

# Carpathian Long-distance Hiking Trail

Threat to Conservation or Chance for Sustainable Tourism?

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# Outline

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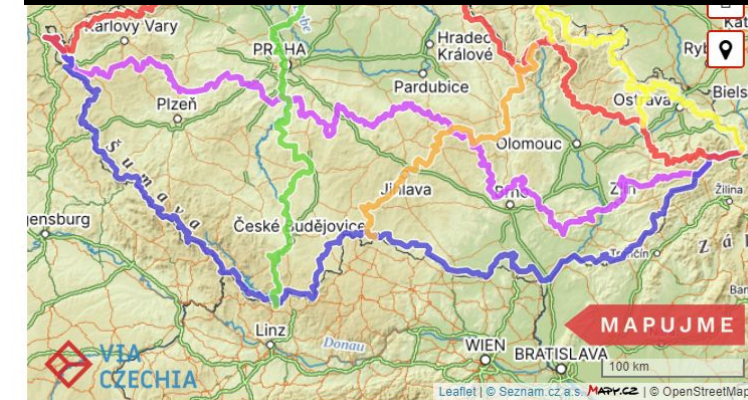
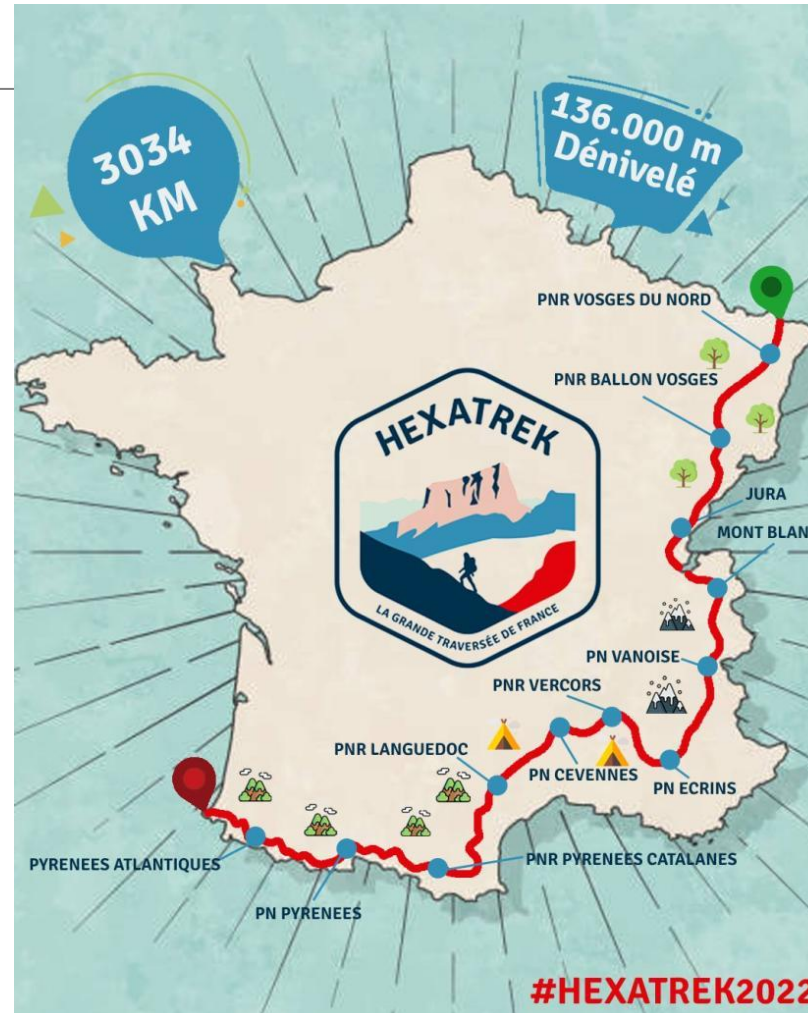
- Why it matters
- My position
- Who are long-distance hikers
- What are their needs from the perspective of tourist industry
- What are pros and cons of a Carpathian long-distance hiking trail
- So what



