

STUDY ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF THE SKIING RESORT IN CENTRAL GROUP OF EASTERN CARPATHIANS, ON THE PAST 10 YEARS

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ABSTRACT. In this paperwork we aim to study the situation of the skiing domain in the area of the Central zone of the Eastern Carpathians. The subject has an enormous actuality because of the need of the crowds to practice winter sports as skiing, snowboarding and even free-ride. Our method was to study the situation of the ski slopes on the field and a study of the specific features of every slope. As results we can confirm that in the last of 10 years has start a great development of the skiing domain, as conclusion we can justify, that the tendencies presents a positive direction.

Keywords: *slope, skiing domain, development, Eastern Carpathians*

REZUMAT. *Studiu privind evoluția domeniului schiabil, în ultimii 10 ani, în grupa centrală a Carpaților Orientali.* În această lucrare dorim să efectuăm un studiu despre domeniile schiabile din Zona Centrală a Carpaților Orientali. Subiectul este de o deosebită actualitate deoarece este din ce în ce mai evidentă nevoia de mișcare a oamenilor și practicarea sporturilor de iarnă cum ar fi schiul, snowboardingul, sau free-ride-ul. Am folosit ca metodă de cercetare studiul bibliografic și în mare parte studiu pe teren, marcând specificitatea fiecărei părți existente. Ca rezultat putem afirma că în ultimii 10 ani observăm o dezvoltare serioasă, o tendință pozitivă în dezvoltarea pârtiilor de schi.

Cuvinte cheie: *pârtie, domeniu schiabil, dezvoltare, Carpații Orientali*

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Introduction

The Central Zone of the Eastern Carpathians is part of the Eastern Carpathians with the northern limit formed by the Corridor of Bârgău – Basin of Dorna – Mestecăniș Pass – Putna Valley and the Moldova Valley. The eastern limit is formed by the sub-Carpathian basin of the Neamț, Cracău – Bistrița and Tazlău – Cașin, on the south they reach until Oituz Valley and Oituz Pass and also until the Brașov Basin. The western limit is formed by the sub-mountain basins of Transylvania, Homoroade, Odorhei, Praid-Sovata, Vălenii de Munte and Bistrița-Livezile (Pop, 2006).

The touristic potential of this area is formed by the coefficient of the natural and anthropic values, exploited through the touristic planning and development, in our case the ski resorts (Ciangă, 2006).

The geologic structure, the climate and bio climate potential also the average temperature, precipitations (rain, snow), nebulousness, wind velocity, thermal comfort index represent the factors that influence the touristic flux in a specific period of the year, with consequences on the possibilities to practice the winter sports, which is in our interest in this study.

Objectives

Our objective is to form a proper image about the situation of the ski domain in the Central Zone of the Eastern Carpathians, and to present the evolution during the past 10 years of the ski slopes, to understand the necessity of developing the ski resorts because the potential of this mountain group is enormous.

Material and methods

As method we used the study of the available database and also collecting data on the fields.

Results:

As we studied the ski domain from the existing database we realized a table with the situation of the ski resort before 2006.

Table 1. Situation of the ski slopes before 2006

Nr. Crt.	Sloap name	Ski resort	Length	Difficulty
1	Dealul Negru	Vatra Dornei	3200 m	advanced
2	Parc 1	Vatra Dornei	900 m	advanced
3	Parc 2	Vatra Dornei	600 m	beginners
4	Runc	Câmpulung Moldovenesc	400 m	advanced
5	Rarău	Câmpulung Moldovenesc	300 m	beginners
6	Durău	Durău	450 m	beginners
7	În Stațiune	Durău	350 m	beginners
8	Măgheruș	Toplița	460 m	advanced
9	Bradul	Toplița	1000 m	beginners
10	Ciumani 1	Ciumani	578 m	advanced
11	Ciumani 2	Ciumani	980 m	experienced
12	Izvorul Mureș	Izvorul Mureșului	620 m	beginners
13	Șugo	Harghita Mădăraș	800 m	advanced
14	Nagy Mihaly	Harghita Mădăraș	650 m	experienced
15	Kicsi Mihaly	Harghita Mădăraș	300 m	beginners
16	Valea Rece	Valea Rece	450 m	advanced
18	Sânmartin	Sânmartin	320 m	advanced
19	Miklos	Băile Harghita	300 m	experienced
20	Csipike	Băile Harghita	350 m	beginners
21	Tofalvi	Băile Harghita	200 m	beginners
22	Ozon	Băile Harghita	300 m	beginners
23	Kossuth 1	Băile Harghita	630 m	experienced
24	Kossuth 2	Băile Harghita	800 m	advanced
25	Kossuth 3	Băile Harghita	1000 m	beginners
26	Tolvajos	Tolvajos	500 m	beginners
27	Merești	Merești	300 m	advanced
28	Lobogo	Băile Homorod	400 m	advanced
29	Aluniș	Sovata	1200 m	advanced
30	Bogdan 1	Praid	600 m	beginners
31	Bogdan 2	Praid	600 m	beginners
32	Dreapta	Gheorgheni	1000 m	advanced
33	Stânga	Gheorgheni	1000 m	advanced
34	Pongraț	Gheorgheni	400 m	beginners
		TOTAL	22.931 m	

Exactly ten years ago, in 2006 in Bucin pass was realized a ski slope for beginners in length of 400m.

