

**Memorandum of Cooperation between**  
**the United Nations Environment Programme – Interim Secretariat of the**  
**Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC)**  
**and**  
**the European Academy EURAC**

**Background**

The first Ad Hoc Expert meeting of the Carpathian Convention (Bolzano, 6-7 May 2004) welcomed the scientific support capacities offered by EURAC, and recommended a further strengthening of cooperation between the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the “Carpathian Convention”) and its interim secretariat (ISCC), as well as with the European Academy in Bolzano (EURAC).

This cooperation is based on a track record of joint activities during the negotiations and development of the Carpathian Convention in the framework of the Alpine-Carpathian partnership initiated and launched by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in the United Nations International Year of the Mountains 2002.

From 17 – 19 June 2002, EURAC, with the support by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory, co-organized the International Meeting & Roundtables “Sharing the Experience - Mountain sustainable development in the Carpathians and in the Alps” Bolzano, Italy. The meeting brought together governmental experts from all Carpathian countries, and allowed for an exchange of experience between the Carpathian countries and Italian experts / scientists involved in the Alpine Convention. The meeting concluded with a recommendation for the development of a “Framework Carpathian Convention” in cooperation with the Alpine Convention, and constituted the starting point for the negotiations of the Carpathian Convention at the expert level.

From 20 – 21 March 2003, EURAC co-organized the fifth and concluding negotiation meeting of the Carpathian Convention at the expert level, which produced the final draft of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, subsequently adopted and signed at the Fifth Pan-European Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, in May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## Partners

UNEP -Regional Office for Europe's mission is to promote intergovernmental policy dialogue and regional cooperation, increase national capacity for environmental management, raise awareness and enhance information exchange, and translate global policies into regional action, in the 53 countries of the European region. In the fulfilment of its mission, UNEP-ROE acts as the Interim Secretariat to the recently adopted Carpathian Convention, developed in the Alpine-Carpathian Partnership with the support of the Alpine Convention. UNEP-ROE has been requested by the Carpathian countries to service the interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. On 1 May 2004, the Office of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna - ISCC) has been opened, hosted by UNEP in the Vienna International Center.

In addition to the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, the UNEP Vienna - ISCC ensures UNEP's liaison with the Secretariats of the Alpine Convention, the International Partnership for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (hosted by FAO) and the Danube Protection Convention. The Office also assists UNEP in its contacts and collaboration with the Regional Environment Centre in Szentendre, Hungary (REC) and with organisations and institutions based in Vienna. The Office furthermore promotes cooperation between countries of South Eastern Europe and the Danube/Carpathian region.

EURAC is an institute for applied research and further education, focused on five main areas: Language and Law, Minorities and Autonomies, Alpine Environment, Management and Corporate Culture, Genetic Medicine. Within the area of Alpine Environment, the central theme of all research projects is the "sustainable development of mountain regions", ranging from mountain land use to protected areas, and from the measurement of the sustainability of development to environmental conservation.

EURAC research is problem oriented and based on the needs of the mountain regions, international in partnerships and collaborations, as well as in subjects and project areas, interdisciplinary by means of a motivated team working at the interfaces between ecology, economy and sociology, innovative in its methods (remote reconnaissance, GIS, multivariate statistics, modelling) and scientific integrity, and regionally applicable.

EURAC hosts the Outpost of the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, which performs the functions of the Alpine Observation and Information System, the coordination of Alpine research as well as translation services. The Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory has established the Coordination Unit Alpine Convention – International Mountain Agreements within EURAC.

The Coordination Unit Alpine Convention – IMA will be the responsible on EURAC side for this project. The Unit also has to coordinate the activities among the different scientific departments of EURAC.

## Areas of cooperation

Against this background, EURAC and UNEP Regional Office for Europe – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention agree to this Memorandum of Cooperation, reflecting the ongoing cooperative arrangements, and providing the basis for further activities of shared interest.

EURAC will provide continuous support to the activities of UNEP Vienna-ISCC, including the coordination of the workprogramme of the Carpathian Convention, in the fields of scientific research, legal and institutional advice, meetings organization, and public information / relations. Further joint activities in the field of mountain research, observation and information, shall be explored and developed.

