

Historical Overview and Contemporary Organization Mountain Rescue in Alpine countries

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this essay is to introduce the Mountain rescue association in chosen countries of the Europe. The countries weren't chosen randomly. In each of them the organized human rescue in the mountain terrain has a similar date of its formation together with a close connection to the progress in the social life. The establishing of organized rescue sections comes from the half of 20th Century. Among the chosen countries of this essay belong: Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, and Italy. In each individual case I focused on a brief history of establishing taking into consideration not only the social life but also the will to solve unforeseen situations, when there was necessary to find a way to help the people living in the mountains finding themselves in distresses, for every reason it had. Another point is the structure and finance flow within the mountain rescue services of selected counties. It is very interesting to sense the disparity of each of the Mountain rescue services. Their work adapts to actual conditions in selected countries and specifics of mountains.

KEY WORDS:

mountain, organization, rescue, sport in nature

SOUHRN

Cílem této studie je porovnání horských záchranných spolků ve vybraných zemích Evropy. Státy nebyly vybrány náhodně. Jde o země, ve kterých má organizovaná záchrana lidí v horském terénu podobné období vzniku, a to v návaznosti. Z hlediska územního se jedná o státy Švýcarsko, Rakousko, Německo, Francie, Itálie. Z hlediska časového se vznik všech záchranných složek datuje od poloviny 20. století. Za největší příčinu přílivu lidí (turistů) do horských prostředí v Evropě stál zejména vědecko-technický pokrok již ve druhé polovině 19. století. Vynález parního stroje, tovární strojová výroba, distribuce výrobků k obchodníkům díky stavbě železnic po Evropě, rozvoj obchodu, tvorba zisku a nové investice. Velkého rozmachu záchranných organizací v Evropě docházelo ve třicátých letech 20. století, krátce před začátkem druhé světové války. Avšak válka zdecimovala jak klubovou činnost sportovních svazů, tak činnost horských záchrannářů. Horalé, tedy domorodci z různých horských pohoří ze států, které byly Německem anektovány, byli ideálními vojáky, specialisty pro oddíly tzv. horských myslivců, kteří se uměli v horách pohybovat a uměli v horském terénu žít. Další oblasti v článku podrobně analyzována, je organizační členění a financování horských služeb ve vybraných zemích v současnosti.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA:

hory, organizace, záchrana, pobyt v přírodě

INTRODUCTION

In this work I chose several European countries where Mountain rescue service was established in a comparable period. Geographically, these are countries whose territory is largely mountainous with an altitude above 1500 meters above sea level. It is interesting to note the differences in the development of the work of individual Mountain rescue services.

The differences are the result of the specific natural conditions in the country and the incomparable level of economic conditions. The aim of this work is to recall brief history, basic organizational structure and the way of financing the mountain rescue organizations.

In history, these countries were a model for building our Czech Mountain rescue association. Its

construction influenced the Wintersportvereine association in the Giant Mountains, which was the branch of the Austrian association, and it can be assumed that the similarity in some rescue procedures was not accidental.

Switzerland - Alpine rescue Switzerland

Alpine rescue Switzerland (Alpine rettung Schweiz, 2014) humanitarian and non-profit foundation based in Bern. It ensures operational emergency rescue throughout the day. It also shelters other rescue centers and partner organizations. The alarm is through the police at number 1414. The rescue is done regardless of the cost coverage and is evaluated on the basis of the provisions of the Rega insurance policy (air rescue insurance). The rescue teams were formed by merging the founding partners of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) and Swiss Air, Return Rega. Swiss Alpine Club brings together mountain and mountain sports in alpine environment enthusiasts regardless of age, gender, religion, language or origin. It was founded in the year 1863 and is a dynamic force in the development of the Alpine region and mountaineering. It supports mountain sports in alpine environment with a view to sustainable development for a wide range of visitors of mountain regions. Swiss Air is one of the pioneers of aviation in Europe in the interwar period. Therefore, it is also logical partner in the transportation of patients for further healing in Switzerland. After World War II, development is taking place together with Return Rega. When military pilots returned from the battlefield, especially from the Royal Air Force, they helped with schooling and training,

