

Briefing on Integration of ESD into the Carpathian Convention

Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention “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.

To-date no dedicated Carpathian Convention Working Group or Protocol on education exists. There is currently no active regional network, associated with the Convention, dealing with education and awareness raising. The lack of a dedicated regional group or network renders it challenging to ensure continuous official efforts to coordinate respective education - related activities.

ESD-specific developments of the Convention to-date include:

- A number of projects addressing formal, non-formal education and vocational training (such as Move4Nature and Innovation in Rural Tourism),
- Several initiatives to create a regional network (such as CASALEN),
- Coordination with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD, which has been reflected in the UNECE best practice publication (Case study 15: Carpathian Regional ESD Network - cooperation to strengthen ESD, p. 74)³,
- Cooperation with S4C, ESD-related events during Forum Carpathicum 2014 – 2018 and their integration into COP 4, 5 and 6⁴, initiated and facilitated by the Convention Secretariat,

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 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

³ UN. 2016. Ten years of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. Evaluation report on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2005 to 2015. ECE/CEP/179. United Nations, New York and Geneva.

⁴ Halada, L. 2014. Carpathians and Carpathian science addressing the global challenges - S4C. Presentation at COP 4. Available at:

- The initiative of the Hungarian presidency to prioritize ESD, which particularly strengthened efforts of ESD integration into the Convention activities. This initiative led to close collaboration between the Ministry of Human Capacities and Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, the focal point of the Carpathian Convention and those of the ESD-related processes lead by UNECE and UNESCO, and resulted in the first Carpathian ESD Seminar, attended by representatives of all Carpathian countries.

The Secretariat worked closely with the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities and Ministry of Agriculture, as well as with the S4C network to support this initiative through coordinated activities. These activities included organizing a discussion on ESD during COP 5, workshops during Forum Carpathicum and the first Carpathian ESD Seminar. All these participatory activities resulted in recommendations for the Convention (Annex I).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of activities planned for 2020 have been postponed (including, but not limited to, the ESD session and workshop, and a meeting of ESD experts, during Forum Carpathicum, a follow-up meeting of ESD experts in Poland, and a workshop at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD).

Most of ESD-related Convention activities and processes have been reflected in the COP Decisions (see Annex II).

All ESD-related Convention activities and processes and are in line with the recently adopted UNESCO global framework on ESD for the period of 2020-2030⁵. 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)*

Recommendations Summary:

The importance of further institutionalization of cooperation on ESD and coordination of activities related to education and awareness-raising within the Carpathian Convention is evident from the experience of the Carpathian Convention under the Hungarian presidency, recommendations of the experts from Carpathian countries, and provisions of the UNESCO ESD framework. The main recommended next steps include:

- Continuous prioritization of Education-related activities by the Polish presidency.
- Organizing regular meetings of ESD experts from the Carpathian Countries, with the aim to establish a Convention working group or network of experts in order to coordinate education-related activities and support Convention focal points in this respect.
- Continue close collaboration with Science for the Carpathians (S4C) network on ESD

http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014_COP4_Mikulov/Follow%20Up/COP4%20Presentations/S4C%20challenges_LHalada.pdf (accessed 17.04.2020).

Mázsa, K. (ed.) 2018. Book of Abstracts. 5th Forum Carpathicum. Adapting to Environmental and Social Risk in the Carpathian Mountain Region. Available at: <http://fc2018.hu/book-of-abstracts/> (accessed 17.04.2020).

⁵ 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. Recommendations, consolidated based on the inputs of participatory discussions and workshops during COP 5 (October 2017), Forum Carpaticum 2018 (October 2018) and Carpathian ESD Seminar (April 2019)⁶.

Relevant for policy

- Facilitate organization of Carpathian ESD seminars on an annual or biennial basis
- Continue to integrate discussions and regional exchange on ESD into the COPs of the Carpathian Convention and S4C events;
- Enhance Communication between the Convention focal points and the ministries of education and other ministries (e.g. Ministry of Regional Development), and the international bodies like UNESCO and UNECE ESD SC;
- Establish a way to integrate new findings from the Carpathian Convention into curricula of schools, Higher Educational Institutions and Vocational Training
- Approach funding programmes and donors to discuss elaboration of specific funding programmes and calls, focused on ESD and transdisciplinary learning for sustainability transformations in the Carpathian region;
- Promote cooperation with other mountain regions in the field of ESD
- Facilitate the establishment of a Working Group (or an equivalent regional expert network) on ESD under the Carpathian Convention⁷.

Relevant for S4C and science – practice – teaching:

- Accompany the ESD process in the Carpathians with continuous research, including but not limited to encouraging researchers (from the Carpathian region and beyond) to:
 - work on evaluating ESD initiatives in the Carpathian countries
 - co-create recommendations with practitioners and policy-makers in order to facilitate sustainability transformations in the region;
 - comparison of curricula and its implementation throughout the education system
- Enhance communication between the CC stakeholders and the scientific community, including involving ministerial officials from the ministries of education and environment in research, in order to facilitate integration of the best practices on the policy level;
- Develop a Carpathian summer school, Masters programme and / or doctoral school in sustainable mountain development
- Linking science closer to the classroom, including via:
 - Involving teachers and students in research;
 - Supporting citizen science initiatives, with a focus on developing scientific inquiry competences among the teachers and students;
 - Reporting scientific findings back to the teachers and students, and communicating with them better.

⁶ Recommendations were consolidated in coordination with Attila Varga (ESD Expert and former ESD focal point, Hungary) and Joanna Zawiejska (Pedagogy and Geography expert, Poland, S4C Executive Committee).

⁷ The Working Group (or network) members would be supporting the Carpathian Convention focal points in coordinating ESD-related activities of the Convention and inputs into the thematic areas of the Convention. The working group (or network) will be tasked with:

- facilitating continuous regional exchange on ESD
- exchange with experts from outside the region
- supporting development of joint projects and other forms of collaboration,
- facilitating exchange with other WGs of the Carpathian Convention, to ensure relevant thematic inputs into the educational materials and initiatives, and vice-versa
- potentially developing a respective protocol

- Use and promotion of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and its incorporation into ESD to support implementation of cultural heritage, biodiversity, tourism, agriculture, etc.
- Promote universities to become role-models for participatory governance through the implementation of transdisciplinary case-based teaching projects

Relevant for Practice, project implementation and management:

- Coordinate/build a database with information about ongoing ESD projects in the Carpathians
- Emphasize the importance of the Carpathian Mountains and help adapting curricula to the future needs of the Carpathian region
- Give preference to long-term ESD projects, with regular reflection and adaptation based on realities of implementation in the countries
- Promote projects focused on teacher education for ESD
- Require scientific assessments of all ESD related projects in the Carpathians
- Embed an ESD component into all Carpathian Convention initiatives and projects via integrating social learning and participatory reflection into the activities
- Promoting initiatives to train civil servants in order to develop intersectoral ESD programs within the state sector.

Annex II. ESD-related references in 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 Carpathicum 2010 and the preparation for Forum Carpathicum 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) • Presentation: Know your Carpathians - Bílé 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 in the future;</p> <p>DECISION COP5/13</p> <p><i>The Parties ..., shall: ... b. pursue policies aiming at climate change adaptation by promoting research</i></p>

	<p><i>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)
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