

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP THE POSSIBILITIES OF CARPATHIAN CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ESD

DATE: 9-10. November, 2007.

Venue: Göncöl House, Vác, Hungary

Participants:

(contact details attached)

Hubert Hilbert, Slovakia (HH)

Ilona Morzol, Poland (IM)

Gyula Fodor, Ukraine (GyF)

Katalin Czippán, Hungary (KCz)

Attila Varga, Hungary (AV)

Vilmos Kiszél, Hungary (VK)

György Verő, Hungary

Günther Pfaffenwimmer, Austria (GP)

Absent, but informed and interested:

Robert Korec, Slovakia

Magdalena Maradova, Czech Republic

Anna Kalinowska

To be found - contacts in

Serbia

Romania



EXPECTATIONS

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the introduction of the participants, and after presenting the background of the Carpathian Convention, mapping their expectations and the possibilities of the future co-operation within the Carpathian region.

As the result of the mapping exercise the following expectation or common goal emerged: establishing a network in a sustainable way to exchange information, practices and to find common project possibilities.

This network could be named as Carpathian Sustainability Education Network shortly: **CASELEN**.

The minimum expectation of the participants was to initiate a joint ESD project.

POSSIBLE FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION

Schools:

The Carpathian region has many common environmental features and so common ESD possibilities. On this unique basis school based projects should be developed among the Carpathian countries. The existing frameworks (EU – LLL program, Visegrad Fund) could be used for financial support of this common school projects.

The participants agreed that a solid professional support system should be developed in order to encourage the above mentioned school based co-operations. The core element of this support system could be a regular summer school as in-service training for multiplication of the collected and structured materials, knowledge and know-how for ESD teachers. This summer school should apply a training of trainers' approach, so the participants of the summer school will be able to disseminate their experiences in their own countries. In order to establish a solid and relevant professional background for this process a selective and structured collection of available materials should be set up. Principally those materials should be collected and disseminated which are already developed with the aim of supporting ESD activities in the Carpathian region, like the results of the "Train the Eco-trainers" programs and other similar activities in the past. Translation and/or adaptation revision of these existing materials could be joint activities of the Carpathian countries.

Beside the basic needs the support system should focus on new aspects and developments of ESD. It should help the schools in Carpathian region to deal with all three pillars of SD, should especially emphasise the links between economy and sustainability, as the presence of economical aspects in ESD activities is generally weak in all Carpathian countries. The support systems should be based on system approach, organisational learning, community learning based on the shared values of participating countries.

Other field of activities of the support system should to encourage the schools of the Carpathian region to join ESD initiatives available, such the eco-schools initiatives and the PET bottle recycling campaign in Poland and possibly Romania, or the SUPPORT network which will offer possibilities in the field of school-community and school- research institution co-operation through ICT tools for Carpathian schools too.

It was agreed that all the activities of the support system should be subject of continuous development and that the network should also promote the idea of self-reflection and learning organization approach to all partners (schools, NGOs, HE institution, governmental bodies) whom it would co-operate with.

Field centres

There is a great variety of Field Centres throughout the Carpathian region. Usually these centres work individually or within their own country, however they are seated very near to each other on the different sides of state borders in several cases. Therefore it was agreed that a learning network of centres in the Carpathians would facilitate and promote ESD inside their own country and beyond, meantime assisting in the public education area. The network shall use the full scale of capacities of the field centres, i.e. infrastructure, technical assistance, expertise, etc.

Higher education

There is a need for researches in order to develop a scientific basis for ESD activities in Carpathian region. These researches should include the research on environmental education - perception, attitude of teachers and teacher students education for SD, Life long learning and ESD and also theoretical aspects of ESD.

Specific aim for higher education is to find or establish a scientific journal to promote contacts within the region, to provide researchers and developers of ESD in the a Carpathian region with publication opportunity and in order to present the result of ESD research in the region not just on national but on EU and global level.

Communication dissemination

The Polish UNESCO office offers a common webpage for the Carpathian ESD co-operation, which could be edited by the participating institutions. This website could be the up-to date platform for knowledge sharing and information flow.

