

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Spatial Development

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/11 para. 4 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on spatial planning under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”.

Decision COP2/13 paragraph 7 requests “the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”.

Tasks

Field of activities

1. EU (European Union) financial programmes and contribution to the follow-up platform²
 - Analysis of several transnational initiatives, which partly or fully include the Carpathian area, and their documents, which include concepts, programmes, projects for the respective area. Among them are Central Europe and South East Europe Territorial Cooperation Programmes;
 - Analysis, identification, support to the elaboration and promotion of projects aiming at implementing the Carpathian Convention to be submitted to the EU financial programmes;
 - Preparation of projects developed and implemented in the Carpathian Region to be submitted to the EU financial programmes;
 - Guidance and recommendations for the follow-up of activities and initiatives, such as “Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area” (VASICA), aiming at implementing the Carpathian Space.
2. Carpathian Strategy, Carpathian Space Programme and relations with EU institutions and bodies
 - Coordination and support for the promotion to the competent EU institutions and bodies of a “Macroregional strategy for the Carpathians” (Carpathian Strategy) and a “EU Territorial Cooperation Programme for the Carpathian Space (Carpathian Space Programme) adopted by the EU. Elaboration of background documents and establishment of contacts;
 - Inputs to EU strategies related to the Carpathians, such as the Strategy for the Danube Region, mainly aimed at raising the attention to the Carpathians region in the EU regulations and action plans;

² The follow-up platform is a continuously updated list of EU co-funded projects that represent a follow-up of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and are linked to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- Facilitation and management of contacts of the Carpathian Convention bodies and Contracting Parties with EU institutions and bodies.
3. Strengthening territorial cooperation at regional level
- Strengthening of existing Carpathian Euroregions and facilitation and support of the creation of new ones;
 - Promotion and facilitation of creation of European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (established with Regulation (EC) no.1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council) among Carpathian regions and local authorities;
 - Development of documents and initiatives aiming at involving regional authorities in the Carpathian process and in particular in the promotion and development of a Carpathian Strategy and Carpathian Space Programme.
4. Cooperation with the Council of Europe
- The WG shall also guide the Interim Secretariat to inform the Council of Europe's European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT) of activities promoting the implementation of Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention. CEMAT shall be invited to contribute to the meeting(s) of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Development. Cooperation with existing and potential partners, including the UN-Habitat Office in Warsaw, will be sought.
5. Activities related to the UN ECE "Environment for Europe" process and Rio+20 Earth Summit
- The WG shall cooperate with UN ECE and the Parties on including sustainable development in the Carpathians in the Environment for Europe process;
 - The WG shall also develop activities in preparation to the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012.

List of results

- Promotion and development of a Carpathian Strategy and a Carpathian Space Programme;
- Development and implementation of transnational projects aiming at implementing the Carpathian Convention;
- Elaboration of a database of projects developed in the Carpathian area to be submitted to EU funds;
- Elaboration of a database of contacts with competent EU institutions and bodies;
- Organizations of consultations with stakeholders at regional level;
- Further development of a follow up platform regularly updated.

Composition and organization of work

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

The Working Group will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit mainly from the inputs provided by:

- The outcomes of the Consultative Workshop “Moving towards a Carpathian Strategy – Implementing the EU Danube Strategy in the Carpathian Area ” held in Brussels in January 2010 and of the other related events;
- The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (European Commission, Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, 8 December 2010, COM(2010) 715 and its accompanying Action Plan, SEC(2010) 148)
- The Report of the Carpathian strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning, held in Vienna the 26- 27 May 2008
- The results of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, and in particular the following deliverables:
 - Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area (VASICA)
 - Carpathian Environmental Outlook (KEO)
 - Socio-economic analysis of the Carpathian area
 - Typology of settlement structure in the Carpathian area
 - Lessons learned
 - National spatial development strategies and plans