

Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 955

First Author First Name Last Name	Andreas (1) Aschaber
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Andreas Aschaber
Correspondence	andreas.aschaber@european-mountaineers.eu
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Stierle, Roland (1); Mair, Hanspeter (2); Erzen, Miro (3); Kotsina, Olga (5); Nikoloski, Goran (4); Trpevska, Snezana (4); Gancarcik, Ladislav (6); Temelkovski, Zivko (4); Hayek, Ingrid (1)
Organisations	1: European Union of Mountaineering Associations, Belgium 2: DAV, Germany 3: PZS, Slovenia 4: FPSM, North Macedonia 5: EOOA, Greece 6: JAMES, Slovakia
Country	Austria
Region	Western Europe
Title	Steps Towards An European Mountain Huts Inventory With A Focus On Environmental Standards.
Keywords	European Mountain Huts Inventory, Sustainable Huts, Functions Of A Hut
Type	List Of Focus Session
Focus Session ID	41

Abstract

Mountain huts already have a 150-years tradition in Europe. More then 2500 huts, shelters and bivouacs serve hikers and mountaineers, from the lowest hut located at 26 meters in Croatia up to the highest on at 4500 meters in Italy. Initially built with the purpose of shortening long approaches for mountaineering and climbing activities, they have developed over the years to an important base for long distance hikes, complex climbs, or a simple weekend destination where good food is served.

Nevertheless, they remain as important places where hikers and mountaineers seek information about route- or weather conditions. They provide shelter for adverse weather conditions and offer alimentation. Despite a highly developed telecommunication network, mobile phone signals in remote areas are rare. In this case, a hut warden is the first point of contact to report an accident and get access to professional mountain rescue means. Nowadays, mountain huts play a very important role for visitor guidance and nature protection in order to handle the increasing number of persons seeking recreation.

Although mountain huts have such a long tradition in Europe, we have hardly reliable data about them. While most European mountaineering associations have more or less sufficient data about their huts the exact number of huts in Europe still is a mystery. In the course of a well-planned project, it was attempted to gather this information step by step to generate a inventory as a base reference for the future, on how mountain huts contribute to Europe's GDP, welfare for rural areas or the well-being of European citizens. Mountain huts are an important meeting point for people from all over Europe where the cohesive European spirit is lived to its maximum.

Regardless of the importance of huts a major aspect is the environmental impact they have on the sensitive mountain regime. This aspect is also captured in the inventory under environmental standards of European mountain huts and reveals shortcomings in the sustainability of mountain huts.

The information was collected based on an extensive mountain huts survey which revealed how energy is provided, how the waste management system looks like or how the wastewater is treated, just to name a view aspects.

The study gave a first insight in the general environmental status of the mountain huts, which problems are prevailing and if there are any differences between central European and south-eastern European countries.