

Carpathian Convention COP7

Carpathian ESD:
Strengthening the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) network
in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface

Photo by Stefan Rankovic

Carpathian Convention COP7
11-13 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia



Education for Sustainable Development is a priority for the Carpathian Convention

Why ESD is relevant for Carpathian Convention

ESD was identified as priority under the 2017-2020 Hungarian Presidency of the Carpathian Convention

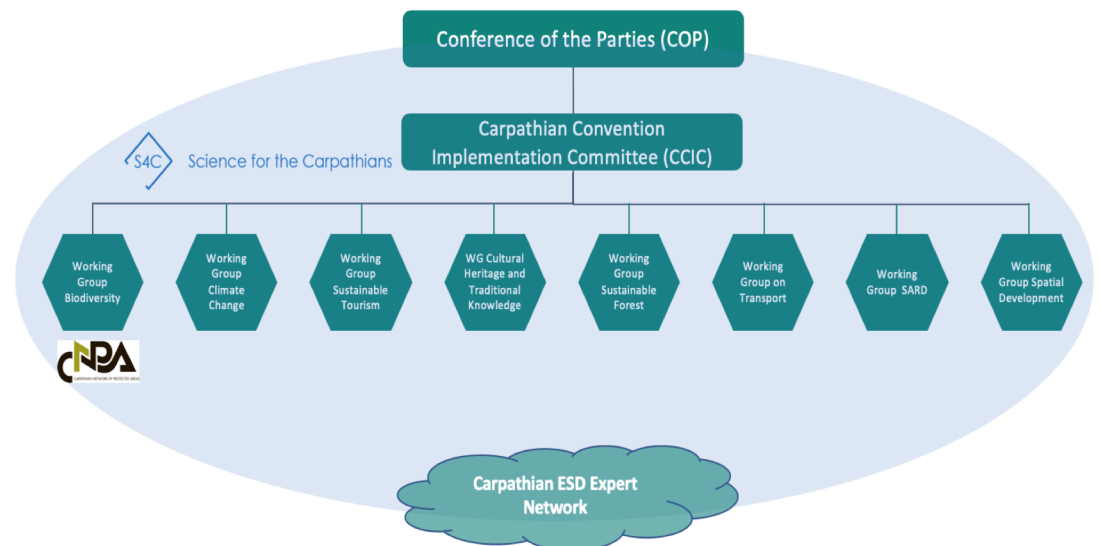
- **First Carpathian ESD Seminar, 16-18 April, 2019, Budapest, Hungary**
 - Participants recommended to develop a Carpathian Convention ESD Working Group / Expert Network



Strengthening ESD supported by scientific networks and Carpathian Convention

The Science for the Carpathians (S4C) provided recommendations to COP6 on ESD:

- Establish a Convention working group / network of experts to coordinate activities related to ESD
- Ensure continuous prioritization of education-related activities
- Use educational channels to promote the Carpathian Convention



The Carpathian ESD Project was created to develop an ESD expert network

Carpathian ESD Project, June 2021- Feb 2024 developed under the 2020 - 2023 Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.



Nominations of governmental ESD Experts to the ESD Network by Convention Parties

- Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
- Expecting soon: Serbia



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CARPATHIAN ESD EXPERT NETWORK

Marta Vetier¹

22 April 2022

Contents

Aim and disclaimer	2
Status of ESD under the Carpathian Convention	2
Possible roles of the Carpathian ESD expert network	3
Recommendations for the establishment of the ESD network	5
Recommendations for operative times	8
Annex 1: Methods and sources of information	11
Annex 2: Overcoming the challenges of existing networks	12



This report constitutes part of the project *Carpathian ESD: Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface*, and is funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It is supervised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and by the German Environment Agency.

¹ Contact details: Marta Vetier PhD, e-mail: marta.vetier@gmail.com

Activities towards developing the Carpathian ESD Expert Network

1

International synergies and promotion

- **World Environmental Education Congress WEEC 2022, Prague**
Carpathian ESD Expert Network presentation
- **UNECE Regional Forum 2022**
Carpathian ESD Side-event
- **9th Environment for Europe Conference, 2022**
presenting the Carpathian ESD Expert Network at High Level
- **Global Education Network Europe (GENE) Dublin Conference**
- **Caucasus Mountain Forum 2023**

2

Enhancing synergies and networking within the Carpathians

- Requesting **nominations of governmental experts** to ESD Expert Network
- S4C Winter School
- **Second Carpathian ESD Seminar Poland, 2022**
- **ESD Objective in Carpathian BD Framework**

3

Strengthening scientific exchange

- 6th Forum Carpaticum 2021, online
- **S4C Research Agenda 2030 - ESD Chapter**
- Collaboration with Leuphana & other academic actors
- **7th Forum Carpaticum 2023 Krakow, Poland**



Science for the Carpathians



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



Federal Agency for
Nature Conservation



1

International synergies and promotion

9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference 5-7 October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus

- Side event: ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region:
 - Hungary & Serbia: high-level endorsement
- Interventions at session of Education ministers