soon after the end of World War II in 1946. There are also known rescue attempts when a parachutist-rescuer jumped in the mountain environment. In the case of an avalanche even with a dog, so as to as soon as possible try to save the person in danger. Return Rega is an air rescue service that is also trying historically with small aircraft and later helicopters rescue in a mountainous environment. The first attempts date back to the period shortly before the outbreak of World War II (Alpine rettung Schweiz, 2014).

The Alpin Rettung Schweiz operating grant comes from public finances. Under this organization are ground organizations in the cantons that have transferred their ground rescue operations in the mountains under the Alpin Rettung Schweiz (ARS) - except the canton of Valais. With this centralization in 2007, there were unified 90 emergency stations of seven regional associations. They are divided into Prealps, Alps and Jura. At present 3000 rescuers are organized here. The rescue service in the canton of Valais is organized by its own KWRO (canton of Valais, rescue organization). Alpine Rettung Switzerland (ARS) provides rescue for people in need in alpine subalpine environments and in the inaccessible area of Switzerland with overlap where necessary in neighboring countries as well. ARS office is located in the Rega Center at Zurich Airport. ARS is funded by both the Rega Foundation and the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC), contributions go from cantons, income from activity (especially from health insurance companies) and donations (at the same place).

Table 1: The current Directrs Board of the Foundation

Name of the official	Post
Franz Stämpfli	President
Franz Steinegger	Vice President
Pius Furger	Member
Ernst Kohler	Member
Françoise Jaquet	Member
Andreas Lüthi	Member
Dr. Roland Albrecht	Member
Raphaël Gingins	Member

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR RESCUE STATIONS

All SAC sections with one or more rescue stations are members of one of the seven regional associations. The main task of regional associations is to represent local interests both internally and externally. Due to the active participation of club directors in personal, organizational and financial issues at the central level, it is possible to take into account regional peculiarities in the conversion of measures.

1. Alpine Rettung Westschweiz (SARO)

Under the Alpine Westschweiz regional rescue team belongs the cantons of Vaud, Neuchâtel, Geneva and the French-speaking areas of Friborg, Jura and Berner Jura. The members of the association are: Argentina, Chaussy, Chateau d'Oex Diablerets, Gruyere, Dents-de-Lys, Prévôtoise, Geneva, Yverdon, La Dole and Montreux, which together have thirteen rescue stations.

2 Alpine Rettung Bern (ARBE)

The Alpine Rettung Bern Arbe (formerly the Berner Mountains Commission of the KBBK) includes the Berner Oberland, the German-speaking areas of Friborg, Emmental, Sören Berg, Solothurn, and also in Basel and the Frick Valley. The members of the association are SAC Bluemlisalp, SAC Oberhasli, SAC Lauterbrunnen, SAC Kaiseregg, SAC Bern, SAC Altels, SAC Wildhorn, SAC Oldenhorn, SAC Wildhorn, SAC Upper Aargau, SAC Emmental, SAC Weissenstein, SAC Interlaken and independent club Grindelwald. There are sixteen rescue stations in the region.

3. Alpine Rettung Zentralschweiz (ARZ)

Alpine Rettung Regional Team Central Switzerland connects Cantons Zug, Luzern, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Schwyz and Uri. To the north, parts of the cantons of Aargau and Solothurn. The members of the

association are SAC Zindel Spitz, SAC Einsiedeln, SAC Gotthard, SAC Piz Lucendro, SAC Engelberg, SAC Titlis and two independent teams Entlebuch and Sarneraatal. ARZ has fifteen rescue stations. (Alpine rettung Schweiz)

4. Alpine Rettung Ostschweiz (ARO)

In the Alpine Rettung Ostschweiz regional club, there are cantons: Appenzell Innerrhoden, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, St. Petersburg. Gallen, Thurgau, Schaffhausen, Zurich and the eastern part of Aargau are merged. Zurich (SRZ) is also involved in the rescue and is associated with his rescue helicopter specialist (RSH). Members are SAC-section: Santis SAC, SAC St. Gallen, Toggenburg SAC, SAC Rhine, SAC Piz Sol. The Principality of Liechtenstein is also involved by the ARO Aviation Rescue Team. Including Liechtenstein, this section has six rescue stations.

