

2nd Carpathian Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development

Zakopane, Poland
28-30 September 2022



Report
24.10.2022

2nd Carpathian ESD Seminar Zakopane, Poland, 28-30 September 2022

Programme & Notes

27-28 September (Wednesday)

Arrival of the participants to Zakopane, **Hotel Skalny** (Pardałówka 3b, 34-500 Zakopane, Poland).

Carpathian ESD Seminar Day 1

28 September (Wednesday)

13.00 – 14.30 Informal welcome of participants and joint lunch (*restaurant in the hotel*)

15.00 – 18.00 OPENING and Session I by ESD expert network (*conference room in the hotel*)
Moderator: Tamara Mitrofanenko, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

The Seminar was officially opened with welcoming statements by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (Klaudia Kuras), representatives of the Polish Presidency of the Convention from the Ministry of Climate of Poland (Gabriela Szuba), the Seminar organizer from the Ministry of Climate of Poland (Krzysztof Rydel), and the nominated ESD Expert from the Ministry of Education of Poland (Maria-Magdalena Budkus).



All participants were invited to give a brief introductory presentation, informing the group about their affiliation, experience with ESD and motivations for attending the Seminar.



The participants were asked to sit in groups representing country teams; in some cases, 2 countries were grouped together: Slovakia and Czech Republic, Ukraine and Serbia – due to fewer participants from these countries attending, and to encourage exchange between them. Each “team” was asked to present a few ESD activities, which in their opinion could constitute the core activities of the Carpathian ESD network. Moreover, they were asked to consider the following questions, and indicate their ideas on color-coded sticky paper:

- ⇒ How can the Carpathian Convention be promoted via these activities?
- ⇒ Can these activities become core activities of the Carpathian ESD Expert network, and how?
- ⇒ What are the needs of and gaps, and which actions we will take to address them?

*2nd Carpathian ESD Seminar: Day 1.
Brief Introduction & Market Place*

- How can the Carpathian Convention be promoted via these activities?
- Which activities can become core activities of the Carpathian ESD Expert network, and how?
- What are the needs of and gaps, and which actions we will take to address them?

Please, write your ideas down

Please, write your ideas down

Please, write your ideas down

Each group presented their ideas and activities.



Some of the projects and ideas mentioned included:

- ⇒ Activities, which could become core activities of the Carpathian ESD Expert network, and how?
 - Youth At the Top
 - Position Chance Project
 - EWOBX – a web portal for environmental education (<https://www.ewobox.sk/>)
 - Exchange of experience and sharing best practices in eco-education
 - Linking humour with environmental education
 - Representative research on environmental attitudes, perception of ESD
- ⇒ How can the Carpathian Convention be promoted via these activities?
 - Developing an educational programme (and methodology) for different target groups
 - communication between different stakeholder groups
 - creating curriculum for schools, universities, parks
 - National Park Educational Centres-like platform, uploading educational materials
- ⇒ What are the needs of and gaps, and which actions we will take to address them?
 - Lack of proper dialogue between different stakeholders, authorities, social groups
 - Need better access to fundraising and proper financial management
 - Need to implant ideas of sustainability since early years of formal education
 - Modernization of tools and methods for teaching
 - Including special needs students in activities
 - Lack of knowledge human resources and time for preparing the Carpathian Network-related materials and activities
 - Need: information, activities and translated materials to be directly used in education
 - Need to enhance “mobile Learning” during field trips

Following the presentations, participants were given time to exchange experiences, consider materials brought by each group, while requested to think about potential collaborations in a format of a “Market Place”.



Seminar Day 2

29 September (Thursday)

9.00 – 13.00 Field Trip: Ecological education in the national parks in Poland - visit to the Tatra National Park





15.00 – 18.00 Session II by ESD expert network (meeting room in the Education Centre of the Tatra National Park)

Moderator: Tamara Mitrofanenko, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Introductory presentation on the Carpathian ESD process to-date: Carpathian Convention, Collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians Network, current process and envisioned steps, an idea for collaboration on ESD Network development, as well as the results of the virtual workshop focused on the potential contribution of the Carpathian ESD Expert network to the UNECE and UNESCO ESD frameworks.

