk inside the village, understanding the history of the village, the local traditions, the local development and tourism infrastructure.
	Wine samples in the village	Meeting locals and their local businesses
19:00	Dinner	Diner at Casa Noah
17 July		
8:30 – 9:30	Breakfast	Casa Noah
9:30 – 12:00	Group discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Ecotourism destination Transilvanian Highlands and the vision of the ecotourism development in the rural areas in the southern Transylvania based on natural and cultural values. • Discussions related to the profile of the rural, ethnocultural and ecological sustainable tourism demanders in ecotourism destination – Transilvanian Highlands

		<p>Each participants is asked to prepare and present a poster with the typology of agricultural, livestock and forestry activities, which currently carry out nature or rural tourism activities in their country.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Biertan Fortified Church UNESCO Site	<p>Explore through a guided tour the wonders and the stories behind the biggest fortyfied church in Transylvania. One of the unique attractions of this destinations are these fortified churches that were once spread acorss 300 villages.</p>
13:00 – 15:00	Bio Mosna Farm (lunch included)	<p>Discussions about Gastronomical Local Points and the development of a gastronomical infrastructure inside rural areas, connecting small local producers with tourists.</p> <p>Lunch with local products from Bio Mosna farmland.</p>
16:15 – 19:45	Angofa Wildlife Center (dinner included)	<p>The Angofa Wildlife Centre is the home base for biodiversity research, conservation, and wildlife tourism in Transylvania.</p> <p>We will join an expert naturalist guide on a 1.5-hour walk through the lush forests and meadows of Angofa to learn to identify the unique birds, butterflies, and flowers of Transylvania.</p> <p>We will learn how traditional farming practices protect wildlife and promote biodiversity surrounding transylvanian villages.</p> <p>Return to the Angofa Wildlife Center for a fresh, three-course meal that highlights local agriculture and traditional Romanian dishes.</p> <p>After our meal, join your naturalist guide for a discussion about the local wildlife, culture, and land management practices that protect Transylvania’s ecosystem.</p>

20:00 – 22:00	Sighisoara medieval city	Short walk inside the largest medieval fortress lived in Romania
23:00	Return to Richis Village	
18 July		
8:30 – 9:30	Breakfast	Casa Noah
10:00 -12:45	Cornățel – Hosman - Cornățel	We will have a 8 km bicycle trolley experience on the former train traks that connected the villages, followed by a discussion on the reinterpretation of old infrastructure in order to develop opportunities in rural tourism. https://sibiuagnitarailway.com/turism/
13:00 – 14:30	Cornatel School Farm	Cornatel School Farm is an educational center in a rural area that functions as a school, teaching children about the farm animals and farm activities, and connecting the children with this environment Lunch is included by the host of the farm.
15:30 – 16:30	Center for Interpretation of Traditional Culture Alma Vii	The center is hosted by the fortified church in Alma Vii and aims to promote the cultural values of the village. Tourism is an important component for the community, as the village is being promoted as a destination for cultural tourism. By promoting the rich local heritage consisting of architecture, traditions and crafts the members of the community are pursuing sustainable economic growth and an improvement in the living standards of the community. More about the center - http://www.almavii.ro

17:00 – 19:00	Group discussions (Lisov Museum coordinates the discussions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present experiences of characterisation of the profile of nature tourists, at least one experience analyse the internal and external environment of tourism linked to agricultural, livestock and forestry activities, and to identify barriers to the development of economic activity. • Identify the barriers to their development and the training needs that are potentially identified as necessary
19:00-20:00	Richis Village	Dinner at local families in Richis Village with final discussions
19 July – Departure of the participants		
9:00 – 10:00	Breakfast	
10:00 - onwards	Departure to Sibiu Airport/Sibiu city center	The participants will be taken by cars to Sibiu city or Sibiu Airport in order to catch their flights back home.

Workshop:

Day 1: The Story of Richiş Village

After check-in at Casa Noah, the workshop commenced with a guided walk through Richiş Village, offering insights into the village's history, local traditions, and tourism infrastructure.

Participants also had the opportunity to meet local residents and learn about their businesses while sampling local wines. The day concluded with a delightful dinner at Casa Noah.



Day 2: Ecotourism Destination and Typology of Activities

The morning of July 17th began with a hearty breakfast at Casa Noah, followed by group discussions. These discussions covered the presentation of the ecotourism destination Transylvanian Highlands and its vision for sustainable rural development based on natural and cultural values. Each participant shared the typology of agricultural, livestock, and forestry

activities that currently engage in nature or rural tourism in their respective countries.



The group then embarked on a guided tour of the Biertan Fortified Church, a UNESCO site.



Afterward, at the Bio Mosna Farm, discussions revolved around developing a gastronomical infrastructure in rural areas, connecting local producers with tourists. Lunch featuring local farm products was served at the farm. The day concluded with a visit to the Angofa Wildlife Center, where participants learned about biodiversity conservation and enjoyed a traditional Romanian dinner.



Day 3: Characterization of Nature Tourists and Barriers

In the morning participants visited the Cornăţel-Hosman area, experiencing an 8 km bicycle trolley ride along former train tracks, which led to a discussion on reinterpreting old infrastructure for rural tourism development.



The group also visited the Cornatel School Farm, an educational center focused on connecting children with farm activities and animals. A traditional lunch was provided by the farm. Next, the Center for Interpretation of Traditional Culture in Alma Vii was explored, showcasing the community's efforts to promote local heritage through cultural tourism.



The afternoon of July 18th featured group discussions that delved into characterizing the profile of nature tourists and analyzing the internal and external environment of tourism linked to agricultural, livestock, and forestry activities. The discussions aimed to identify barriers to economic activity development and assess potential training needs to overcome these barriers.



Final Day: Departure

On July 19th, participants enjoyed breakfast at Casa Noah before departing for Sibiu Airport or Sibiu city center by cars, marking the conclusion of the workshop.

Conclusion:

The workshop on Current and Potential Rural Tourism in the Transylvanian Highlands proved highly successful in fostering knowledge exchange and sharing experiences in sustainable tourism development. Participants gained valuable insights into rural tourism activities linked to agriculture and forestry, and they also explored the region's rich cultural heritage. The Transylvanian Highlands, with its ecotourism potential, served as an ideal location for this productive and enlightening event.

Overall, the workshop contributed to strengthening cooperation among project partner countries and inspired ideas for promoting sustainable rural tourism in their respective regions.

ANNEX 1. PARTICIPATION LIST

Workshop 17-18 July 2023

Current and potential rural tourism linked to agricultural and forestry activities

Transilvanian Highlands Ecotourism Destination

Romania

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Lisou Museum