5. Alpine Rettung Glarus Toedi (ARGL)

The Alpine Rettung Glarus regional team covers the entire Uri canton, including Urneboden. The SAC-part operates in four rescue stations.

6. Alpine Rettung Graubünden (ARG)

The regional Alpine Rettung Graubünden team includes all cantons. The members are SAC-sections: SAC Arosa, SAC Bellinzona, SAC Bernina, SAC Bregaglia, Davos SAC, SAC Engiadina Bassa, SAC Piz Platta, Prättigau SAC, SAC Ratia, SAC Terri. AR Graubünden has 28 rescue stations.

7. Alpine Rettung Ticino (SATI)

The regional Alpine Rettung Ticino Team covers the entire canton. Members are SAC-sections: SAC Bellinzona e Valli, SAC Locarno, Ticino SAC and two independent teams Soccorso Alpino Ticino SAT and Colonna Soccorso UTOE. It has six rescue stations.

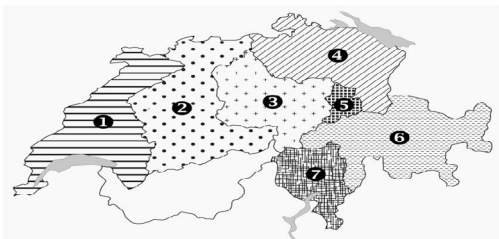


Figure 1: Overview of ARS Regional Associations in Switzerland (Alpine Rettung Schweiz, 2014, page not listed) Overview of ARS Regional Associations in Switzerland (Alpine Rettung Schweiz, 2014, page not mentioned)

AUSTRIA - MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Mountain Rescue Service (ÖBRD) is a federation of provincial mountain rescue associations of the Austrian federal states. The leadership

is composed of three provincial presidents, in the president function and two vice presidents. The Austrian Mountain Rescue Service has more than 12,000 volunteer members and 293 stations (Bergrettungsdienst Österreich, 2014).

Table 2: Representations in individual Lands

Lands	Mountain Rescue Service number of stations	Number of volunteer mountain rescuers	Number of searching dogs
TIROL	93	4290	66
KÄRNTEN	19	947	28
STEIERMARK	53	1468	22
SALZBURG	44	1931	56
VORALPBERG	31	1261	25
NIEDERÖSTERREICH-WIEN	30	1301	17
OBERÖSTERREICH	23	779	20

Alpine hiking and mountaineering are activities that were initially almost exclusively cultivated by people from cities. A farmer in the mountains, a farmer, a maid, or a miner will barely go into the inhospitable mountains. For example only when looking for stray cattle. Alpine tourism and new experiences from the mountains - especially from the spa resorts - recorded the first boom around the year around 1870. The creation of the Alpine Rescue Service in Austria - the first in the world - was an absolute innovation and a historic necessity. The impulse for the establishment of the Mountain Rescue Service was an avalanche disaster on Rax in March 1896. A friend of the missing person put together a volunteer team that was ready to look for the next few days on a human avalanche. The Austrian Alpine Union, the largest organization of that time with such a focus, was established. Between 1900 and 1910, interest in skiing in the Alps also increased. Norwegian ski instructor Fridtjof Nansen, based on the Austrian model, established the Mountain Rescue Service and brought the already established Mountain Rescue Service from Austria to Norway. Because even there, as in Central Europe, skiing has become increasingly popular. The activity of the Mountain Rescue Service in Austria was interrupted during the wars and after World

War II, so it had to be restored. It was not easy at all. Most emergency sites were destroyed and many mountain rescuers did not survive the war, many were missing or in captivity. This is the start of a new phase of building a Mountain Rescue Service with a minimum of material, little experience and a small number of members, but with a desire to build and rebuild.