Global Education Congress

3-4 November 2022, Dublin, Ireland



2

Enhancing synergies and networking within the Carpathians

2nd Carpathian ESD Seminar Zakopane, Poland, Sept. 2022



- Important to provide a platform for exchange
- Several collaborations already emerged from the ESD Seminar!
- More needs identified (i.e. pastoralism, Protected Areas, Biodiversity Framework)



Science for the Carpathians

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer ProtectionFederal Agency for
Nature Conservation

Enhancing synergies and networking within the Carpathians

Carpathian Day Celebration

- 26 September, Romania
 - Retezat National Park Administration
 - Contact person: Lucia Ursu
- Proposal to celebrate Carpathian Day in all Carpathian Countries



2

Enhancing synergies and networking within the Carpathians

Carpathian Biodiversity Framework 8 Strategic Objectives

to support transformative actions
across and within sectors

1

Coordinate efforts on conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of **natural and semi-natural habitats**.

2

Sustainably manage and protect Carpathian **forests**.

3

Cooperate on making **tourism** sustainable to maximize benefits and mitigate negative impacts.

4

Develop **transport and related infrastructure** sustainably by implementing environmentally friendly transport models and systems.

5

Maintain **Traditional Knowledge** on traditionally cultivated land and **sustainable agriculture practices**.

6

Strengthen regional resilience through **climate change** mitigation and adaptation.

7

Strengthen **public awareness** about the Convention's objectives by integrating **lifelong learning, global education approaches** and **cross-sectoral cooperation** into the Convention's activities.

8

Cooperate with **Ukraine** on protecting and sustainably developing the Carpathian region to address the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians

3 Strengthening scientific exchange

12 Education for Sustainable Development



Tamara
Mitrofanenko
Joanna
Zawiejska

The critical role of education for implementing the 2030 Agenda has been reiterated in academic and policy documents (i.e. Garcia et al 2017; UNESCO 2019). Moreover, how sustainable development is understood and achieved at local, national, and regional levels is subject to negotiation and societal learning (Barth 2016). Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), highlighted in SDG 4.7 (UN 2015), provides a framework for such societal learning. It advocates both for educational approaches, which facilitate societal transitions toward sustainable livelihoods, and for the use of sustainability as a learning context in order to enhance educational praxis (UNESCO 2014; Barth 2016). The recently



Activities in the field of Education on Sustainable Development carried out under the Carpathian Convention

S4C Research Agenda

2022–2030

58

adopted United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) global framework on ESD for the period of 2020–2030 (ESD for 2030) builds on the results of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (UNESCO 2014). It provides guidance for further strengthening ESD as a tool for making progress in implementing SDGs (UNESCO 2019). Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention outlines provisions for awareness raising, education, and public participation (Borsa et al 2008). The Science for the Carpathians network, in collaboration with the Carpathian Convention Secretariat is facilitating stronger integration of ESD into the Convention Programme of Work, including by understanding challenges and possible pathways for enhancing implementation of ESD - related strategies in the Carpathian region and supporting the establishment of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network (Mitrofanenko, Varga and Zawiejska 2020).

Recommended topics

- Integration of Real world labs and other transdisciplinary approaches into university education
- Life-long teacher education
- Integrating main research findings and applied knowledge into school and university curricula.
- Carpathian Identity in environmental education and education for sustainable development.
- Reconciliation of national differences and recognition of similarities in approaches to ESD.

Recommended research questions

- What are previous experiences of networks related to or created in the framework of the Carpathian Convention? What can be learned from these experiences?
- What are the needs of the educational community - how the Carpathian ESD Expert network can contribute to the practitioners, to research at universities etc. (for example, development of specific guidelines for implementing ESD or other ESD-related concepts, with the view that we are operating in the framework of the Carpathian Convention)?
- How can we identify the needs, the quality of research, methods that should be further developed, barriers that can be overcome with the help of the ESD Network?

S4C Research Agenda

2022–2030

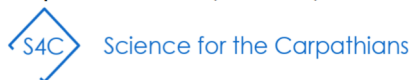
59

3 Strengthening scientific exchange

Carpathian ESD Session and Workshop


- Carpathian ESD expertise highlighted; science-practice-policy exchange
- Focused on developing a Carpathian ESD Vision, Objectives, and Strategy for 2023-2026 for the Carpathian ESD Expert Network

7th Forum Carpathicum Conference **Carpathian Futures – Critical Transitions**
25-28 September 2023, Kraków, Poland



Way Forward: Strengthen the Network

Facilitate Collaboration

- Inputs welcome at the Carpathian Expo
- Collaboration with Leuphana University 
- Integrate and highlight Serbian experts and partners in ESD-related activities, including S4C

Build a Robust Network

- Co-organize a 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar with Serbian Presidency
- Proceed with nominations of governmental ESD experts



Thank you for your Attention and Support!

The Carpathian ESD project was funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It was supervised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and by the German Environment Agency



Science for the Carpathians



Federal Agency for
Nature Conservation

Umwelt
Bundesamt