Centre for Bat Research and Conservation
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INTERNATIONAL BAT NIGHT 2017
"Alexandru Borza" Botanical Garden, CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA
16TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Organised by the Romanian Bat Portal www.lilieci.ro, and several founding members of the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation (CBRC).

Organizing partners:

- Cluj-Napoca City Hall
- "Alexandru Borza" Botanical Garden of Cluj-Napoca
- "Transylvania's Nature" Association
- "Emil Racoviță" Speleology Institute, Cluj-Napoca
- "Vlady, the cute vampire" Blog
- Amateur Caver Club, Cluj-Napoca
- "Avenul" Speleology Club, Brașov
- Zoological Museum, Cluj-Napoca
- Faculty of Biology and Geology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
- University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca

Before the event we have given interviews to several media channels like Radio Târgu Mureș, Radio Cluj (both in Romanian and Hungarian languages) and Radio Romania Cultural, in order to attract the public to our event.

The first attraction of our event was the thematic exhibition about bats, featuring breathtaking photos and information boards. Along with that, we have offered a lot of printed materials to be taken home, various brochures (including the EUROBATS series), comic books and even bat stickers for the children. The young visitors were also enticed into the "kids corner", where special activities awaited them: bat origami and other games, drawing and fun tattoos…and of course some sweets.

For a more thorough impact on the visitors, all of this was accompanied by two presentation about the bats of Romania (one in Romanian, held by Daniela Borda from the "Emil Racoviță" Speleology Institute, and one in Hungarian, held by Szilárd-Lehel Bücs from the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation), doubled with video projections and followed by Q&A sessions, which have raised the interest of the adults and the little ones alike. Meanwhile, we also managed to answer the questions of several TV and radio reporters attending the IBN. Interviews were given during the event to the local TV (TVR Cluj-Napoca) and radio (Radio Cluj).

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But by far the most successful idea of the event was the audio-visual thematic trail, "Flying with bats", featuring a map with 6 stations to be found, where visitors could listen to prerecorded sounds of 6 different bat species and read some important information about them, at the same time (in Romanian and Hungarian). And as darkness was setting in, we managed to trigger a virtual "Bat tornado", on an improvised screen in the middle of the Botanical Garden, which sparked many sounds of amazement among our guests.

We lost track of the people we talked to, of little ones we played with, of those who still visited the photo exhibition, of those who lit their phone lights and still searched for the bats…recorded or real, because we also had some quick-flying visitors. Only the lady at the entrance of the Botanical Garden still counted everyone….we had over 800 visitors that evening. The following photos speak for themselves.

We thank our volunteers Orsi and Timea for their help, as well as EUROBATS for the event posters.

Sincerely yours,

Olimpia Stan
Secretary, Centre for Bat Research and Conservation

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