The rescue service in 1947 is newly established and gets its new name Austrian Mountain rescue service. It is an independent and politically neutral organization. The real boom of the Mountain rescue service began in the 1970s and 1980s. After several fatalities, thanks to the political will to improve and equip the Mountain rescue service, it released a great deal of equipment and training for Mountain rescue services. Under the current airworthiness system, chat facilities, mobile phone options, well-trained mountain rescue workers, the availability of technical assistance shortens to the minimum.

Mountain rescue service in Austria is funded by lower administrative units, part of the insurance, and part of voluntary donations and allowances. Insurance for Mountain Service intervention is 22 Euros per calendar year and many visitors make

such insurance before traveling to the mountain environment. This makes it possible for the insurance policy holder to buy cheaper material for his trip, such as some types of backpacks, first aid kits, or to use some preventative-information services provided by Mountain rescue service to his insured.

GERMANY - BERGWACHT DEUTSCHLAND

The German Mountain rescue service is part of the German Red Cross (DRK-Bergdienst). Already in 1912, the first German mountain rescue took place in Saxony. The rescue team was composed of a Samaritan cluster of Saxon climbers. In Munich in 1920 was established the German mountain rescue service to restore morale and decency in the mountains. This was the situation after the First World War, when poaching, burglary, theft of cattle and wood was widely spread in the mountains. Inhabitants of the mountain regions, therefore united together and founded a kind of militia, which also worked in favour of injured or stray. Shortly afterwards, the Red Cross organized a mountainous service called GUD, composed of Red Cross rescuers. In 1923, it already has three mountain rescue units - Munich, Allgäu and Chiemgau. With the annexa-

tion of Austria to Germany in 1938, the German Mountain rescue service continued under the unified organization of the Austrian rescue organization. In 1939 Mountain Rescue Service included in its work also the conservation of nature. During the Second World War, members of the Mountain rescue service took oaths as special squad officers. In 1944, the Mountain Rescue Service was placed under military authorities. After the end of the Second World War, the Mountain rescue service in Germany was divided according to the zones of influence of the victorious powers. In the US occupation zone, the mountain rescue teams joined the national association of the German Red Cross. In the French zone, the authorities approved the creation of the independent Bergwacht Schwarzwald. In 1955 federal Lands joined the federal level and formed the federal committee of the Mountain Red Cross Service. Mountain rescue service is now a member of the IKAR International Commission for Alpine Rescue. Mountain rescue service in Germany uses the latest technology used for the sport disciplines. IKAR consults and recommends other members within IKAR.

Table 3: Federal association

Bavarian Mountain rescue service
Mountain rescue service Harz (also the regional associations of Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt)
Mountain rescue service Hesse
Mountain rescue service North
Mountain rescue service Rhineland-Palatinate
Mountain rescue service Saxony
Mountain rescue service Schwarzwald
Mountain rescue service Thuringia
Mountain rescue service Westphalia-Lippe
Mountain rescue service Württemberg

The German Mountain rescue service is part of the German Red Cross (DRK-Bergdienst), which finances it for the most part. In Germany, the charity makes more than 90% of the medical assistance in uneven or hard-to-reach terrain of the German middle and high mountains. This includes the theme of preventive work: safe movement in the mountains.

Part of the budget for providing the activity consists of insurance money based on the frequency of interventions. It is also necessary to add that the irregular amounts of money are still due to editorial activity, to which members are directly involved. The subject of editorial activity is most often mountain medicine, climbing technique, speleological technique. There is also a negligible share of members' experts in the issue of mountaineering, tourist, and other guides.

