

**Building Partnership**

## **Medical/Wellness Tourism Development in the World Heritage Caves of Aggtelek And Slovak Karst (SKHU/1601/1.1/035)**

### **Press Release**

#### **Project goals, activities:**

The joint Slovak-Hungarian project aims at the development of the Aggtelek and Domica solutional caves. The aim of the project is to prepare the cave system for the performance of medical/wellness therapy, i.e. to perform various surveys and use their results to develop services of therapeutic tourism within the cross-border Baradla-Domica cave system of the Aggtelek karst and the Slovak karst with 250,000 visitors annually, to increase public awareness in conjunction with the unique natural values of the cross-border region, to increase the attractiveness and the numbers of the tourists visiting this cross-border region.

The direct goal of the project is to perform the surveys required to achieve certification of cave Baradla as a therapeutic cave in Hungary, to implement the certification process, to create the infrastructure required for medical therapy, to prepare the certification renewal of the cave Béke [Peace] in Jósvalő, Hungary; while in cave Domica, Slovakia the goal is to develop a climate therapy section and to finalise the visitor infrastructure.

Therapeutic caves use their subterranean microclimate of proven medical effect, primarily for the therapy of those suffering from respiratory illnesses. The therapeutic effect depends on the components of the cave atmosphere, the airflow and the water in the cave; therefore, this project is aimed also at the surveying and metering of these.

Main activities, development items of the project:

- Renovation of the storage building in Aggtelek (HU)
- Construction works within the cave
- Demolition of the former visitor building in Jósvalő, Hungary
- Development at Domica (Domica cave, Demek-lápa), Slovakia
- Surveys required for the cave certification procedure
- Test therapy
- Development of medical therapy infrastructure
- Purchase of equipment required for the cave surveys

**On the occasion of the end of the test-therapy, this event summarises the experience gained.**

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