# TRANSCAUCASIAN TRAIL

## Context

- long-distance hiking is among the fastest growing past-time activities in Europe and North America (Hoffman 2020)
- several new long distance hikes is opened in Europe every year
- designing a long-distance hiking route through online map planning tools takes few hours





# Carpathian long-distance trail

## Several unfinished attempts:

- Carpathian Divide Trail
- Via Carpatica
- Transcarpathes.org

The Trekopedia Team



TrekRight: Lycian Way  
The Trekopedia Team  
\$5.99



TrailSmart: Great Trails of the World  
The Trekopedia Team  
5.0 ★



TrekRight: Cappadocia  
The Trekopedia Team  
\$5.99



TrekRight: Cotswold Way  
The Trekopedia Team  
\$5.99



TrekRight: West Highland Way  
The Trekopedia Team  
\$5.99



TrekRight: Camino Primitivo  
The Trekopedia Team  
\$5.99

Nachádzate sa tu: [Slováci okolo sveta](#) / **KARPATSKÝ OBLÚK : PEŠO Z RUMUNSKA CEZ**

### Úvod.

#### Karpatským oblúkom pešo 2021.

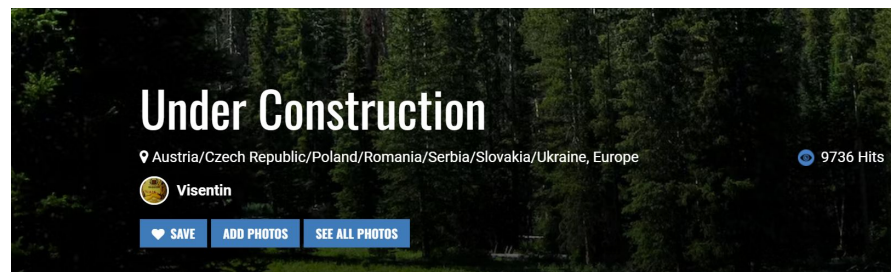
Geografický i historický pojem v strednej a východnej Európe. Prejdenie pešo je z roku 1980 Poliakmi, ktorí sú v jeho zdolaní [dlugo-statystyka-lista-przejsc-luku-karpat/](#). Slováci prešli Karpatským oblúkom po Devín pešo za 78 dní v roku 1984, pričom museli Ukrajinu prejsť a dozvedel som sa o tomto počine z Krásna Slovenska, ktoré otec a výkon a motivovalo ma to k zorganizovaniu expedície na rumunský Fagaraš a Rilú v Bulharsku.

Ďalším z nich, ktorí prešli celý Karpatský oblúk, ma nahovoril k jeho zdolaní čo sa podarilo v roku 2015. Vďaka tomu mám predstavu, kde ma čo chýba a nedostatok času stále po hrebeni, len kde sa dalo. Ale križovali sme ho a ja som sa rozhodol, že sa na hrebeň Karpatského oblúka vrátim a prejdem ten, ktoré sme vynechali následne budem viesť, či sú ešte vhodné aj pre bicykle.

Práve využívajúca existujúce turistické značenie v okolí hrebeňa bude svojou úlohou zameraná. Ale už po nej zhruba v tomto duchu išla jedna expedícia a jej trasovanie. A jej prejdenie, preskúmanie hlavne neznámych úsekov a nahratie do GPS je mojím najbližším cieľom.

Chcem touto trasou ponúknuť Slovákom, a nielen im, ozajstný trek v strednej a východnej Európe, ktorý sa tu ponúka od nepamäti. Aby si niečo také, ako chodia za 4-5000 km dlhými trasami v Amerike <https://jakubuvcestovnik.cz> mohli vyskúšať záujemcovia aj tu v Európe a za menší peniaz. A až potom sa môžu vydať ďalej, po získaní skúseností. To platí i pre cyklistov. A tá divočina a príroda Karpatského oblúka nie je o nič horšia a trasa menej náročná.