2010 was the year when in Borsec started to arrange the appropriate downhill for developing a proper ski resort. They realized three slopes with different difficulties for beginner and advanced skiers.

Table 2. The new ski resort in Borsec

Nr. Crt.	Sloap name	Ski resort	Length	Width	Average incline	Difficulty
1	Hope	Borsec	680 m	57 m	21%	advanced
2	Whipster	Borsec	814 m	30 m	17%	beginners
3	Sunshine	Borsec	726 m	30 m	19%	beginners

The next step in developing the Eastern Carpathian ski resort was in 2014 when in Sumuleu Ciuc was realized a ski slope with the length of 397m, with an average of the slope of 28%, and a snow park for other winter sports.

Last and the newest ski resort which was realized in this area is in Lunca de Jos in Harghita county two slopes with 700 and 800m for beginners and advanced skiers.

Table 3. The ski resorts built after 2006

Nr. Crt.	Sloap name	Ski resort	Length	Difficulty
1	Havas Bucsin	Bucin	400 m	beginners
2	Hope	Borsec	680 m	advanced
3	Whipster	Borsec	814 m	beginners
4	Sunshine	Borsec	726 m	beginners
5	-	Sumuleu Ciuc	397 m	advanced
6	Blue slope	Lunca de Jos	800 m	beginners
7	Red slope	Lunca de Jos	700 m	advanced
		TOTAL	4517 m	

After our research we can affirm that the situation of the ski resort is way better than 10 years ago. In 2006 we count a number of 22.931 m of ski slopes in 16 ski resort with 33 slopes of different difficulties. During this cycle of years, another 4 ski resort was opened in Bucin, Borsec, Şumuleu Ciuc and Lunca de Jos. In this situation, the slopes lengths increased up to 27.448 m, with 7 more slopes, which mean an increase of 4517 m in length, and more than 26.5 percentages as the previous period.

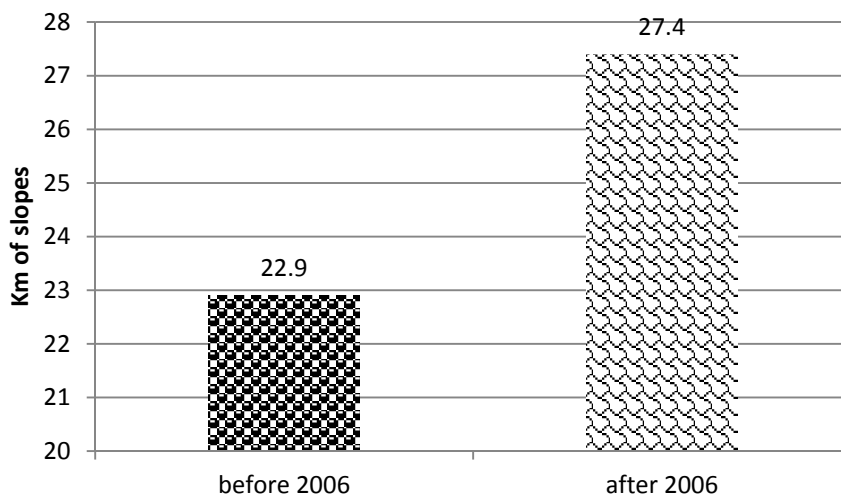


Figure 1. The total length of the ski slopes before and after 2006

In the future the most important thing is to create a team formed about a group of people to investigate this territory for the future possibilities for creating new domains in downhill skiing with longer slopes. Also the aim is to create snow parks for the skiers and snowboarders who like the half pipe ridings and free ride zones for different tricks. Domains for this kind of activities are really missing and this new “rebel” generation really need it. This facility will increase the value of this ski domain and will create a greater flux if the tourists which of course increase the financial inherit of the local population.

Discussion

As we see, before 2006 the situation of the ski resorts was poorer as now, but our opinion is that is also poor for the need of the people, seen the touristic flux during a winter season. We can confirm that all the slopes are equipped with ski lifts, baby lifts and chairlifts. Some of the slopes are equipped with spotlights make the skiing sensations more enjoyable.

Making a calculation, the increase of the length of the ski slopes, they showing us an increase of 26,2 %. This is significant towards of the previous measurements, but as we look toward to the foreign countries even in Bulgaria or Slovakia, there one of the ski resorts has the length of the slopes as here in the entire area of the Central Zone of Easter Carpathians.

