



Memorandum of Cooperation

between

the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)

and

Euromontana, the European Association of Mountain Areas (Euromontana)

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and Euromontana (hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories ")

Considering that the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the "Carpathian Convention") is a sub-regional treaty aiming to foster the sustainable development and the protection of the Carpathian region, signed by seven Carpathian States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine) in 2003 and entered into force in 2006, and that the Carpathian Convention is the only multi-level governance mechanism which covers the entire Carpathian region, and that its vision is to pursue comprehensive policies and cooperation to protect and sustainably develop the Carpathian mountain region;

Considering that the Carpathian Convention stands for the improvement of livelihood in the Carpathians while conserving natural values and cultural heritage in the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to, inter alia, improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage;

Considering that the Carpathian Convention (and its Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development) objectives are to maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner, and take appropriate measures in designing and implementing agricultural policies, taking into account the need for the protection of mountain ecosystems and landscapes, the importance of biological diversity, and the specific conditions of mountains as less favoured areas;

as well as developing and designing appropriate instruments, such as the crucially important agri-environmental programs in the Carpathians, enhancing integration of environmental concerns into agricultural policies and land management plans, while taking into account the high ecological importance of Carpathian mountain ecosystems, such as natural and semi-natural grasslands, as part of the ecological networks, landscapes and traditional land-use;

Considering that Euromontana is an association based on the French law, with an international vocation, neutral in terms of religion and politics, with non-profit-making and scientific objectives with the purpose of ameliorating the living conditions of the whole mountain populations of Europe, founded in 1996;

Considering that Euromontana's mission is achieved through five actions:

a) expression, promotion and defense of the cultural, economic, political and scientific interests of the mountain populations to the European Union, vis-à-vis the European Union,

the governments of the European States, the organisations responsible for regional development, the organizations in charge of cultural, social and economic policies and vis-à-vis all organisations involved in the mountain areas;

b) valorisation of research carried on in the mountainous zones at the levels: local, regional, national and sectoral. Agriculture, forestry and the environment shall be the subject of particular attention;

c) informing public opinion on problems of mountainous zones and their publication;

d) encouragement of training and research in mountainous zones, as well as the study of economic, social and ecological problems of Europe and the mountainous zones from the perspective of mountain populations;

e) development of international cooperation to reduce inequalities between the mountain regions of Europe.

Highly appreciating the long-standing fruitful cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and Euromontana since the development and the adoption of the Carpathian Convention;

Have reached the following understanding:

Section 1. Objective

The main objective of this cooperation is to enhance the capacity of countries in the Carpathian region to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians, providing benefits to the local people, based on the exceptional nature, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Carpathians.

Section 2. Scope of cooperation

With a view to attaining the above objective, the cooperation envisaged by this Memorandum of Cooperation may include collaboration within the framework of the work programs of the two Signatories on the following types of activities:

- a) Identifying, documenting, and disseminating successful experience and best practices on sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- b) Promoting exchange of data and information on sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- c) Mutually recommending experts upon request that could contribute technical expertise to related projects. It is understood that the respective Signatory will keep the ultimate responsibility to select and appoint the experts;
- d) Promoting networks of professional experts in fields related to sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- e) Developing joint projects within the scope of their collaboration, mainly (but not restricted to) demonstrating best practice, to test innovations, and to train human resources. Jointly identifying financial resources and execution modalities for the implementation of developed projects;
- f) Mutual assisting in organizing conferences, seminars, training workshops, outreach and other extension services, and technical meetings on matters related to sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- g) Communicating the results of their joint work through joint press releases, via internet postings, joint publications in public, and general and professional media.

Section 3. Annual work plan

Subsequent to this Memorandum of Cooperation, a work plan for common areas of work and the concrete activities to be carried out in collaboration, which will be discussed every

three years following the implementation periods of the Carpathian Convention. The outcome of this discussion will be annexed to this Memorandum of Cooperation. Both the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and Euromontana will designate focal points to coordinate the communication with each other.

Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply any financial obligation by either Signatory to this Memorandum. Any financial questions will be regulated by separate letters of arrangements related to possible future projects or joint activities. It is recognized that for certain activities to be fully implemented, additional resources may be required. Signatories will endeavor to carry out joint fundraising for this purpose.

Section 4. Use of official logos

The Signatories will not use in any press release, memo, report, website, or other published disclosure related to this Memorandum of Cooperation any of the other Signatories' name and logo without prior written consent by the Signatory concerned.

Section 5. Disputes

1. Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Memorandum will be resolved by consultations between the Signatories, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

Section 6. Amendment

1. The Signatories may amend this Memorandum by mutual written consent, which will be appended to this Memorandum and become an integral part of it.

Section 7. Termination

1. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be terminated by the Signatories at a jointly agreed time or by one Signatory giving three months' notice in writing to the other Signatory.
2. This Memorandum of Cooperation represents the understanding reached between the Signatories upon its signature by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and Euromontana.

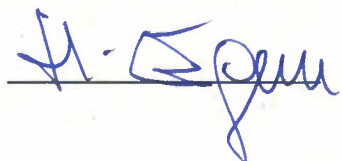
Section 8. Final provisions

1. Nothing in this Memorandum of Cooperation will bind any of the Signatories either jointly or severally.

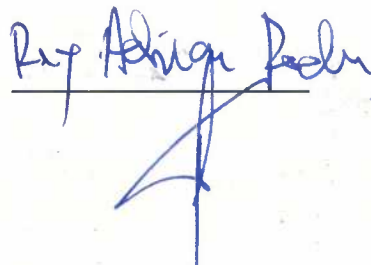
Signed in duplicate in on in English.

Signatures

On behalf of the Secretariat
of the Carpathian Convention



On behalf of Euromontana



Annex:

To be elaborated and filled in with proposed activities, including those of Euromontana

- Cooperation on the promotion and protection of pastoral practices in the Carpathians and other mountain regions
- Elaboration of position paper on how to maximize CAP benefits for implementing Carpathian Convention at the national level
- Promoting attention to the Carpathian region with EU institutions and in relevant EU fora including the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions
- Elaboration of Draft of Strategic Action Plan for SARD Protocol in the Carpathians
- Cooperating in the Mountain Research Initiative and the Science for the Carpathians Initiative (S4C)
- Cooperation in global and interregional projects with international organizations such as FAO and by UNEP
- Exploring and promoting the development of related projects funded by the EU