

Carpathian Convention and Carpathian ESD Expert Network Briefing

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) was adopted and signed by the seven Parties (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine) in May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine, and entered into force in January 2006. It is the only multi-level governance mechanism covering the whole of the Carpathian area and besides the Alpine Convention the second sub-regional treaty-based regime for the protection and sustainable development of a mountain region worldwide.

The common vision of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention is to pursue comprehensive policy and cooperation in order to guarantee protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The improvement of the quality of life, the strengthening of local economies and communities, and the conservation of natural values and cultural heritage should go hand in hand in the Carpathian area.

The Convention provides a framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved – from the local community and various NGO's up to the regional and national Governments, Institutions of the European Union and the United Nations.

The Carpathian Convention's **Article 13, "Awareness raising, education and public participation"** constitutes one of the cross-sectional articles. As such, its provisions should be embedded in all areas of the Convention implementation, which will facilitate links between the Carpathian Convention activities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework¹ as well as other important EU and international documents and guidelines.

Awareness raising and education have been addressed in all existing protocols of the Convention, via a dedicated Article, as well as in other documents, including:

- The protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development addresses the educational topic thoroughly, in Article 1 and 16 (See Annex I);
- Protocols on Sustainable Forest Management and Sustainable Tourism are supplemented by documents, which provide more detailed provisions in the field of education: Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians (Objective 3), Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Forest Protocol (Objective 17);
- Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region refers to partnerships with educational institutions in Para 15, and makes a reference to education as part of adaptive management in Para 34 (footnote 22);
- Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention refers to training in para 1. IV. Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity, and makes a reference to the decisions of CBD COP 7 (VII/27.Mountain biological diversity), which includes Goal 3.5. *"To increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to mountain biological diversity"*².

¹ Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (D.12(c)18), CBD/WG2020/2/3, 6 January 2020

² e.g. *Action 3.5.1. Promote educational and capacity-building systems tailored to the specific conditions of mountain ecosystems, such as workshops, courses, study tours, community exchanges, communications from the Convention on Biological Diversity, education and publications efforts, in line with the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and*

The Carpathian Convention has initiated a process developing an Education for Sustainable Development expert network, which is in the process of being formed, including governmental experts nominated by the Convention parties. The Carpathian Convention ESD Network is one of the only two active regional ESD networks in the UNECE regions at present.

The Education for Sustainable Development Network of the Carpathian Convention was initiated at the Carpathian Convention Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development in Budapest in 2019, under Hungarian presidency. Poland as the next presidency continued these efforts (leading to the appointment of national delegates to the Network). The next presidency of the Carpathian Convention will be Serbia.

In June 2021, an ESD-related Session and Workshop were held at the Conference of the Science for the Carpathians Network (S4C), Forum Carpaticum, which produced scientific and policy-related recommendations on integrating ESD into the Carpathian Convention.

Based on the recommendations provided by the S4C Network and participants of First Carpathian ESD Seminar, the Carpathian Convention Secretariat, with support from the Parties, and in close collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians Network (S4C), ESD experts from Hungary and Poland, as well as from Leuphana University Lüneburg, continued working to identify how to best facilitate the establishment of an active Carpathian ESD Expert Network and embed it into the Convention structure.

In October 2021, the Carpathian Convention instigated research on the operation of the Convention-related networks, which resulted in expert recommendations – these are considered when establishing the Education for Sustainable Development Network of the Carpathian Convention. This way, the Carpathian Convention is unique to have a research-based approach on networking for ESD.

In September 28-30, the Convention Secretariat in collaboration with the Polish Presidency, co-organized the Second Carpathian ESD Seminar, held in Zakopane, Poland. The Seminar brought together educators, researchers and practitioners in the field of ESD from all seven Carpathian countries.

These activities are supported via the project “Carpathian ESD: Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface”, funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It is supervised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and by the German Environment Agency.

