

Bucharest, May 14, 2018

MTB superstars Ariane Lüthi, Frans Claes and Vitor Gamito, ready to conquer the Carpathians!

*The premium event Carpathian MTB Epic will be organized during
August 16-19, 2018, at Cheile Gradistei - Fundata, in Romania*

The second edition of the Carpathian MTB Epic, a multi-stage mountain bike competition, accredited by UCI, is announced to be extremely tight, with top competition! Big names from the world cycling stage have already announced their presence at the Start line.

On **August 16, 2018**, the next famous cyclists will compete in 4-day EPIC race: **Ariane Lüthi**, who has won the podium of some of the world's toughest international mountain bike competitions, such as Absa Cape Epic, where she has been 5 times champion; **Frans Claes**, number 1 in the UCI World Series Marathon; but also Olympic athlete **Vitor Gamito**, winner of the MTB Tour of Portugal.

The [MPG](#) Romania team is delighted and proud to welcome **Ariane Lüthi** and **Frans Claes**, two sport superstars, as Event Ambassadors at **Carpathian MTB Epic 2018**. At the same time, we are honored to welcome **Vitor Gamito**, [GoldNutrition](#) Ambassador, to the 2nd edition of the mountain competition in the Southern Carpathians.

Born in Switzerland, **Ariane Lüthi**, 34 years old, is revered among her competitors for her fierce and fearless marathon racing ability. She is a multiple winner of the most grueling mountain bike stage races in the world, including the Absa Cape Epic, the Cape Pioneer Trek and the Swiss Epic!

With a sport background as a national level swimmer and swimming coach, Ariane poured herself into her new-found passion for bikes in 2009, when she attended her first MTB race at Roc d' Azur. Shortly, she made a notable appearance and in 2011 she decided to move to South Africa and compete as a professional MTB-er. Now, Ariane is holding many impressive titles: 5 times Absa Cape Epic category winner - Mixed in 2012 and 2013 and 3 times Women Elite winner during 2014-2016; 2 times Swiss XCM champion in 2013 and 2016; recently she gained a bronze medal at European XCM Championships 2018.

„I like to collect memories, not things! The personal motive to enter this race was the opportunity to explore a country I have never been to. I cannot wait for this adventure... discovering the magical Carpathian Mountains, which look absolutely stunning on the pictures I've seen, in real life! I just hope Dracula won't come visit me at night...“, stated Ariane Lüthi, with a large smile.

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Overall winner World Series Marathon 2017! An incredible performance and a highly desired title that are owned by the Belgian cyclist **Frans Claes**. From his teenage years, Frans is a truly addicted MTB-er being determined to take his bike all over the globe and participate in all kinds of bike events. And he fully succeeded! The 34 years old cyclist holds the number 1 place in World Series Marathon Ranking, being also a National XCM champion in his home country Belgium.

„Winning stage races like Trans-Wales (2008), Trans-Portugal (2009) and the Trans-Maurienne (2012) gave me the motivation and the confidence to put more energy into my sport. I really look forward to compete in the Carpathian MTB Epic and explore the beauty of the region! When people told me about the route and the race I got curious about what it could be like to ride in the Romanian mountains. Then, I watched the trailer of the race and was immediately convinced to add this Epic ride to my calendar!”, said Frans Claes.

What drives him, you might be wondering? *„Nature keeps me going!”*, added Frans.

Another top rider attending the multi-stage competition from Carpathian Mountains is the Olympic athlete **Vitor Gamito**, who has a rich sport history and admirable achievements, both in road and MTB races.

Aged 48, the Portuguese Vitor Gamito has won in the last two years the champion titles of Portugal Tour MTB Race UCI, Algarve Bike Challenge and also of Alpen Tour Trophy in the Master category. In 2015 he arrived on the 4th place at Absa Cape Epic, in the Master category. Another noteworthy events happened in 2000 when he won Tour of Portugal – road cycling and he participated at Sydney Olympic Games.

From the perspective of the professional competitor, but also as a coach, Vitor believes that: *“Cycling is characterized by a high physical demand and a very high caloric consumption. The physiological capacities of the maximum consumption of oxygen – endurance – and of recovery are key factors for the performance of the athlete”*. Vitor Gamito will be present at **Carpathian MTB Epic** as GoldNutrition Ambassador and is a fearful competitor for the other participants.

On its 2nd edition, **Carpathian MTB Epic** is the first multi-stage event from Romania registered in the UCI international calendar, at [S2 category](#), and it will be held during **August, 16-19, 2018**, at Cheile Gradistei – Fundata, an Olympic-level resort in the Transylvanian “Alps”, in Brasov county.