FRANCE - MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE FRANCE

For centuries, generations of people have lived in remote mountainous areas under conditions sometimes very cruel. The highest summits of mountains began to attract a new wave of mountaineers who had not encountered situations yet recognized. Thanks to this new phenomenon, it was necessary to organize some mountain assistance. On July 14, 1865, a group of mountaineers led by Edward Whymper succeeded in crushing the Cervin peak. However, during the descent there was a tragic event, when 4 of the 7 alpinists after the fall disappeared. The remaining three, with the help of voluntary rescuers, descended to Zermatt. After this drama, mountaineers began to ask whether there was no need to establish mountain rescue rules. The first organized group were volunteer rescuers from Salève. This group was established in 1897. Based on the law issued on July 1, 1901, the National Association of Doctors and Mountain Rescuers was established. Its main mission is to develop and improve mountain rescue service in specific terrains such as caves, canyons, etc., and in environments that require special rescue equipment. The seat of the association is in Grenoble. It is also worth to mention the year 1910, when the first Mountain rescue service Association was established under the auspice of the tourist information office of Grenoble - the Dauphin Committee of Mountain rescue service. In 1929 another organization was established, this time in Savoy, in the city of Chambéry. In 1946, the French Mountain Federation unified all the mountain rescue service organizations. In 1958, after many success-

ful and unsuccessful rescue attempts, the need for a uniquely organized Mountain rescue service, which became Le PGHM.

In France, mountain rescue service is provided by three public organizations:

- Gendarmerie - Les Pelotons de gendarmerie de haute montagne; Le PGHM
- Police - Les Compagnies républicaines de sécurité - (CRS)
- Firefighters who intervene with PGHM and CRS. Firefighters have been effectively involved in mountain-service assistance only since 2001, when their powers were determined at the regional level. This enabled them more effective organization.

Les PGHM and PGM are units of the state gendarmerie (Two police forces are performing police work in France. State Police, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and the State Gendarmerie, which falls under the authority of the Ministry of Defense. The state gendarmerie operates mainly in rural areas and in small municipalities with up to 20,000 inhabitants. Gendarmerie consists of two components, departmental and mobile gendarmerie. The Gendarmerie serves general police functions. It is territorially divided into regional headquarters and lower territorial units. Territorial units are complemented by specialized units such as the Mountain Police.). The PGHM units were the result of a tragic accident on December 22, 1956, when two men, the French and the Belgian, were trapped in a storm during a winter trip to Mont Blanc due to bad weather. The events that then occurred contributed to the emergence of specialized mountain assistance units. The first unit was based in Chamonix. The PGHM units are located in all Alpine, Pyrenean, Corsica and Réunion. Since 1958, the State Gendarmerie has set up 4 Mountain rescue service units - Chambers of Chamonix, Grenoble, Briançon and a group of specialized parachute units (GSPHM) in Argeles - Gazost. Over the years, the number of units has grown to 15.

Le CRS, the police, has been involved in mountain-service cooperation since 1948. They are being called to heavy casualties like the "Malabar Princess" in 1950. They have become an integral part of the mountain rescue service over time. On January 4, 1955, Le CRS established the National Center for the Preparation of Mountaineering and Skiing CNEAS -

the National Center for Alpine Skiing and Skiing. It is the oldest institution of this type in France. Firefighters are involved in co-operation with the Mountain rescue service since its origination. Since 2001, their powers have been delegated to regional

and municipal levels. Each department has its own educational organization that provides basic training. In Haute-Savoie, they provide education for managers of all French departments

Table 4: Settlement locations of individual headquarters

Annecy – Haute Savoie	Modane – Savoie
Bagnères – de Luchon – Haute Garonne	Oloron Sainte Marie – Pyrénées Atlantique
Bourg – Saint –Maurice – Savoie	Osseja – Pyrénées Orientales
Briançon – Hautes – Alpes	Pierrefitte – Nestallas – Hautes – Pyrénée
Chamonix- Mont Blanc – Haute Savoie	Saint – Denis – Réunion
Corte – Haute Corse	Saint – Sauveur sur Tinée - Alpes Maritimes
Jausieres – Alpes de Haute Provence	Savignac – Les Ormeaux - Ariège
Le Versoud – Grenoble – Isère	

Departments where the Mountain rescue services are located are written in italics.

