The International Carpathian School is an experimental laboratory aimed at testing new non-formal educational technologies in combination with traditional educational approaches. The role of the “Third mission” of classical types of universities is constantly growing. Territorially, the school originated in the Kosiv community of Ivano-Frankivsk region in 2011, and later its activities have been distended to the Vyzhnytsia community of Chernivtsi region, Ukraine. For six years now, the School has been working as an International Centre for formal and non-formal education to address the issue of youth adaptation to the globalized world, combining educational resources of scientists and teachers from 15 Ukrainian and five international universities, belonging to the Baltic Sea Region and Georgia. The socio-geographical nature of the thematic areas of the School led to the involvement of three National Natural Parks of Ukraine and two All Ukrainian environmental CSOs.

The Geography Department of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv launched such an innovative approach in cooperation with the Centre for Public Initiatives of Kosiv District in 2015. The School's students are university and local lyceum students, public activists and practitioners involved in environmental protection and natural resource conservation. The School's training programs are based on the principles of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the Quadruple Helix Cooperation that considered Education for Sustainable Development as the fourth pillar.

The Carpathian School demonstrates the new role of universities in a globalized world, an in-depth understanding of the role of geographical sciences in the areas of activity outlined by the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. The main task of the organizers is to highlight the role of civil society, local communities, entrepreneurs and authorities in the development of activities envisaged by the Carpathian Convention to achieve the UN SDG.

The ESD is a mainstream of the Carpathian School aimed at discussing the role of universities and educational programs in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and providing environmental services to local communities. Given the new geopolitical environment and the numerous reforms announced by the Ukrainian
government, there is a need to strengthen education for different social groups to realize new prospects for international environmental cooperation at the local community level.

**Target groups.** The idea of non-formal education of students was proposed in 2017 to the administration of the Kosiv Lyceum based on the Green Package educational materials adapted for the Ukrainian audience within the framework of the LINK educational project of the Regional Environmental Centre, Szentendre, Hungary. The conceptually new model of knowledge about sustainable development is implemented by master students together with public activists. The school is a platform for discussing ways of cooperation between local authorities, businesses and communities at a professional scientific level.

**The Carpathian School-2018, reflections.**

**Tools.** A conceptually new model of knowledge on sustainable development is being implemented by university professors with the help of master's students, together with community activists and practitioners. The adult learning methodology was proposed to local authorities and entrepreneurs in close cooperation with colleagues from the Baltic Sea Region interested in implementing new forms of cross-cutting environmental education. The Triple Helix approach was introduced with the assistance of Swedish colleagues from Linnaeus University and was applied in cooperation with local authorities and local businesses. Experts from Lithuania, Sweden, and Estonia demonstrate the experience of household waste management and landfill reclamation using specific examples.

Student mobility is an important part of the internationalization of the Carpathian School. The involvement of foreign lecturers contributed to the quality of the curriculum and demonstrated effective foreign practices. Ukrainian students have an opportunity to hear from foreign graduate students, teachers and colleagues. They also may share their
experience in research areas. Student mobility can be realized through follow-on sessions, conferences, and training, individual grant programs advertised by our partner universities from Baltic Sea Region.

At the roundtables, the participants lively discussed the implementation of modern resource-saving technologies, ways to develop wind energy, biodiversity protection within the Carpathian region, sustainability of mountain landscapes, ecosystem value of wetlands in the context of climate change, integrated management of water and forest resources, and household waste management as part of a circular economy. Employees of the National Nature Parks are sharing their experience in the safeguarding of mountain ecosystems, protection of biodiversity and forest resources.

The cultural traditions and historical heritage of Hutsul communities are presented by local museums and artistic groups. It is worth mentioning that Kostiv-painted ceramics is listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site in the UNESCO register.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine have significantly changed the format of the school. For the third year in a row, the organizing committee has been gathering participants for the winter session in a hybrid format. We asking people to send their reports in MP4 format and archive them on a disk along with the Abstracts, posters, and wall presentations for those who could not join online translations.

The organizers of the School are optimistic about overcoming technical obstacles and will be happy to see new participants in the virtual space. This year is crucial to Ukraine and the School. We sincerely invite you to cooperate.