Project link: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/carpathian-esd-strengthening-the-esd-network-in-the-carpathian-convention-via-science-policy-practice-interface.html>

At the Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) of the Carpathian Convention, the parties adopted the DECISION COP6/19, among other points *inviting the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to continue supporting ESD activities as a necessary tool to enable long-term sustainable development in the Carpathians* (the full text of the decision can be seen in Annex I below).

Public Awareness (decision VI/19 of the Conference of the Parties). CBD VII/27. Mountain biological diversity. Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Seventh Meeting. UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/VII/27

Link with the UNESCO global framework on ESD for the period of 2020-2030

All ESD-related Convention activities and processes and are in line with the recently adopted UNESCO global framework on ESD for the period of 2020-2030³. The framework emphasizes, among other points, the importance to monitor and report on the leadership taken by government actors (Annex 2, para 3.5), as well as states that:

- *For Priority Action Area 1 on policy, **ESD must be integrated in global, regional and national policies** related to education and **sustainable development** so that these policies can create an enabling environment for pedagogies that support individual empowerment and provide skills for socio-political engagement. **Coordinated efforts should be made for ESD to find synergies with other relevant national and international agendas and policies** on education and **sustainable development** (Para 5.14).*
- *In order to carry out these tasks, UNESCO needs to further develop its partnerships, not only with the ESD community, but also with the wider sustainable development and SDG community. The cooperation and coordination with ... United Nations entities responsible for the management of the SDGs at global and regional levels need to be reinforced. (para 5.25)*

Links with the Carpathian Convention activities and UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021-2030 in the Carpathian Region have been suggested by participants of the Workshop „Towards a transdisciplinary approach in the Carpathian region, implementing the Carpathian Convention and UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021-2030”, conducted as a side-event to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region (04-07 April, 2022) in collaboration with the Secretariat, the Ministry of Interior of Hungary and the Science for the Carpathians Network. The suggested activities, linked with the four strands of the UNECE Strategy, are available in Annex II.

³ UNESCO. 2019. Framework for the implementation of education for sustainable development (esd) beyond 2019. Available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000370215> (accessed 17.04.2020).

Annex I. ESD-related references in Carpathian Convention COP decisions and documents

COP	ESD-related references in COP decisions and documents
<p>COP1</p> <p>11 – 13 December 2006</p> <p>Kyiv, Ukraine</p>	<p>Decision COP1/12</p> <p>2. takes note of information submitted in the Annexes, as contained in the Secretariat note on cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation UNEP/CC/COP1/13...;</p> <p>5. supports and recommends to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of all relevant stakeholders and civil society, related to the progress and the further development of the Carpathian Convention;</p> <p>8. requests the interim Secretariat to work with ANPED and other interested partners to establish a communication system to provide for distribution of information on the progress of the Convention to the wider civil society;</p> <p>Documents: UNEP/CC/COP1/13 Secretariat note on cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation: (Mention of the REC Green Pack, development of similar educational packages, and suggestion of trainings held for teachers and staff of protected areas in charge with educational activities)</p>
<p>COP2</p> <p>17 – 19 June 2008</p> <p>Bucharest, Romania</p>	<p>Decision COP2/10</p> <p>2. welcomes the important contributions by ANPED, REC, ENSI and EURAC to awareness raising, education and public participation in the Carpathian Convention implementation process...</p> <p>3. supports and appreciates the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN) initiative and requests the interim Secretariat to assist its further development and implementation, and appreciates the related financial support provided by the private sector;</p> <p>5. reiterates its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society related to the process and the future development of the Carpathian Convention;</p> <p>6. invites Parties and other stakeholders to carry out regional consultations and to continue to raise public awareness in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation process;</p> <p>Decision COP2/9</p> <p>1. welcomes the establishment of the “Science for the Carpathians” initiative as a platform of researchers for and in the Carpathians for the implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention;</p> <p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Article 24 Education, information and public awareness, para 1. The Parties shall promote the education, information and awareness rising of the public regarding the objectives, measures and implementation of this Protocol.) • Meeting Report - Workshop "The possibilities of Carpathian cooperation in the field of ESD"- Carpathian Sustainability Education Network (CASELEN) • Handbook on the Carpathian Convention - by REC (discusses implementation of Article 13) • A Heightened Perspective: Regional Assessment of the Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks Implementing the Carpathian Convention - by REC (assessment of educational initiatives, measures and capacities in the Carpathian Countries, recommendations outlined)
<p>COP3</p> <p>25 – 27 May 2011</p> <p>Bratislava, Slovakia</p>	<p>DECISION COP3/9</p> <p>1. Welcomes the progress by Move 4 Nature, thanks the private sector for the contribution, and invites further support to the initiative;</p> <p>2. Decides to actively support the expansion of the Tool Kit to other countries, and supports cooperation with other partners and other mountain regions in Education for Sustainable Development, such as the Alps, the Balkans and the Caucasus;</p> <p>DECISION COP3/8</p> <p>2. Welcomes the outcomes of Forum Carpaticum 2010 and the preparation for Forum Carpaticum</p>