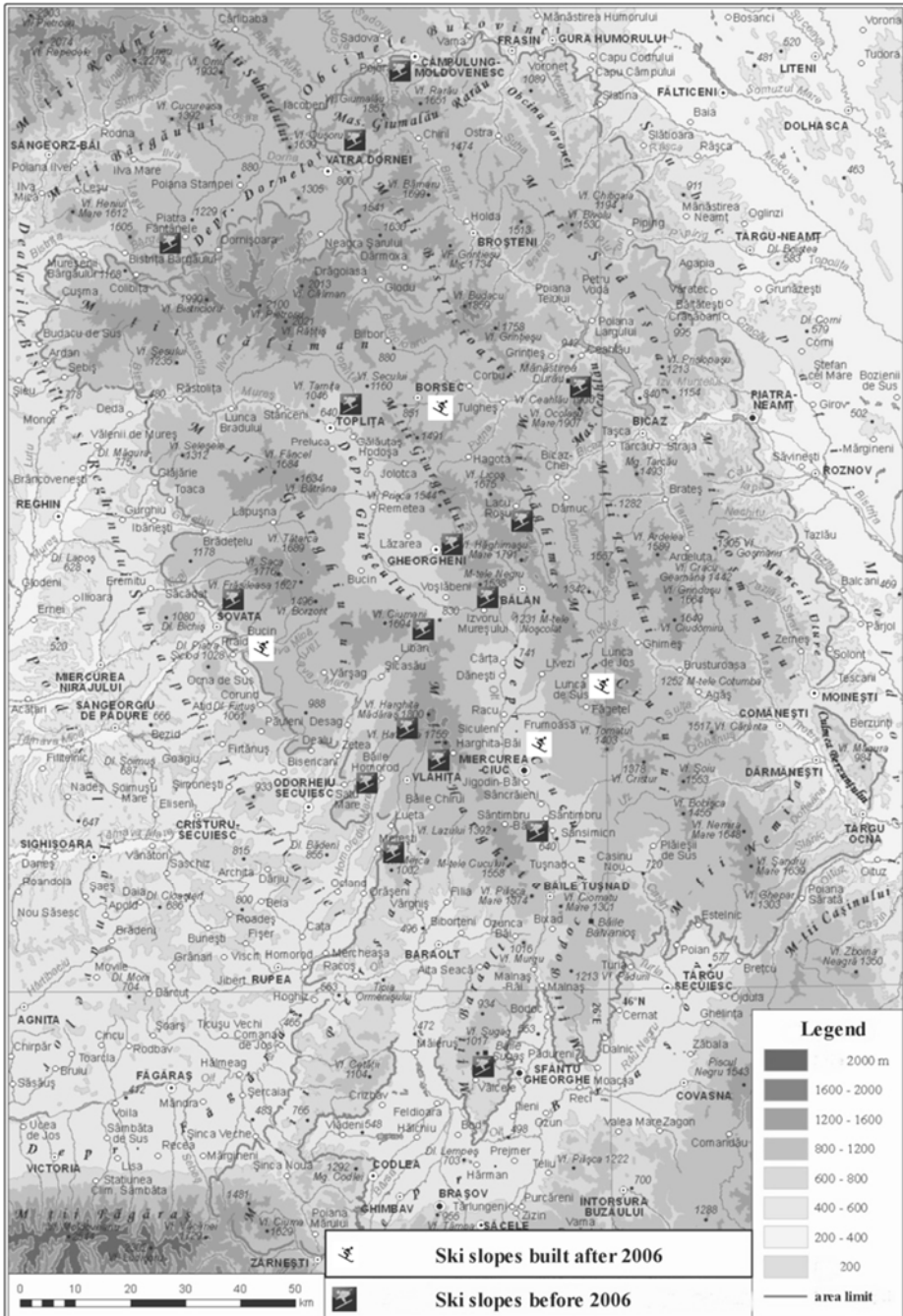


Figure 2. Map of the ski resort in the Central Group of Eastern Carpathians

Conclusions

The skiing possibilities in the Central Group of the Eastern Carpathians we can affirm that is well represented. As we look on the map we can observe that almost in every corner of this area we can find ski resorts and ski slopes. But the potential of this group of mountains is not used enough, in the Caliman Mountains or in Bistricioarei Mountains we observe that is a lot of empty space there exist lot of areas where ski-slopes can be built. The high of this mountain and the weather conditions as precipitation is snow, wind, the slopes orientation is a proper field to take advantages.

Other problem with this ski resorts is, that just a few of them offer proper accommodation units which are situated near by the skiing area. The communication network as roads and railway is another problem which is mean to be solved by the years, because they need to offer the possibility to reach this ski centres.

The positive side is, that in this hard times and fewer opportunities, we can observe the increasing number of slopes, especially in the last 10 years.

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