Fyzické vyznačenie turistickej alebo cyklickej trasy po Karpatskom oblúku vedúcej rozvodím, piatimi štátmi (Rumunsko, Ukrajina, Slovensko, Poľsko a Česko) a dlhých 2600 km je hudba d'alekej budúcnosti, ale nahratie do GPS zariadenia je otázkou 2-3 mesiacov. V GPS zariadení, alebo s trasou nahranou v mobile dnes už nie je problém orientovať sa po Karpatskom oblúku. Až vytýčením jednej trasy a jej uverejnením na internete pre všetkých sa môžu začať vyhodnocovať časy zdolaní Karpatského oblúka. Veď doteraz si každá expedícia išla svojou trasou.



Under Construction Comments

- Overview
- Where does the Carpathian trail start and end?
- Issues with international borders
- Logistics and equipment

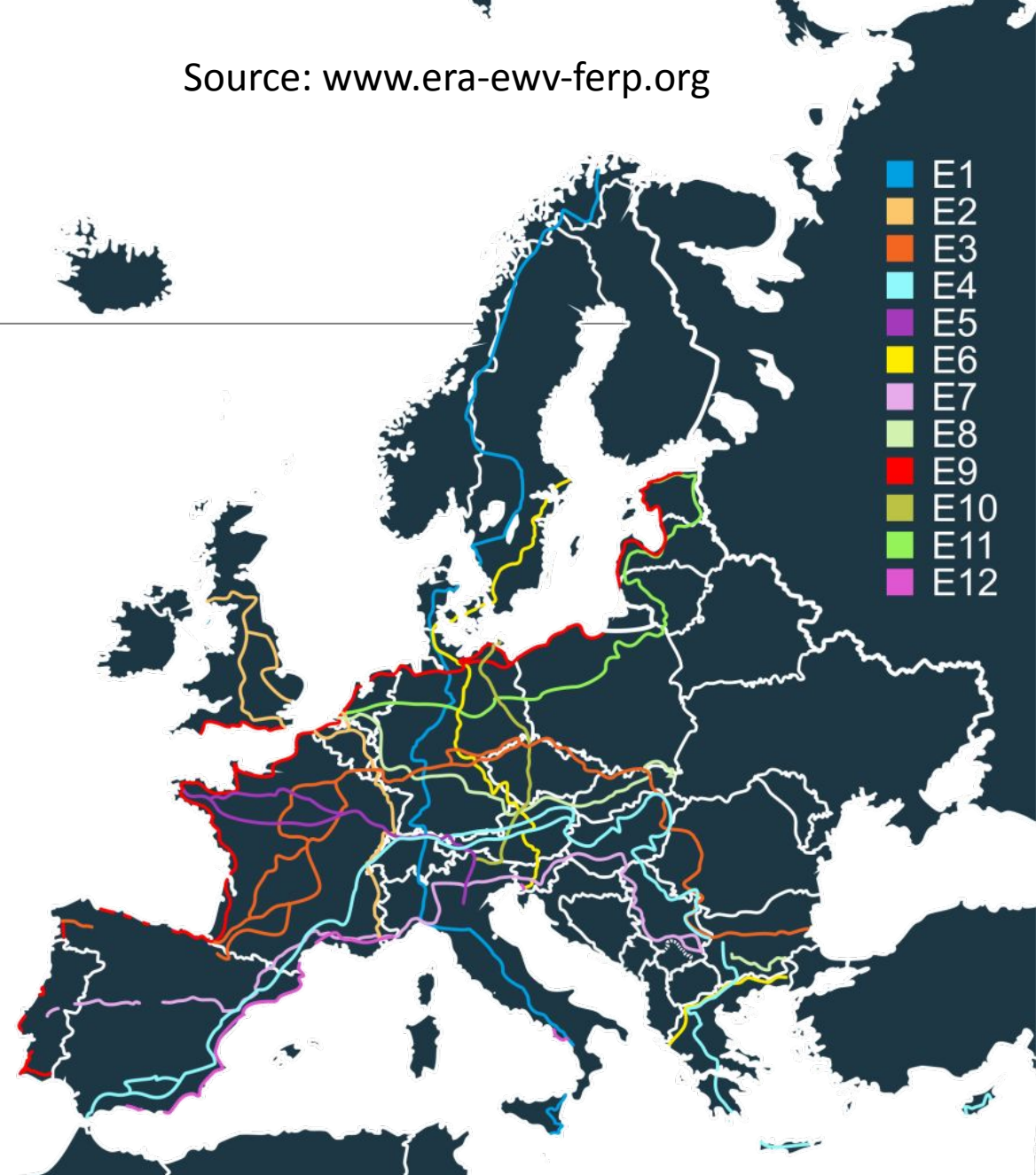
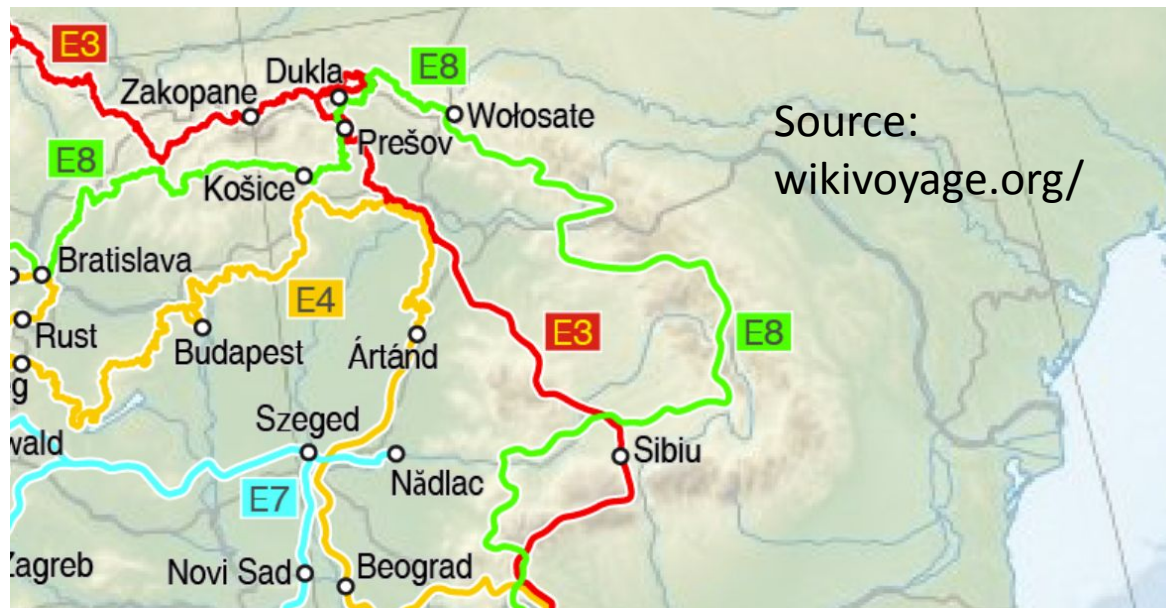
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# What about the E-s?