	<p>2012, recognizes the Science for the Carpathians Network as an important basis for policy making in the Carpathians, and requests the Secretariat to further develop modalities for cooperation;</p> <p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention (Article 21. Education, information and public awareness, para 1. The Parties shall promote the education, information and awareness rising of the public regarding the objectives, measures and implementation of this Protocol) • Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention. Article 28. para 1. Same text as above
<p>COP4 23 -26 September 2014</p> <p>Mikulov, Czech Republic</p>	<p>DECISION COP4/9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Welcomes</i> the outcomes of the EU Lifelong Learning project “Big Foot. Crossing Generations, Crossing Mountains”, aimed at sustainable development of rural mountains regions through intergenerational learning, and invites support to the use of the Big Foot Transferability Tool Kit to transfer the project results to the Carpathian countries; 2. <i>Welcomes</i> the new Lifelong Learning project Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou), which includes Carpathian Convention partners from Poland, Romania and Ukraine and has a vocational learning component for sustainable rural tourism development; 3. <i>Welcomes</i> the continuous use of innovative Information and Communication Technologies approaches in Education and Public Participation, such as the Communities Livelihood Platform, developed by the Big Foot project, or the E-learning platform of the InRuTou project, and <i>invites</i> the Parties to support their active use by the Carpathian communities, organizations and individuals; 5. <i>Recalls</i> the progress by Move 4 Nature Programme, and invites further support to the adaptation of the Tool Kit to other countries and translation to other Carpathian languages, and supports cooperation with other partners and other mountain regions in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), such as the Regional Center of Expertise in ESD and other partners in the Alps, the Balkans and the Caucasus; 6. <i>Requests</i> the Secretariat, in consultation with Parties and relevant partners, to facilitate cooperation of the Carpathian Convention with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD, and to investigate options for establishing a Carpathian Regional Network within this process, in order to strengthen Carpathian countries in implementation and follow-up of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development; 7. <i>Invites</i> the Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention to coordinate with the Focal Points of the UNECE steering committee on ESD, in order to inform each other about the respective activities and developments on the national level, and to share the results of this coordination with the CCIC, 10. <i>Welcomes</i> the cooperation of the Secretariat with UNIDO on training of young entrepreneurs in the Carpathian region in sustainable and green entrepreneurship. <p>DECISION COP4/8</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding between the Carpathian Convention and the Science for the Carpathians Initiative signed at the Forum Carpaticum 2012; 7. Welcomes the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2014: Local Responses to Global Challenges presented at the COP4, and requests the Secretariat to further develop the cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians initiative; <p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention (Article 18. Education, information and public awareness, para 1.) • Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians (includes as Objective 3: Establish a continuous process of awareness raising, capacity building, education and training on sustainable tourism development and management at all levels, and outlines respective activities) • Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Forest Protocol (Objective 17 – Education, information and public awareness: Results expected a) Education and training courses on sustainable forest management integrated into educational national systems, as appropriate; b) Informational campaigns aimed at promoting society ecological education, raising public awareness on Carpathian forests, including related cultural heritage and traditional knowledge practices, and measures on strengthening of sustainable forest management in the Carpathian region implemented. • Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region (refers to partnerships with educational institutions in para 15. Para 34 re adaptive management)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Know your Carpathians - Bilé Karpaty Education and Information Centre • Presentation: Carpathians and Carpathian science addressing the global challenges - S4C (mentions education among the main challenges: education for Sustainable Development in the Carpathian countries, Carpathian Curriculum for universities - virtual network of universities, research institutions, and NGOs joined by common training courses)
