

## **ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF EXTERNAL FACTORS ON A RECREATION TRIP**

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### **SUMMARY**

A recreational trip taken in natural public areas may be often influenced by several factors. External factors are defined for this study as factors that do not depend on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The research area is represented by five public parks from Romania, designated as protected areas. Data are collected using an in-person survey conducted in the parks. The studied parks are unique by their geographic and cultural characteristics, thus an analysis of the factors between parks is necessary. A list of 25 factors was given to be analyzed by respondents. The scale offered was from 1 to 5 (1=not pleasant, 3=somewhat pleasant, 5=very pleasant). The factors can be organized as following: presence of particular landscape (types of forests, alpine lawns, etc.), disturbance factors (noise, air pollution, congestion etc.), presence of endangered species (flora, fauna), factors regarding the infrastructure of the park (new tourist trails, parking places etc.).

More than 70% of respondents indicated that it is not at all pleasant to be disturbed by noise caused by tourists and around 90% have declared that it is not at all pleasant to find garbage at camping places. Congestion preferences differ among parks but among tourists within the park as well. For instance, some do not prefer to meet more than 3 groups, especially tourists visiting Portile de Fier Natural Park (48.15%), where the main recreational activity is fishing. The majority of respondents have indicated that the existence of new touristic trails would be very pleasant, a result not surprisingly since one of the main activities was hiking.

The process of identifying the potential external factors and analyzing the degree in which the factors may affect the trip as a whole reveal key information for the managers of the respective areas. The obtained results may help managers in the developing and establishing the infrastructure, the access and use restrictions of the areas.

### **REFERENCES**

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