Common areas of work shall be identified in detail in the annex to this Memorandum of Cooperation, which shall be regularly updated through communication between the Focal Points, at the request of either party or at the point either party's programme is revised. Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply a financial obligation by either party to this Memorandum. All financial questions will be regulated by separate letters of agreement. It is recognized that for certain activities to be implemented fully, additional resources might be required. Parties will endeavour to undertake joint fundraising efforts for this purpose.

## Focal Points

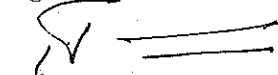
All the communications have to develop between the focal points reported below. On EURAC side, all the communications shall be addressed to the Coordination Unit Alpine Convention – IMA, that appoints as focal point Dr Pier Carlo Sandei. The partners shall be promptly acquainted about any change with regard to this field.

UNEP appoints Mr Harald Egerer as focal point.

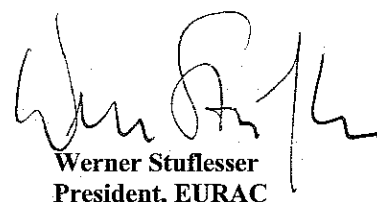
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## Signatures



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## **Annex**

### **Common areas of work during the period 2004 – 2005 and intended outputs to be reached**

#### **A. Umbrella project**

##### **A.1. Development of description and depiction of the Carpathian region**

EURAC, together with DAPHNE/CERI with the coordination of the UNEP Vienna -ISCC supports the preparation of an issue-oriented presentation and underpinning maps to facilitate decision-making on the description and depiction of the Carpathian region.

##### **A2. Permanent Secretariat, financial arrangements, rules of procedure**

EURAC with the coordination of UNEP Vienna - ISCC prepares supporting documentation on institutional and financial questions, and draft rules of procedure for the COP.

##### **A3. Policy, legal and institutional assessment**

EURAC is a partner of REC in preparations of the policy, legal and institutional assessment, which will study the institutional and legislative policy of every Country in comparison with the principles of the Carpathian Convention. EURAC will follow the entire execution of the project as it is defined in the memorandum undersigned with REC.

##### **A4. Guide to the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the Local Level**

Development of an Implementation Guide for the local authorities by the REC, which the involvement EURAC. EURAC is partner of REC in the development of an implementation guide to the authorities and will develop the project according as defined in the memorandum undersigned with REC.

**Status:** This activity is covered by the ongoing umbrella project supported by the Ministry of the Environment and Territory of Italy.

#### **B. Thematic initiative for coordination of Mountain Partnerships**

EURAC in collaboration with UNEP is drawing up a project for the institution of a Thematic Initiative for Coordination of national, territorial and international levels for the projects of Mountain Partnerships to the Secretariat

of the Mountain Partnership hosted by FAO. EURAC will share the capacity building experience deriving from the umbrella project described above. EURAC will be a main partner in this project implementation. EURAC will design a separate memorandum that is still under construction.

**Status: Ongoing, further resources required**

#### **C. Preparation of Carpathian Environment Outlook, Maps, launch**

EURAC is a main partner and will support the preparation of the Carpathian Environment Outlook through its research arm, and support its planned launch in 2005 through public advertising and PR. Maps produced under the umbrella project (see A) will be provided as an input to the Carpathian Environment Outlook.

**Status: Ongoing, further resources required**

#### **D. Conference support**

Within its capacities, EURAC shall provide Conference support to further Carpathian Convention and related meetings as requested, subject to separate Letters of Agreement covering financial implications.

**Status: ongoing, Letters of Agreement to be produced by the interim Secretariat**

#### **E. Website Carpathian Convention**

EURAC develops, designs, hosts and maintains the website of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

**Status: Ongoing, further resources required.**

**Terms of reference to be produced by the interim secretariat upon request.**

#### **F. Logo and graphic design**

EURAC develops a proposal for a logo of the Carpathian Convention, for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, as well as a visual identity / graphic design for Carpathian Convention documents and presentations.

**Status: Ongoing. Terms of reference to be produced by the interim secretariat upon request.**