E3 is mostly unmarked through Romania, though ERA published it

E8 is partly marked in RO, almost not in UA, though contains nonsenses (customs in Wołosate)



# Meanwhile thru-hikers walk and publish



## Carpathian thru-hikes

Private group · 235 members



- VI-IX 1980 [Andrzej Wielocha, Piotr Kurowski, Jerzy Montusiewicz, Zdzisław Pecul, Wiesław Tomaszewski, PL](#)
- VI-VIII 1984 [Svetozár Krno, Ľuboš Calpaš & Pavel Mach, SK](#)
- XII 1995-V 1996 [József Mályi, H](#)
- 2004 + 2013 [Łukasz Supergan, PL](#)
- V-IX 2004 [József Mályi, Mihály Csima, Zoltán Bogya, Krisztián Ratiu, Lajos Polgár, László Vámos, László Mocsári, H](#)
- 2011 [Simon Dubois, F](#) ([link to his trail](#))
- VI-IX 2013 [Piotr Baranowski, PL](#)
- V-XI 2015, VII-IX 2021 [Viktorie Hlaváčková, CZ](#)
- VII-X 2015 [Andrei Dumitrescu & Vlad Spiru of the SKV tourist club, RO](#)
- [summer 2015 + XII 2017- III 2018 Weronika Łukaszewska & Sławomir Sanocki, PL](#)
- V-IX 2017, [Dominik Księski, PL](#)
- VII-IX 2017 [Lina Hallebratt, S](#) ([link to her blog](#))
- 2019 [Jean-Marc Souchon, F](#)
- IV-VIII 2019 [Michał Kulanek, PL](#) ([link to his trail](#))
- VI-VIII 2021 [Ewa Chwalko, PL](#)
- VI-IX 2021 [Bohdan Oslavskyj, UA](#) ([link to his trail](#))
- VII-X 2021 [Jiří Chemlon Glonek & Marek Štencl, CZ](#) ([link to their trail](#))
- VII-X 2021 [Peter Jankovič, SK](#)
- VII-X 2022 [Jiřina & Rosta Gregorovi, CZ](#)
- VI-VIII 2023 [Pavel Löbl, CZ](#) ([link to his trail](#))
- VII-X 2023 [Marysia Chrostowska & Iga Łukaszewicz, PL](#)
- VI-IX 2023 [Goulven](#) ([link to his FB page](#))
- VI- 2024 [Svetozár Krno & team](#) ([link to the FB page](#))

# Approaches to the phenomenon

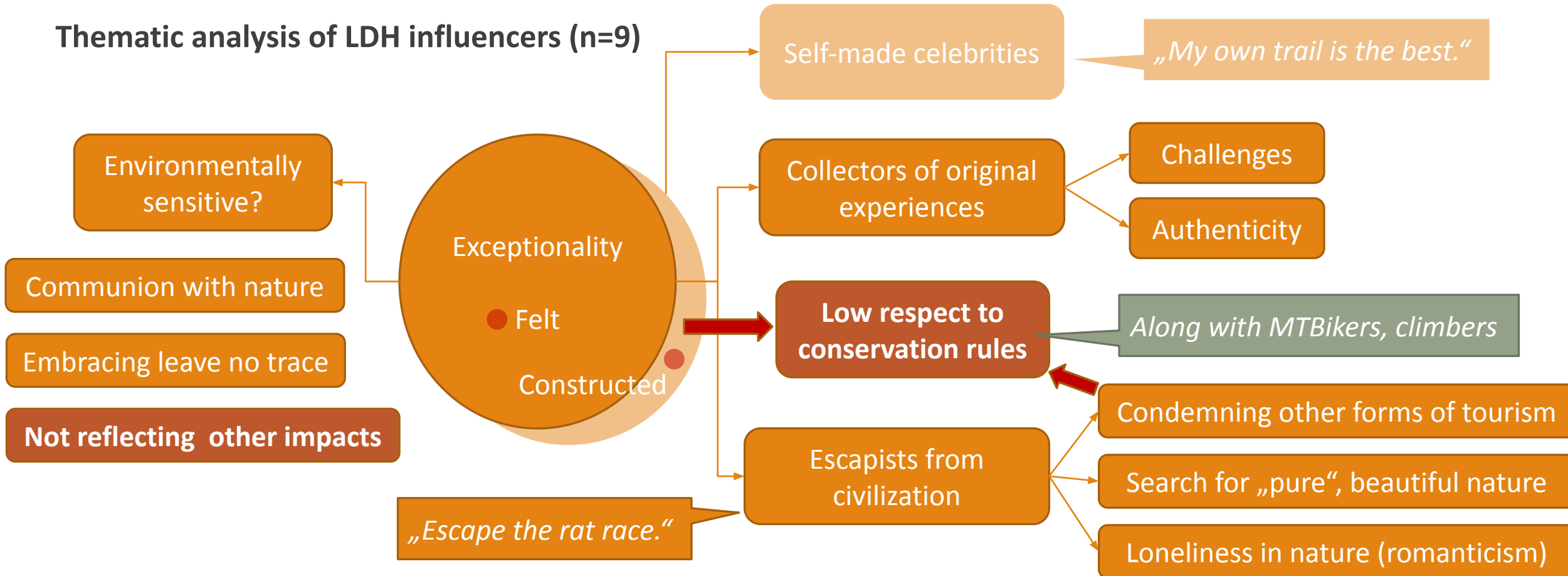
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## Approaches

