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

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

Photo by Stefan Rankovic
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 Vetler
22 April 2022

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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
International synergies and promotion

**BACKGROUND**

**PROJECT**

**ACTIVITIES**

**FUTURE**

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
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)
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
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.
Strengthening scientific exchange

**Background**

The critical role of education for implementing the 2030 Agenda has been reiterated in academic and policy documents (e.g., García 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 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 in 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?
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
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!

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