

The importance of climate in assessing the future potential of skiing

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Abstract

Background. We started with the idea of expanding the boundaries of skiing, both as a leisure sport as well as for competitions.

Aims. The purpose of this work is to analyze the climate factors that affect the current state and future viability of the ski industry in Romania, looking mainly into snow depth, air temperature, general precipitation and the number of days with solid precipitation (snow) analyzed in four Meteorological Centers of Bucin, Poiana Brașov, Balea Lake & Păltiniș.

Methods. We analyzed the 10 years data received from the Târgu Mureș Meteorological Center, considering the snow thickness, temperature patterns, as well the number of snowy days per year. To carry out this research, graphics & tables were created based on the information received and later on interpreted. The main method used was observation and as a means to present it, the description, the detailed analysis of phenomena as well as the explanation and implementation of a mathematical model. Statistical processing was performed with Microsoft Excel.

Results. Based on the data from the four Meteorological Centers, it was evidenced that the most favorable period for skiing lasts from January until March. In Bucin, the snow is suitable for skiing up to 90% until the end April; at Bălea Lake, the snow depth in April was between 155 cm (in 1997) and 257 cm (in 2006) and as a result, it was possible to ski until May; in Poiana Brașov as well as in Păltiniș; the ski season lasted until April only in 1997.

Conclusion. The primary resource for the winter tourism is snow. The data obtained from the four Meteorological Centers shows that the air temperature fluctuates annually, but the average has not been significantly increased. Therefore the period for winter sports is best starting with the end of December until early April.

Keywords: snow cover, air temperature, precipitation.