- **spiritual** = rite of passage (Hitchner et al. 2019):
  - Separation = moving from previous roles
  - Liminality = going through a challenge, social equality (=> community brotherhood), no property possession
  - Incorporation = return with new identity
- **touristic** (Půtová 2019) = search for experiences
  - New wave of individual, strong experience searching tourists (with smartphones)
  - Traditional tourism: escape from the ordinary life, strengthening identity, ego and social status
- **sport** = extreme performance, pushing the limits

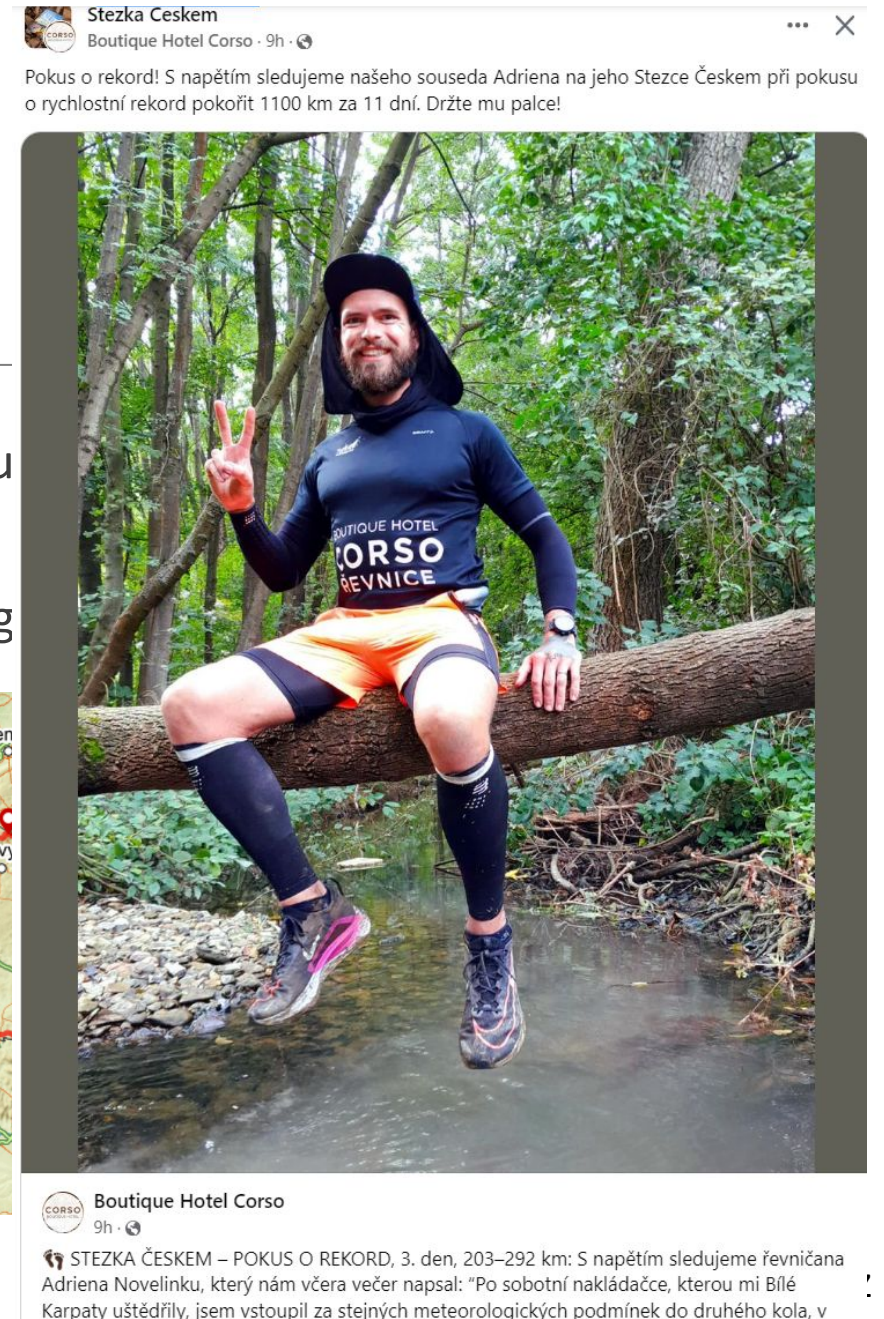
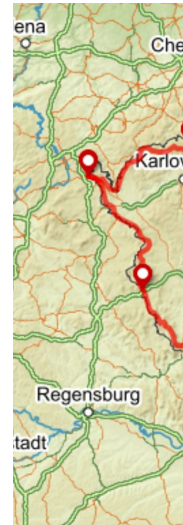
# Who are the long-distance hikers