<p>COP5</p> <p>10 – 12 October 2017</p> <p>Lillafüred, Hungary</p>	<p>DECISION COP5/4</p> <p>8. Welcomes the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS on 12 October 2016; and encourages further cooperation on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas matters, education and other specific topics common to the three networks;</p> <p>9. Recognizing that Carpathian wetlands provide a wide range of ecosystem services that are important... invites the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) to enhance cooperation and to mobilize resources in support of appropriate action on the effective conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands, as well as on development of education and training in these topics;</p> <p>DECISION COP5/14</p> <p>1. Welcomes the outcomes of the Side Event held during the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ... launching of the Mountain Biodiversity for our Wellbeing online platform and strengthening awareness of the need for integrated approaches for ecosystem management in mountain regions based on examples of solutions shared by the stakeholders from the Carpathians ...</p> <p>2. Welcomes the proposal of the Hungarian Presidency to organize a seminar in 2018/2019 on the issues on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools with the aim of exchanging best practices in the Carpathian region and exploring of further cooperation, and requests the Secretariat to support the process;</p> <p>3. Reiterating interest in further cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), requests the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant partners, among others the UNECE and S4C, to consider common activities on awareness raising, for instance, establishing contest for school students and/or young scientists with reference to the Carpathian matters;</p> <p>4. Welcomes the outcomes of the Lifelong Learning project Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou), which included Carpathian Convention partners from Poland, Romania and Ukraine and had a vocational learning component for sustainable rural tourism development, notes organization of the Networking Event of a project that took place on 15 July 2015 in Vienna, Austria, and invites the relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to develop a follow up project;</p> <p>5. Welcomes and appreciates the activities on awareness raising undertaken by the Secretariat, such as involvement in organization of the Model United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (MUNESD) arranged for students on 18 – 22 April 2016 in Vienna, Austria, which took the Carpathian Convention and its COP as an example of negotiation process of an environmental agreement, as well as of the students visits, especially of the Carpathian countries, and invites the Secretariat to continue these activities.</p> <p>Decision COP5/19</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties ... welcomes the new Presidency of Hungary and its priorities as presented at the presidential statement with particular attention to climate change, awareness raising and education, environmental safety, cultural heritage, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and encourages close cooperation of the Carpathian Troika consisting of the previous, current and future Presidencies in order to maximise the results of common efforts.</p> <p>DECISION COP5/12</p> <p>Welcomes the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2016: Future of the Carpathians: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive, held on 28 – 30 September 2016 in Bucharest, Romania, that were presented at the COP5, invites the Science for the Carpathians (hereinafter S4C) initiative to further support the Carpathian Convention with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise.</p> <p>DECISION COP5/3</p> <p>5. <i>Welcomes</i> the cooperation between the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions and the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) in mentoring a group of researchers for the development of a study on women's access to natural resources, ...;</p> <p>6. <i>Appreciates</i> invitation and support of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas to members of the CNPA for organization of the Youth at the Top events in 2016 and 2017 within the collective project of ALPARC and Educ'Alps, and <i>encourages the</i> Parties and the CNPA members to join the initiative</p>