Mountain rescue service also changes its names. From Le GSPHM to only PPHM - peloton parachutiste haute montagne. Since 1974, these PGHM units have been called Le peloton de gendarmerie de haute montagne. Le PGM units are situated at lower altitudes - the Jura Mountains, the Central Massif, and the Vosges. They have the same powers as Le PGHM. The Mountain Gendarmerie also has special groups that oversee the training of the mountain units of the CNISAG, the National Centre for Skiing and Alpine Skiing, the National Training Centre for Skiing and Mountaineering. The location of this centre is Chamonix. The training of mountain rescue service staff takes place at several levels according to the degree of expertise. In total, 280 experts (20 officers and 260 non-commissioned officers) work in 21 units (15 Le PGHM and 5 Le PGM).

The French Mountain rescue service perceives as its main tasks the rescue of people in distress, the search for missing or dead persons, monitoring compliance and punishment of their offenses, surveillance of mountain areas, cooperation in security committees - ski areas, road closures, mountain huts, etc. accidents and possibly informing the public when an accident occurs. In the event of an accident, the

Mountain rescue service also conducts a follow-up investigation.

The organization of mountain rescue services in France is one of the most complex in the world. There are four components - the gendarmerie, the police, the fire brigade and, in some areas, the speleological rescue service. Each organization has its own organizational structure and funding. This all is the more demanding for joint actions to coordinate individual components. It should be added that the Mountain Gendarmerie further closely cooperates with pilots of rescue helicopters, dog handlers, civilian defence, and other components.

ITALY - CORPO NAZIONALE SOCCORSO ALPINE E SPELE

Corpo Nazionale Soccorso Alpine and Spele is the name of Mountain rescue service in Italy. Mountain rescue service in Italy has similar roots as in other mountain areas of other European countries. With the development of tourism in the second half of the 19th century, increase efforts in the mountains to unite and organize. This is why the 1863 Italian Alpine Club is set up, which is part of their club duties, federal tackles and using people in the mountains who are in need. In 1926, the „Lecco Section“ was established, which is the precursor of Alpine Society Julian Mountain Rescue Team. In

1932, the Italian political representation „The Regulation on Mountain Care in the Mountains“ and the building of the first rescue stations were approved. In 1938, the character of the federal organization changed, transforming itself into a contributory organization, Mountain Rescue. He buys basic medical technology in all mountain hostels and shelters. After World War II, there was a resumption of activity and between 1946 and 1953 a unified organization of mountain rescue teams was set up to carry out real alpine rescue. The current structure of the CNSAS (National Mountain rescue service) was created in 1967. In this form, with minor changes, the Mountain rescue service in Italy has been working up to the present day. In 2001, Law 74/2001 recognizes the CNSAS as a public benefit organization.

In the head of CNSAS stands the president. He has two representatives who focus on their specialization. One on the Alpine Mountain Rescue and the other on a mountain speleo rescue. The CNSAS brings together 31 mountain rescue teams established in the autonomous provinces of the Italian state. The teams have 242 stations in the mountains. Each team, according to a democratic principle, elects its deputy to lead. Team leaders elect the president and his deputies.

The financial page is like our Mountain rescue service. The main part consists of the state budget. The other part is insurance based on the frequency of interventions and the last part consists of contributions and donations. It should also be added that irregular financial amounts are still due to publishing activities, such as issuing climbing, tourist and other guides, mountain medicine, climbing and speleology techniques.

