

International Carpathian School – 2023. Press release

The Winter Session of the International Carpathian School - 2023 started its work in an online format on February 15, 2023. The participants of the thematic module "Prospects for Sustainable Tourism, Preservation of Recreational Resources" opened the session.

The school participants were greeted by Inna Stepanets, Vice-Rector for Scientific and Pedagogical Work of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. The working day lasted more than 5 hours, during which 57 participants, accompanied by international experts and speakers, got acquainted with the promising areas of recreation and tourism development in the Carpathian region. The students, along with their professors, foreign colleagues, managers and scientists, considered the prospects for developing recreational and tourist activities and the attractiveness of rural tourism in Ukraine. Participants discussed the problems of preserving the historical and cultural potential of the region in times of war and integrating environmental education materials with the results of current research and projects.

Mr Isidoro de Botoli (*Institute for Regional Development, Italy*) shared his experience of protecting biodiversity in combination with education for sustainable development in the protected areas of the Carpathians on the example of 'The Central park' project. Current research on the development of tourism clusters in communities on the examples of Ukraine was presented by Mart Raiman (*University of Tallinn, Estonia*).

The prospects and problems of ecotourism development in the Ivano-Frankivsk region were highlighted by Mr Vitaliy Perederko, *Head of the Department of Tourism, International Cooperation and Investment of the Ivano-Frankivsk region*. Mr Valentyn Voloshyn (Transcarpathian Regional Development Agency) shared an interesting perspective on the Carpathian dimension of sustainable tourism. Ms Lyudmyla Tsyhanok, *Association of Environmental Professionals "PAEU"*, considered the question of why the Environmental Impact Assessment still does not contribute to improving the environment in Ukraine, unlike in the EU. Ms Sofia Shutyak (*Lviv Forestry Institute*) raised the issue of spatial planning and sustainable development of mountainous areas on the example of mistakes in planning the Svydovets resort's development.

The participants discussed the prospects for sustainable tourism development in eastern Boikivshchyna and the most important steps needed to ensure the sustainable development of the tourism industry in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathians. All participants supported the initiative to develop climate-friendly tourism as an innovative tool for the sustainable recovery of Ukraine.