The presentation informed the group about the following Current and Next Steps for Carpathian ESD:

- Nominations of ESD experts by Convention parties is currently in the process.
 - *Hungary, Poland, Romania* nominations have been submitted, and those from *Slovakia* should follow soon
- Identifying joint activities between interested actors & supporting their development and implementation: this was one of the key aims of the 2nd Carpathian ESD Seminar.
- Participants were informed about the Side Event, where the Carpathian ESD process will be presented at the Environment for Europe Conference, and that we can convey their key messages there.
- Common Vision for Carpathian ESD – some vision elements were already collected, but the participants will be invited to provide their inputs as well.
- Integration into the Convention – at COP7, planned in the Fall of 2023, we aim to propose how the Carpathian ESD Network should be integrated into the Carpathian Convention structure and activities.
- Forum Carpaticum 2023 will be organized in Krakow, Poland (Dates TBC). We plan to organize an ESD Session and Workshop there, and all participants will be invited to join based on their interest.

Moreover, a funding opportunity was presented, to be pursued in collaboration by the Hungarian, Polish and Slovak experts, and other interested participants were invited to join, with the main aims of:

- Mapping existing ESD Activities in the Carpathian region
 - How can they be enhanced?
 - Are there common approaches / is there a Carpathian Identity?
- Develop an ESD Training for Carpathian Convention & its partners
- Considering links with protected areas /CNPA

Last but not least, the relevant results of the Workshop focused on the potential contribution of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian ESD Expert Network to the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021-2030 in the Carpathian Region was presented. This input was meant both to inform the participants, and to inspire ideas of collaborative action.

1. Quality education and ESD

- The Carpathian Convention partners produce many educational materials, which could be integrated into educator training, e.g. via pedagogical universities.
 - For that, all materials should be collected all in one place (S4C website or separate ?) and translated to all Carpathian languages.
- The Carpathian Convention could develop a programme of raising awareness in order to involve more all the interested actors and to raise the public participation.
- The Carpathian Convention could facilitate capacity building of authorities and institutions at different levels.
- Putting together the database of ESD experts might already help to increase ESD in quality education. Such an ESD expert database should not only list the expert but be more specific on:
 - What kind of expertise they have and could offer
 - How they could contribute

2. Whole institution approach: communities of transformational learning

- Linking Carpathian Convention partners, based in Carpathian Communities (protected area administrations, environmental NGOs, etc.), with local educational institutions?
- Future ESD projects implemented under the Carpathian Convention should always include local communities (or the representatives of these communities, NGOs, local networks)
- Being vocal about ESD at Carpathian Convention events
- An active recruiting action to find more and more supporters among NGOs and universities.
- A potential of specific learning topic spread is Erasmus teacher mobility. If the Secretariat could convince training service provider(s) to use the already existing materials for their educational background would provide a potential business to these entrepreneurs to build upon CC.

3. Digital Education, ICT and ESD

- Basic idea: develop a Carpathian Convention web page with all educational materials easily accessible...
- Develop digital learning materials for primary schools

4. Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD

- Consider applying approaches developed by the project “Big Foot. Crossing Generations, Crossing Mountains” in the Carpathian region - perhaps, via a Visegrad project?

- Collect and Share knowledge, experiences, best practices on combining ESD and local entrepreneurship
- EU is about to further develop its AKIS, if CC can provide a service or content interesting enough, it can easily become a knowledge centre itself
- Disseminate best practices and priority lists by Carpathian Convention among the regional and local authorities to further incorporate that into entrepreneurship/SME support programs.

