

DRAFT of 7 March 2007

Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Spatial Planning

The Working Group (WG) on spatial planning under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee has been established pursuant to Decision COP1/11 para 4 of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (11-13 December 2006).

1) Goal:

- Carpathian Spatial Development Vision and Carpathian Space: The WG will contribute to the development of a Carpathian Spatial Development Vision by consolidating the results of the Carpathian Project and by providing recommendations for the follow-up and way ahead, aiming at the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Space.
- The WG shall also guide the 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 Planning. Cooperation with existing and potential partners, including the UN-Habitat Office in Warsaw, will be sought.
- Sustainable water management: Pursuant to Decision COP1/5 para 7, the WG will also deal with the issue of sustainable water management in the context of the Carpathian Spatial Development Vision.

2) Inputs to the WG provided by the Interreg IIIB CADSES "Carpathian Project"

Preparatory and accompanying activities of the Interreg IIIB CADSES "Carpathian Project", providing inputs to the WG, may include, inter alia:

Inputs to be prepared by the UNEP GRID Warsaw will include:

- Carpathian Environmental Outlook - processing SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment);

Inputs to be prepared by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - Centre for Regional Studies include:

- Definition of Indicators characterising the Social-Economic Situation of the whole Carpathian Area. Statistical-mathematical analysis of the homogeneity and heterogeneity. The typology of regions. Statistical information on the countries and regions. Clusters of homogeneous regions. Linkages, interrelations and flows within-to-from the area. Analysis of development and growth processes. Types of development, growth pattern of individual regions. The area's characteristics.
- 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: INTERREG II A,

INTERREG II C, INTERREG III A and INTERREG III B programmes and projects, Studies written or commissioned by the European Commission on the conditions and impacts of enlargement, on the needs of new member countries, “Visegrad cooperation documents, studies, written or commissioned by the Central European Initiative (CEI) and by the Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI).

- The analysis and the evaluation of the national regional policies and spatial plans of the countries, making an comparative overview. Synthesis of the national spatial development perspectives / plans¹ - underlining the potential conflicts and incoherencies. Contribution to the European Spatial Development Prospect review² from the national sides.
- Review the adaptation of the ESDP in the area. Setting up the focus indicators of the area's competitiveness analysis. Contribution to the ESDP review from the national sides. Provision of data and evaluation on the issue of territorial impact of the pre-accession funds.³
- Preparation of the synthetic document „Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area” (VASICA). The aim is to present the results of the Carpathian Project in a structured form.

The Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by the European Academy (EURAC Research) in cooperation with the project partners, will include, inter alia:

- Report on the water resources and natural disasters risk management in Carpathians;
- Guidelines for the Carpathian Spatial Development Vision. Water retention project prepared for the application.

The interim Secretariat will support the work on water management through cooperation and preparation of a draft MoU with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

3) Contribution to the follow-up platform

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects and activities in the area of spatial development in the Carpathians.

¹ National Strategic Reference Framework (or Development plans for non-EU)

² “Towards a territorial agenda of the EU”: see www.bmvbs.de/territorial-agenda

³ Based on ESPON reports