CONCLUSION

It is very interesting to perceive the difference in the work of each Mountain Rescue Services, which adapts to the specific conditions in a range of given country and mountains. In the Alps or the English Mountains, there are also rock cliffs and caves in addition to the rock walls. Therefore, not only climbing technique but also speleological technique is used here. In mountain ranges, such as our Jizera Mountains or the Šumava Mountains, motor technology is more used because it is more accessible to this kind of transport. I would say that in all the described countries in Europe, the first attempts to mountain rescue began soon after the first attempts to find new territories and new mountain areas. Chronologically, it is the second half of the 19th

century. If I should identify the major causes of tourist influx into mountainous environments in Europe, I must mention scientific and technological development first. Inventory of steam engine, factory production, distribution of products to traders thanks to the construction of railways throughout Europe, business development, profit making and new investments. All this leads to the emergence of a middle economic stratum, which starts to look for new opportunities for leisure time, and thus creates and develops the life of the federal state. The possibility of traveling through the development of railways is undeniable. The development of capitalism and cities is enormous, and to that extent unknown. With the development of federal life, interest in sports and physical culture and thus investment in sports equipment is growing. Especially in cities where are foundations of sports associations. Their activity is often seasonally different, so a group of canoeists and boaters begin to build their bases over the summer, but during the winter they organize ski or snowshoe trips, so popular in the early 20th century. Similarly, it is the association of tourists who organize various and multi-day trips. In the summer, they are on foot, in winter on skis and snowshoes. In some European countries it is slightly more, in others less, but it is happening everywhere. This development is also run by the social need and the need to reduce the casualties of various failures and misfortunes in inaccessible terrain. The expression of human solidarity and simple taste to help a person in difficulty independently of themselves in different countries in similar periods is founded by native squads who are more able to cope with the demands of natural conditions or unfavourable weather and are familiar with the terrain. The first mountain rescue organization was established in Austria. It has been an example for other European countries that have followed suit quickly. A major step forward was the establishment of the Alpinverein Club. The program included courses, lectures, maps, and guides. The greatest share of this was the priest Franz Senn of Neustift and Ötztal. The idea of the Alpine Club spread rapidly across Europe, and it was soon established in other countries. A new idea was to put insurance into club activity. The insurance helped everyone who did something wrong in the mountains and on the other hand, and that is a very important element in the support of the rescue teams, the insurance also supported the rescue squads in the mountainous areas of the Alps. The great boom of rescue organizations in Europe takes place in the 1930s, shortly before the start of

World War II. However, the war has decimated both the club activity of sports associations and the activities of mountain rescuers. The mountaineers, the natives of the various mountain ranges of the states that were annexed by Germany, were ideal soldiers for the so-called mountain hunters who were able to move in the mountains and to live in the mountain terrain. The fact that the soldiers were soldiers had a very negative impact on the resurgence of the mountain rescue corps. Many of them did not return home from the war. Everyone in Europe in the post-war era has only to start building, without distinction, a war party, or a war front.

Mountain rescue organizations in the Alps already communicated and consulted their practices before the Second World War. Rather, after individual contacts. Mutual consultations and experience sharing have proved to be very beneficial and therefore the IKAR international organization of mountain rescue services is based.

From then it was the unification of the fragmented and often primitive rescue techniques, the rescue work methodology and the mutual information and reporting system. The founder and soul of the

whole project was the Swiss doctor from Pontresina, Dr. Rudolf Campell, who perfectly spoke five languages, did not make it difficult for him to negotiate a common organizational structure, equipment, tools, and commands for rescue organizations in all Alpine countries. The aim should have been to help people who find themselves in need anywhere in the Alps. All technical, organizational, and methodological news were negotiated, endorsed, and enforced together, and only then could be put into use (Vrba, 2003). However, the conditions were very modest at that time. After World War II, IKAR's activities were resumed, and the organization has been gradually expanding with members from other mountain ranges or even continents. Since 1966, Czechoslovak Mountain rescue service has been a member. In the current Mountain rescue services in these countries, due to common work in IKAR, there is no difference in working methods, only in numbers of rescuers and techniques that can be deployed. It is given by the power of the economy of that state and, at the same time, by the social significance of the safety of visitors to the mountain environment.

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