Followed by the presentation, the main categories and directions for potential collaborative activities were summarised, based on the results of the Session on Day 1 of the Seminar, including:

- Building the Carpathian ESD Expert Network
- Teaching or Training on Carpathian ESD
- Awareness events related to the Carpathians
- Research on Carpathian ESD
- Information Materials about the Carpathians / Carpathian Convention

The categories were indicated on several posters, and the participants were invited to engage in an exercise using the Group Invention method:

1. Participatory were invited to propose ideas for mutual activities on posters, within each category presented. Additional ideas were also welcome (30 mins)
2. Participants were asked to read though the presented ideas, prioritise them by placing green points next to the ideas they find most useful and interesting, as well as indicate their names next to ideas they would also like to collaborate on (20 mins)



3. In order to make the most of the time available for group discussion, participants were invited to form groups based on their joint interests and given time for more focused discussions of 2-3 prioritised ideas (55 mins)



4. Finally each group presented their ideas – next envisioned steps, as well as the potential contribution or support needed by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat.



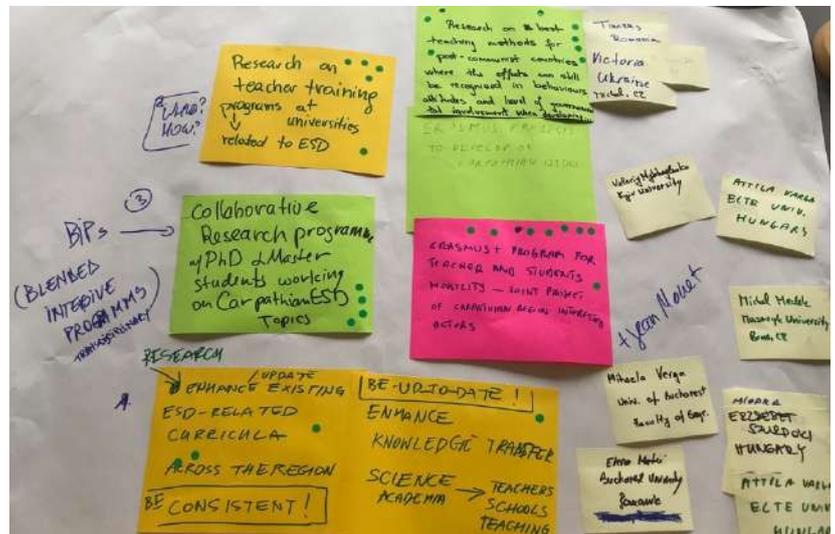
The following main collaborative ideas emerged:

1. Collaborative research, focused on ESD in the Carpathians.

Specifically, the participants were interested to work on researching teacher training programmes in universities related to ESD, to contribute to enhancing existing ESD-related curricula;

They also discussed collaboration via Erasmus programmes, including the mobility programmes.

Finally a research topic of teaching methods specific for post-communist societies, relevant for most Carpathian countries, was proposed and prioritised by many participants.



2. Carpathian Day

The ESD Seminar participants proposed establishing a Carpathian Day which will help in promoting the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and the Convention itself. One of proposed days for this celebration is 26 September which is already observed as the Carpathian Mountain Day in some countries (mostly Romania).

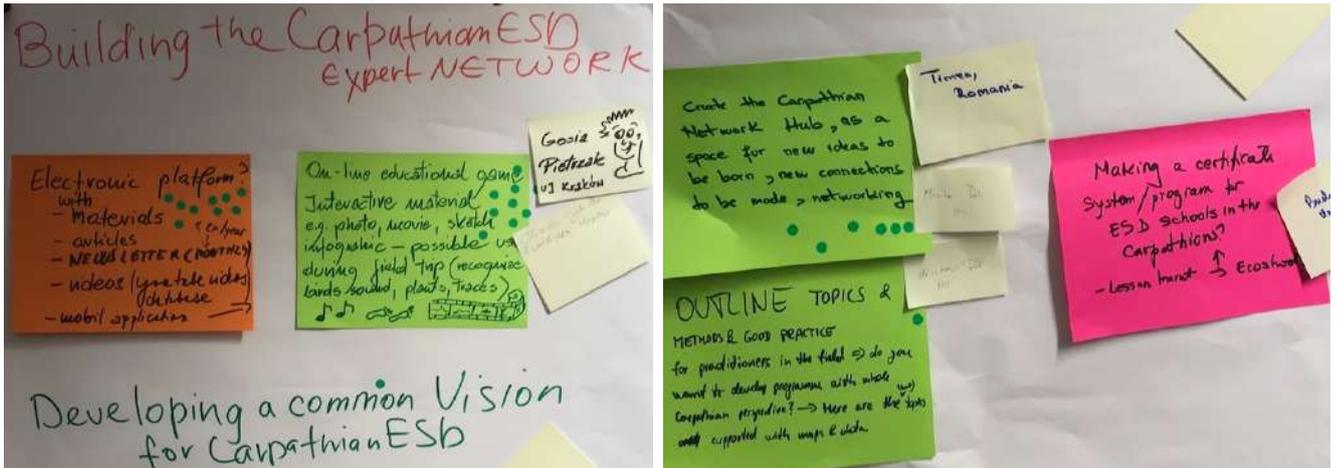
While the Carpathian Day would need to receive a proper mandate by the COP and should be facilitated by the Secretariat, the ESD Network would be involved in organizing and promoting the Carpathian Day (CD) in the respective countries. Particular role would have the Carpathian PAs, and in this respect, the CD could be a great common activity for the CNPA.

