

The Summer School “Territorial Intelligence for Sustainable Development” in The Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark

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The Geography and Tourism Department, part of Business and Tourism Faculty from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, organized, from 28th of August until 3rd of September, in partnership with Babeș-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca and the University of Bucharest, **The summer school “Territorial Intelligence for Sustainable Development” in The Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark.**

The purpose of the event was to approach the sustainable development within a local context, in an area meant for ecotourism and sustainable tourism – Hațeg Country. All 42 participant students were selected from various faculties within the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, but also from many other universities, such as the University of Bucharest, University of Craiova, University of Architecture Ion Mincu, University Politehnica of Bucharest, and NUPSPA.

The summer school program was a complex one, the participant students having the opportunity, on one side, to assist to different classes held by specialists in the domain of tourism and Patrimony Administration (Professors from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, University of Bucharest, UBB Cluj-Napoca) and on the other side to take part at different practical tasks, held outdoors.

We have to mention a couple of itineraries, part of the summer school:

- Hațeg – Berthelot General – Densuș – Ștei. Therefore, the following places were visited:
The headquarters of the Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark, where the participants had the chance to admire the exposition “Balauri, Dragoni, Dinozauri”, Dinosaurs Geopark’s Centre of Science and Art, but also the stone church Densuș, the House of Volcanoes Densuș and volcanic hills Densuș – Ștei;
- Baru – the Reservation of Aurochs Hațeg – Prislop Monastery – Corvin Castle from Hunedoara;
- Visiting the archaeological site Sarmizegetusa Regia, the guiding aspect being assured by the site’s administrator, Vladimir Brilinsky.

Also, the students were able to participate at two workshops, held by Cristian Ciobanu, the administrator of the Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark. During the first workshop, named *The Geopark – Unique Approach of Patrimony Interpretation*, the main objectives were: getting knowledge on the territory of the Geopark and the main cultural and natural aspects; getting familiar with the notion of patrimony interpretation, its definition and principles; the capacity of working with notions of touristic potential, patrimony value, touristic attraction, promoting, in an applicative-concrete manner, beyond clichés; the analysis of elements interactions such as local identity, territorial improvement, clever tourism, education, as key factors for sustainable development.

During the second workshop, named *Patrimony Interpretation – Concept and Characteristics*, the purpose of the training was to present the patrimony interpretation strategy within The Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark as an innovative model for local development. The interpretation strategy combines the results of scientific activity with mental geography and the popular culture and knowledge of the residents. The results were a web of coherent interpretations and a concept applied concretely for 12 years, which contributes at communities’ development through identity, education, marketing and touristic branding.

After these activities, the participant students, grouped in teams, created *final projects* which were consisting in the elaboration of innovative and sustainable business ideas, adapted to the specific of the area, having in sight the status of the Geopark and also offering benefits to the local community. The organizers wanted projects with serious practical utility for the authorities and local investors.

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