Living in mountain areas: risks, adaptation and landscape heritage

Pavel Raška

Department of Geography
Faculty of Science
J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem
pavel.raska@ujep.cz

Structure of presentation

1. Krušné hory / Erzgebirge / Ore Mountains – basic facts
2. Bit of theory: risks, learning and resilience
3. Bit of practice: natural extremes and their reflection in the Ore Mts.
4. A valuable heritage for today?
5. Project outline

Krušné hory / Erzgebirge / Ore Mountains – basic facts

Longest range with **oldest** settlement and **least protected** environment.

Vilímek and Raška (2016)

Krušné hory / Erzgebirge / Ore Mountains – basic facts

Vilímek and Raška (2016)

Krušné hory / Erzgebirge / Ore Mountains – basic facts

Continuity of natural and cultural features **x** Discontinuity in conservation

Raška and Balej (2012)

Bit of theory: risks, learning and resilience

Extremes – Hazards – Risks

Individual and organizational learning

Bit of practice: natural extremes and their reflection in the Ore Mts.

Adaptation to extreme conditions (accord. to Riezner 2014)**:**

- Slope inclination – agrarian forms (levees, terraces), soil transport
- Soil grain size – digging the stones, stony accummulations
- Soil moisture regime – irrigation rills
- Climatic conditions and houses – assymetric roof, „Schneehaus“, decorative facing

Bit of practice: natural extremes and their reflection in the Ore Mts.

Natural hazards and extremes:

- Tough winters – ice walls
- Accelerated erosion – agrarian forms
- Flash floods – channel modifications, run-off dams

A valuable heritage for today?

Yes, because it is:

- a part of the long-term record of human occupation of the region;
- an illustration of roots for specific regional cultures (e.g. houses);
- a way to understand ways, which may provide more sustainable land utilization and risk reduction.

Project outline

The aim is to create a cross-section from Saxony to Czechia (ca 20 km) in order to understand and illustrate:

- specific links between natural environment and people – creating <u>specific regional cultures</u>
- continuum and discontinuum of natural and cultural features of the area

Project outline

We need:
chacateristic adaptations

We need:
a climate

We need:
typical architecture

We need:
typical economy

We need:
a land use

We need:
a cross-section

We need:
geology and soils

0 10 km

We need:
a scale

Project outline

Therefore, you´re going to work with:

- Literature (regional, public, scientific)
- Archives (would be good, but this is a question of accessibility)
- Old maps (mid-19th Century)
- Other iconographic data (postcards, old paintings, …)
- GIS
- Graphical software (or you can draw)
- **Your own intellect!** Because all what you do must be precisely commented and interpreted.