	<p>in the future;</p> <p>DECISION COP5/13 <i>The Parties ..., shall: ... b. pursue policies aiming at climate change adaptation by promoting research and scientific cooperation, cross-sectoral integration, transnational cooperation, awareness raising, public participation and cooperation of all stakeholders...</i></p> <p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian (Article 1. para. 3 The Parties shall, therefore, cooperate especially on: ... e) Strengthening of formal and informal education, advanced training and qualification including intergenerational learning, access to local public services and advisory service; Article 16. Promotion of formal and informal education: 1. Each Party shall take measures to create an enabling environment for the promotion of education and intergenerational learning; 2. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation of local and national educational institutions and bodies to extend and to improve education, advanced training and qualification of people from different working areas (“lifelong learning”); 3. Parties shall promote education and communication to raise public awareness on local varieties of cultivated plants and animals and on the advantages of local short food supply systems and raise awareness to improve risk management. • Presentation: Education for Sustainable Development in the Carpathians and discussion (WWF DCP and CC Secretariat, outlined progress to-date and recommendations) • Presentation: Seminar on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools (Attila Varga on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency, proposal for the seminar and outline of potential cooperation topics)
<p>COP 6</p> <p>25 November 2020</p>	<p>DECISION COP6/19</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledges the leadership of the Hungarian Presidency in advancing Education for Sustainable Development (hereinafter ESD) as one if its priority topics for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention; • Welcomes the session “Education on the Sustainable Carpathians” and the workshop “Education for Science and Society in the Carpathians” co-organized by the Secretariat and the S4C during the 5th Forum Carpaticum “Adaption to Environmental and Social Risk in the Carpathian Mountain Region”, acknowledges the recommendations elaborated as a result of the workshop, and requests the Secretariat and the Parties to act upon these recommendations in cooperation with relevant stakeholders; • Welcomes the outcomes of the first Carpathian ESD Seminar, held in Budapest, Hungary, on 16- 18 of April 2019, acknowledges the important role of the Ministry of Human Capacities and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, as well as the Secretariat, in co-organizing the workshop, recognizes the support provided by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and by the German Environment Agency, and requests the Secretariat and the Parties to act upon the recommendations elaborated at the Seminar, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders; • Takes note of the elaboration of the project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention in cooperation with Leuphana University Lüneburg via science-policy-practice interface” and its submission for consideration of the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP); • Welcomes follow-up activities on ESD, planned by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Parties and stakeholders, including a respective session and workshop at the 6th Forum Carpaticum, initiating of cooperation with the ESD experts from Leuphana University Lüneburg, as well as involving ESD experts in an inter-sectoral project meeting planned by UNEP GRID/Warsaw, acknowledges facilitation by UNEP GRID/Warsaw in this respect, and requests the Secretariat to follow-up on further planning and implementing these activities; • Reiterating interest in further cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), requests the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant partners, among others the UNECE and S4C, to consider common activities on awareness raising, for instance, establishing contest for school students and/or young scientists with reference to the Carpathian matters, as well as promoting the Carpathian achievement in the field of ESD at the international level including at

	<p>the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Cyprus on 5 – 7 October 2022;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes note of the application for a workshop “Emerging collaboration: ESD in the Carpathian Convention Network” at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic), jointly elaborated by the Ministry of Human Capacities and Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, the Secretariat and the S4C, aimed at presenting the Carpathian ESD activities and raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention, encourages the relevant actors and the Secretariat to continue facilitating such activities in the future; • Encourages the Secretariat and the Parties to present ESD-related activities of the Carpathian Convention at the 11th World Environmental Education Congress, planned to take place on 4-8 Oct 2021 in Prague, Czech Republic, via organization of a side-event or a Conference session, in order to enhance the visibility of ESD-related work of the Convention and to encourage networking of the Carpathian ESD experts at the international level; • Invites the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to continue supporting ESD activities as a necessary tool to enable long-term sustainable development in the Carpathians
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Annex II. Towards a transdisciplinary approach in the Carpathian region, implementing the Carpathian Convention and UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021-2030 Side-event to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, 4-7 April 2022.

Participatory workshop results:

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 Carpathian Convention.

3. Digital Education, ICT and ESD

- 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.