

### ***Meeting of rangers from Slovak and Czech republic with international participation.***

During 13. - 16.10.2016 the Meeting of rangers from Slovak and Czech republic with international participation took a place in Horská chata Kohútka on the Slovak-Czech border. The meeting was organized by Asociácia strážcov chránených území Slovenska ( Slovak ranger Association ) and Asociace strážců České republiky (Czech ranger association).

This joint meeting was already the second one (first joint meeting we organized in 2010 in Holubyho cottage on the Great Javorina) and originally we wanted to organize it already in 2015, but because of organizational problems it took a part this year. During preparations, we decided to invite the rangers from neighboring countries, so our two associations have established contacts with national associations of other countries.

34 professional and volunteer rangers from Slovakia, 22 from Czech Republic, 5 from Hungary, 2 from Poland, 2 from Austria, 3 from Romania, 1 from Germany, 6 from Russia, just like 2 representatives from Medzinárodnej rangerskej asociácie (IRF) - Roger Cole a Florin Halastauan attended the meeting. 78 rangers together.

Unofficially, the meeting began on Thursday evening after the arrival of the participants. The executive of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation p. Milan Orálek welcomed rangers. Representatives of the CHKO Kysuce in his presentation introduced the CHKO and also was presented CHKO Beskydy.

Officially, the meeting began on Friday by the opening ceremony in front of flags of organizing countries, flags of national associations of Czech and Slovak rangers and the flag of IRF. Participating rangers were welcomed by short speeches of ASCHÚS representative Mgr. Dan Hart'anský, the representative AS ČR Mgr. Radomir Studený and the director of the CHKO Kysuce Ing. Ján Korňan. The joint photo session also took a part.

The main program of the meeting was to exchange experiences in solving common problems in nature protection and presentation of work of rangers from participating countries. This point of program was dedicated to all Friday and Saturday night.

On Friday we welcomed the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment JUDr. Boris Suska, PhD. and CEO of ŠOP SR Ing. Milan Boroš to the meeting. Both of them praised the work of rangers in short speeches, wished them good luck in their further work in nature conservation and pledged support and assistance in solving service problems that worry them and Slovak rangers.

Saturday was devoted to three visits. Part of meeting participants went for the route leading along the Javorníky ridge to the tower at the point Strateneč. Hradisko, where they had the opportunity to watch the intervention of the local rangers in two cases of illegal movement of persons in this reservation outside marked trails. Participants of third excursion visited the open-air museum of folk architecture in Rožnov Radhoštěm.

Traditional Ranger party took a place on Friday evening and it's program was variegated with raffle, where drawn rangers won lot of nice and often funny prizes. However not only on Friday evening rangers were able to realize new international friendships. Every evening of the meeting was dedicated for debates in groups and endless conversations about common mission of rangers – Protection of our Nature.

The program was varied and so the official end of the meeting on Saturday night came very quickly. The Sunday break-up, we had to promise to organize such a meeting again and the Slovak rangers will visit the Russian, Hungarian and Romanian rangers in their country.

In conclusion, I want to thank all my colleagues who helped in the organization and successful course of the meeting. My thanks also includes sponsors which provided the entertainment for the Ranger party. A big thanks goes to the owner and staff of the Kohútka cottage, who really treated us as a family and despite of some certain confusions with accommodation and registration of participants they were always welcoming us with smile, which made this meeting a pleasant and rewarding.

***Dan Hart'anský***  
***President of ASCHÚS***