The organization could start with a contest for CD logo that would be supported by the ESD Network. The Carpathian Convention website could be a platform to promote the events. Every year the CD would be organized with different themes. The discussion about the CD would be brought to the CCIC in 2022 for its consideration.

3. Interest was expressed by a Romanian expert to join the initiative on Mapping existing ESD Activities in the Carpathian region

4. A suggestion of a certificate system for schools integrating ESD approaches was made

4. Collaborating on an electronic platform /Carpathian ESD HUB to share names and contacts of experts, materials, etc. The Secretariat will facilitate further contact and collaboration in this respect, in order to proceed with the development of such a platform, based on the interest of other experts to participate and share.



While not all of the ideas were discussed in more detail, due to the time constrains, the participants agreed that they could be discussed further in groups of interested experts after the Seminar. All posters have been photographed, and will be included in a shared folder, in order to facilitate this follow-up.

Additional ideas, which gained interest from the participants include:

Building Carpathian ESD Expert Network:

- Developing an online educational game, interactive material (e.g. pictures, movies, sketches, etc.) – and consider their possible use during field trips

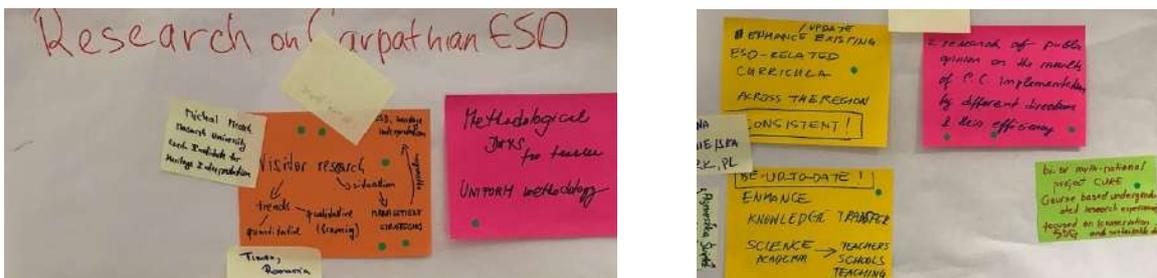
Information Materials about the Carpathian Convention

- Creating visual identity for the Carpathian Convention,
- Creating support materials for protected area professionals
- Using Citizen Science to link universities with schools, etc.



Research on Carpathian ESD:

- Visitor Research: trends, Situation, Management Strategies
- Research of public opinion on the results of Carpathian Convention implementations by different directives and their efficiency



Seminar Day 3

30 September (Friday)

9.00 – 12.30 Field Trip: Nature education outdoors – field trip guided by a nature educator



12.30 – 13.00 Closing Session III by ESD expert network – summary of the seminar (conference room in the hotel)

- The Presidency of Poland provided a brief feedback and a closing statement.
- The Carpathia Convention Secretariat outlined the follow up steps, including a shared folder, inputs from participants on the Seminar report, and initial steps of a shared platform, which will develop based on interests and contributions of the participants.

Departure of the participants