Beside this webpage a common bulletin should be published and also edited by the members minimum yearly which should serve as an official and representative way of communication and dissemination of the planned CASELEN network. The results of the co-operation can be published in the ENSI newsletter as well.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CASELEN

The participants agreed on some basic characteristics,

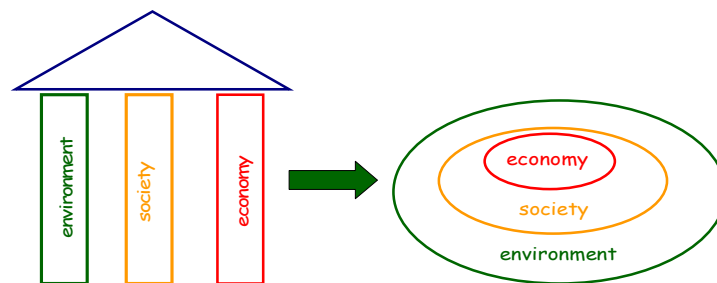
“We teach what we know about

We learn together what we are uncertain about

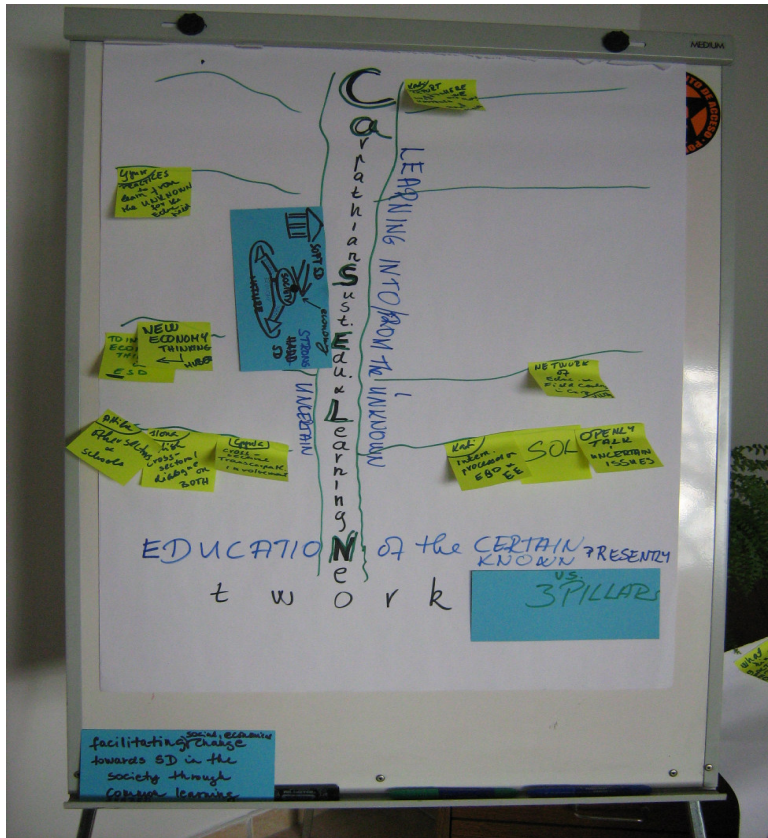
We do it practically and experimentally”

The aim of the network could be facilitating social, economical change towards sustainable development in the society through shared learning

The members of the network agreed to represent that it is necessary to shift from the three pillar model of SD to the solid sustainability model.



A potential model of Carpathian Sustainability Education LEarning Network



NEXT STEPS

The focus of the second day was to determine the necessary next steps for co-operation. The following possible and necessary next steps were identified:

- Inform UNEP about the CASALEN initiative (GP)
- Mapping the available resources for co-operation with special focus on pupils with special needs (all participants co-ordinated by AV)
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- To disseminate experiences of the workshop on quality criteria for head of schools in Austria (GP)
- Translate the Quality Criteria for ESD Schools into all Carpathian language. The layout is free done by ENSI (Polish: IM, Slovak: HH, Czech: MM, Ukrainian: GYF coordinated by GP)
- To run a Carpathian sub-sample analysis of data collected by BIOHEAD project (AV)
- To initiate to establish a network of national ESD commissions in the region. This initiative could be a catalyst also for national ED work as a critical friend process. (HH)
- **Organise the next meeting** in order to develop a concrete project proposal.
Host: a partner of HH in Trencin, SK or Göncöl again
Organiser: HH with the support of CzK,
Content and facilitators (design team): CzK, FGy, RÁ
Date: in Spring 2009.

ACTION PLAN TILL JANUARY OF 2008

2007. nov-dec	Report CzK, VA	UNEP GP	Report in ENISI newsletters CzK, VA	Small letters about field centers to C.C KV	Collect field center directory KV and everybody	Initiation of (websites) for C. coop IM	
2008. jan	Finalize the list of the core group	List of CC focal points	EU agency for spec. need contact VA	Finalize the organizer and host for the next meeting			Q.C. ecoschool in polish IM

CLOSING

The participants agreed that they wish to establish CASALEN as a learning network rather than an official or administrative network. In this learning network the participants would like to share their knowledge and would like to learn together what they are uncertain about with a strong focus on practical and experimental approaches. They are looking forward to find more partners from the Carpathian region.