

First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on SARD and Forestry

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES FOR SARD IN THE HUNGARIAN CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

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Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT

Specificities of the Hungarian Carpathian Mountains

General Facts

- Hungary has no high mountains (1,015 m highest peak)
- Inner volcanic belt of the Northwestern Carpathians
- Hungarian Carpathian region (200 m above sea level) covers 6,772 km² (7.3% of total area)
- 530 settlements with total population around 1.3 million

Specificities of the Hungarian Carpathian Mountains

Agriculture and Forestry

- Agricultural production are more unfavourable than that of lowland regions'
- Total production area of the region is about 1.1 million hectares (14.6 percent of the country's figure)
- Relatively low share of arable land
- The extent of forested areas (about 35 percent, highest in Hungary)
- Crop production, wine regions (Tokaj and Eger, world-known hungarica)

Specificities of the Hungarian Carpathian Mountains

Rural Development

- New European rural development policy
- The improvement of competitiveness of agricultural enterprises via structural supports;
- Highlighting the importance of the countryside including land protection, environment protection and nature conservation;
- Diversification of economic activities supporting alternative enterprises;
- Strengthening local economies and preserving traditional knowledge and cultural heritage

Entry Point for the Assessment

- Article 7 of the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
- Good balance between the three dimensions of sustainability following SARD-M guidelines
- From analysis to actions
- Development of the doable and acceptable policies
- Future protocol on the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and Sustainable Forest Management

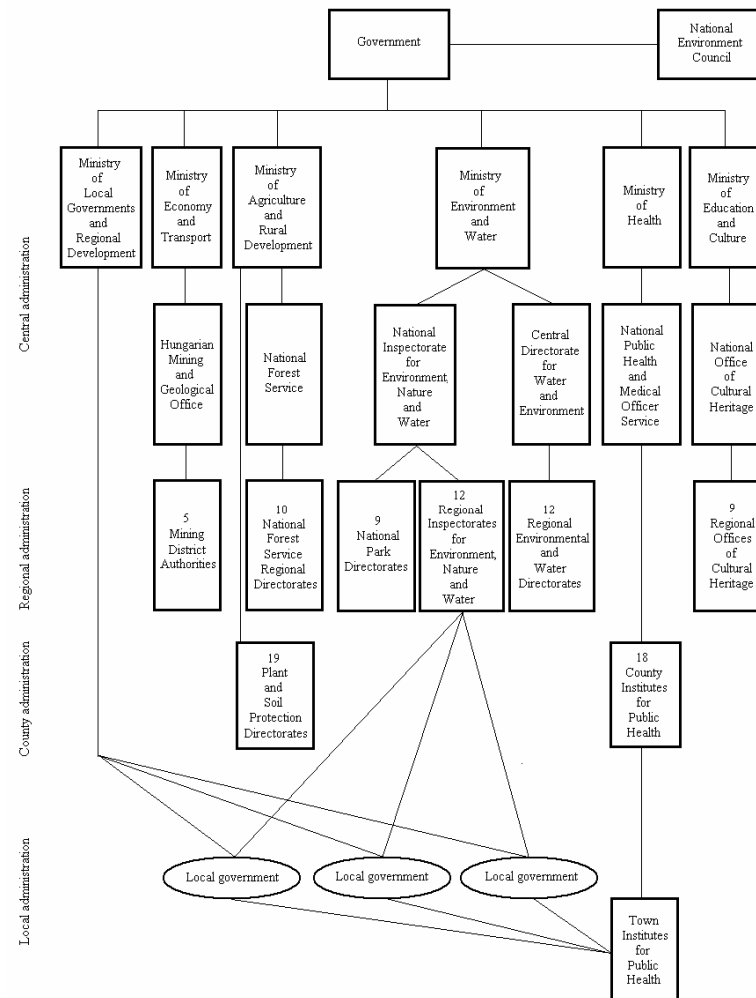
National Policy Framework/SARD-M/Policies

- National Agri-environmental Programme (NAEP). 1999
- National Rural Development Plan (NRDP) for the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund Guarantee section measures
- Hungarian National Development Plan (NDP) 2004–2006
- Agriculture and Rural development Operational Programme (ARDOP) 2004-2006

National Policy Framework/SARD-M/Policies

- National Environmental Programme 2 (2003-2008)
- Environmental and Energy Operational Programme (2007-2013)
- Human Resources Operational Programme (2007-2013)
- National Sustainable Development Strategy (final draft in June 2007)
- National Climate Change Strategy (in preparation)

National Policy Framework/SARD-M/Institutions



National Policy Framework/SARD-M/Institutions

Scope of Competency and Activities of Agricultural and Rural Development Agency:

- Guidance Section of the European Agricultural and Guidance Fund (EAGGF) – direct link to NRDP
- EU-financed Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) – direct link to NRDP
- Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) – direct link to NRDP
- Agricultural and Rural Development Operational Programme (ARDOP)

SARD-M Policy Formulation and Implementation Processes

General outline to be followed:

- Situation analysis
- Setting objectives and priorities
- Identification of concrete goals and measures together with indicator development
- Defining measures and instruments
- Implementation and monitoring
- Involvement of stakeholders in all phases

SWOT

Strengths of SARD-M policies, institutions and processes:

- Balancing 3 dimensions of SD in rural areas
- Existing legislative framework
- Financial support of agri-environmental measures
- Strategic documents are increasingly taking into account regional and local specificities

SWOT

Weaknesses of SARD-M policies, institutions and processes:

- There is no comprehensive and integrated SARD-M policy for the Hungarian Carpathians
- Inaccurate and very general set up of objectives
- Inadequate monitoring and indicator system
- Insufficient vertical and horizontal co-ordination
- Lack of bottom-up approach

Recommendations

Strengthening local economy:

- To ensure spreading of new processes for developing products and services;
- To exploit economic advantages, to urge joint investments;
- To urge the establishment of new businesses and job creation especially in the underdeveloped areas of the region;
- To create modern site conditions primarily for processing industry and logistics enterprises

Recommendations

Developing tourism services:

- To increase income from tourism including rural tourism;
- To develop internationally competitive tourist products, more specifically attractions based on the region's peculiar cultural heritage and natural values;
- To improve, extend the standards and services of commercial accommodations;
- To ensure cooperation to advance international presence in tourism.

Recommendations

Sustainable rural development:

- To strengthen social cohesion with special regards to disadvantaged groups (e.g. Roma population);
- To encourage private investments and job creation in socially-economically underdeveloped areas;
- To support, strengthen new and existing economic, community functions in medium size and large cities of the region, among others, to retain highly qualified population;
- To improve the capacity of small settlements to retain the population, and develop rural infrastructure;
- To re-utilise brown field areas in the region; to advance change in their function and integration into the settlement structure
- To improve access to micro-regional centres, and public transport

Recommendations

Development of human community infrastructure:

- To provide micro-regional public services efficiently to advance reduction of regional inequalities between micro-regions and settlements;
- To improve eligibility for employment to provide high quality health care services;
- To develop micro-regional infrastructure of the social services system;
- To organise and improve the infrastructure of public education;
- To modernise administrative and public service systems of micro-regions.

Recommendations

Main areas for further improvement:

- The *optimal structure of the agricultural development* should be based on environmental and social aspects (beyond purely economic considerations);
- *Efficient and effective implementation of relevant policies* should be encouraged by adequate co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms among different actors;
- More attention should be drawn to the *development of less favoured areas* including mountainous / hilly parts of the country.



Thank you !