## Thematic analysis of LDH influencers (n=9)



# Stezka Českem case study

- Private (business) initiative, later formalized with the Czech Tour
- Established Autumn 2021
- 1066 registered hikers in summer 2023 (real numbers much higher)
- high proportion of the 1<sup>st</sup> time hikers
  - Motto: „anyone can hike“
- 2023 expansion to Romania (Muntii Locvei)
- „Creation“ has not been about marking but
  - Promotion
  - Creating community = space for sharing, trail angels, acknowledgement of achievement
  - Extra information level – FarOut app



# Sustainable tourism?

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- **Needs:**
  - (Marked) trail + POIs, esp. water sources & shelters
  - Accommodation (trail angels, dedicated post offices, community & friendship now and then) with laundry & drying options (rain)
  - Electricity => charging
  - Grocery
  - Acceptance from the locals
  - Established trails: trail angels, dedicated post offices, community & friendship
- Consumption of services along a **narrow line of the trail**



# Sustainable tourism?

- Sustainable features:
  - Leave no trace
  - Environmentally friendly transport & reduction of other externalities
  - Support to local services even in deprived and non-touristic areas (dependence on local services)
  - More even distribution of tourists among the Carpathian mountain ranges



# Sustainable tourism?

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## ○ Conflicts

- Conservation rules (long-distance hiker covers one mountain range in the Carpathians on average in 2 days)
- Overcrowding of tourist shelters
- Potential conflicts with shepherds or landowners
- With bears

# So what? => Participatory ownership

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- **Understand the impact:**

- + international promotion of the Carpathians;
- + adding clients to current services, but
- - at a narrow corridor only;
- - charting an “official route” invites sports(wo)men who feel the need to compete and bend everything to their achievement not respecting the fragile nature and relationship with the locals;
- - while charting a route means taking responsibility towards nature, local communities and hikers, it also takes some responsibility from the hikers and invites less experienced characters;
- - more tourists = less authentic hospitality;
- +/- character of project ownership.



# So what?

○Philosophy



## MILOSLAV NEVRLÝ CARPATHIAN GAMES

[WWW.CARPATHIANGAMES.ORG](http://WWW.CARPATHIANGAMES.ORG)

CLASSICAL BOOK ABOUT LIGHT-HEARTED HIKING  
IN ENGLISH | FOR ALL | FOR FREE | ROMANIA ❤️



# So what?

## => Participatory ownership

- **Low-cost effort**

- Most of the trails are marked
- Website
- Community building

- **International stakeholders**

- Tourist clubs at national level
- Core working team (volunteers)
- Institutional background – new NGO?
- Protected areas

- **Sustainability**

- Merch
- Trail angels



# Bibliography

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