

Interdisciplinary Design 2020
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Can a historical setting by the Danube replace all-inclusive seaside crowdings?

In the summer of 2020 many had to cancel their usual vacation bookings in far-away countries, and find alternative ways to pass their vacation times in the year of pandemics. Hungary has no seaside, no real mountains, therefore it is a challenge to offer competitive holiday offers inside its borders. However, the covid-19 is also an opportunity for second-grade local destinations to become fashionable and to attract vacationers who previously spent their money in sandy seaside beaches, or visited well known historic landmarks in Paris or Rome. Many think that the rebuilding of the economy after the covid-19 crisis is an opportunity to turn our world more safe and sustainable, and tourism was surely one of the least sustainable forms of human activities until now. Can we turn holiday spendings to become the wealth of local communities? Is there a more sustainable scale and infrastructure to tourism? Can domestic tourism be competitive with international destinations? Can the Danube compete with the sea and the historic architecture of a small town Ráckeve compete with UNESCO world heritage sites?

Ráckeve is a town of 10.000 by the Danube just half an hour south from Budapest. It has some of the most important historic monuments in Hungary, the baroque Savoy Castle, the gothic Serbian church, and a working river boat-mill. Still not even people from Budapest come often to visit this place, therefore its main potentials, like the Savoy Castle or its beautiful river embankments stay empty most of the times.

The task of Erasmus students taking this course is to create new infrastructure for a sustainable tourism developed and run by locals, but competitive for visitors on a longer stay. The historical landmarks like the Savoy Castle must be revitalized by keeping all of its splendure, while new accomodation and services must be developed in close connection to the historic fabric of the town and to the Danube. Hungarian students (TT2 urb) will prepare a program for local sustainability and pandemic safety strategies that will be the starting point for the developments, and these Hungarian students will work together with the Erasmus groups to develop the project, giving all the local support and knowledge needed to act in a responsible way locally.