Carpathian MTB Epic 2018 is open both to professional and amateur MTB riders from the country and abroad, offering two options to race:

- [4-day EPIC](#) includes a Prologue and 3 stages of daily competition. The Prologue, which will take place on **Thursday, August 16**, is a XCO race of 4 km. The 3 stages, organized between

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17th and 19th August 2018, are XCM format and each will take place on a distinct route, with a distance of **60 km**, having the Start/Finish set at Cheile Gradistei - Resort Fundata.

- **1-day Challenge** takes place on **August 19**. and, as a novelty to the first edition, proposes a shorter route of only **40 km**, specially designed to provide amateur riders, who haven't yet reached the level of training required for the **4-day EPIC**, the occasion to enjoy an authentic MTB experience in a top international competition.

In 2018, **Joko Vogel**, the world-renowned Swiss multi-stage and ultra-cycling competitor, joined the **Organizing** Committee of **Carpathian MTB Epic** following the success recorded by the first edition of the event.

Joko Vogel is the co-founder of Perskindol Swiss Epic and Tortour and he is a co-initiator and organizer of the UCI Cyclocross World Championship to be held in Switzerland in 2020. The international recognition came right after the first edition of **Carpathian MTB Epic**, organized in September 2017. Many top cyclists and foreign journalists appreciated the event as a premium one and among the most spectacular races from this European region, but also comparing it with other similar international events.

The competition from the Southern Carpathians is a full-service event – „*eat, ride and sleep*”, offering to all participants a challenging experience, standard and extra high-quality services and an impeccable organization. **The prize pool** for **Carpathian MTB Epic 2018** is over **30.000 euro**. MPG Romania team gives a special attention to the sport atmosphere, planning to offer a jolly and friendly environment during the 4 race days and to promote the local culture and hospitality.

Registrations are open on the official page: www.carpathianmtb.ro, the last day available for entering the multi-stage race being August 5, 2018. You can read all the details about the Experience provided by this event, services and benefits by [click here](#). The event schedule is available on the page and can be checked [here](#).

Competitors must be 19 years of age on the first day of the race in order to qualify for the **Carpathian MTB Epic**. Furthermore, for an enthusiastic and realistic reporting about this event, *limited participations are also open to the media representatives on the basis of an early request for [accreditation](#), experience in sport coverage and cycling and guaranteed media exposure.*

We benefit from the confidence and support given by **Banca Transilvania** and **Gatorade**, the Official Sponsors of the event, along with the following Official Suppliers and Partners: BOSCH, GoldNutrition, Profructta and Cheile Gradistei - Fundata. **Carpathian MTB Epic** is sustained by

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the reliable partners: the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Romanian Cycling Federation, Romsilva, National Administrations of Piatra Craiului and Bucegi Natural Parks, Salvamont Romania, Carpatica Convention – Romanian Center, Brasov County Council and the Foundation Conservation Carpathia. The supporters of the competition are: Tuborg, Expotehnica, Canah, Bucovina, Urlati Domains, Bicycle Ambulance - AmBike, Wild Romania and NTD Film. **Carpathian MTB Epic** is sustained by the Logistic Partner DHL Express Romania and the Official Tracking Partner Tractalis. We can always rely on the help offered by the Media Partners that are giving us important support in transmitting the information: Radio GUERRILLA, FreeRider.ro, Biciclistul.ro, RomaniaPozitiva.ro, Ireporter.ro, BikeEvents.ro and SportsPlanner.com.

News and information are communicated on the new social media page [Facebook Carpathian MTB Epic](#), where Likes and Shares are much appreciated.

Contacts:

Technical information is available by submitting the special form - Contact, click [here](#).

Media accreditation can be obtained by submitting the special form - Press, click [here](#).

Communication & promotion: elena.vavilov@mpg.com.ro or media@mpg.com.ro.

About MPG Romania:

MPG is the largest independent investor in recreational sports events in Romania. The company coordinates over 700 events held in 70 cities of Romania, Bulgaria and The Republic of Moldova. MPG coordinates 5 Sport & Entertainment projects, offering participants unique and memorable *Sportainment* experiences: Riders Club - www.ridersclub.ro - MTB competitions; RUNFEST - www.runfest.ro - road and trail running events; Tennis Partener - www.tenispartener.ro, Tennis10 - www.tenis10.ro; Romanian Corporate Sports - www.corporatesports.ro - championships for company teams. The newest event in the calendar is **Carpathian MTB Epic**, launched in 2017, a multi-stage competition, with a special format - www.carpathianmtb.ro. Over the past 10 years, MPG has implemented more than 4,700 sport events and launched communication campaigns with the specialized media. More details about MPG: www.mpg.com.ro.