



Summary Plan for the Establishment of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List

The meetings with stakeholders focused on working out the next steps for the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List. The proposals heard during the meetings and consultations were varied, and this also covers opinions about the prospects for such a List: some of the participants were very optimistic about the process and thought that List was a large importance, whilst others thought that such an approach was not sustainable.

As the stakeholders had different experiences, backgrounds and plans, the recommendations were numerous but they all lead to the same aim: to strengthen the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in the Serbia Carpathian region.

After collecting all opinions during the stakeholders meetings, and during the consultation process, a summary of suggestions and recommendations for the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List for Serbia is presented here:

A) Criteria according to which Carpathian Culture and Heritage list should proceed

- 1) In order to strengthen the capacities of local communities, it would be very good to ensure that **local organizations and local authorities are the leaders of the process**. In practice this means that local experts (from civil society organizations and institutions) are involved in the preparation of meetings, consultations, reporting and facilitation etc.
- 2) It would be of large importance to form at least two working groups which would work on the development of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List : for tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the **meetings of the working groups should be held in the Carpathian region** and should ensure the **active participation of representatives from local communities**._ Furthermore, the **participation of local community representatives in decision-making processes on international level** is necessary as well.
- 3) **Communication among the stakeholders should be more efficient**, and all participants involved have to guarantee information exchange. **Additional periodical meetings and consultations** of representatives of local communities with the Carpathian Convention Focal Point in Serbia, UNESCO representatives and representatives of Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia are strongly welcomed make co-operation stronger.
- 4) As a Party to the Carpathian Convention, the **Government of the Republic of Serbia**_(through Ministry of Environmental Protection) **should fulfil of the obligations** for establishment of Carpathian Culture and Heritage List. The Ministries are encouraged to **make accessible the materials and experts** needed for effective work on the List.

5) UNESCO's World Heritage Convention and Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention are among the **basic documents which have to be considered**, and the list of other relevant local, regional, national and international documents should be made available and these documents should be taken into consideration as well. Teams of experts on national level **should define criteria for nominations and including on the List**, and carry out consultations with other countries in order to set joint criteria.

6) These criteria should assure the good platform for future efficient strategic planning. So it would be important **to have continuity in the process**, to keep the participants updated.

B) Key organisations to be involved

At the national level it was recommended to involve following organizations:

Civil society organizations from Carpathian region: representatives of Women Societies, KUD (the Societies for Culture and Art) from the villages; the local NGO – Big Family, Ethno Eco Movement "Gorun", Society of Young Researchers of Bor etc.

National NGOs: Young Researchers of Serbia, Eco Centre etc.

Local institutions: Local authorities (representatives of Municipalities and villages), Museum Majdanpek, Museum Lepenski Vir, Archaeological Museum Kladovo, Centres for Culture and Education in Majdanpek, Kladovo, Donji Milanovac, Golubac etc., National Park Djerdap Headquarters, Institute for protection of monuments, Tourism organizations from Majdanpek and Kladovo.

National institutions: representatives of National Museum, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Capital Investments, National Investments Plan, Centre for the Study of Cultural Development etc.

This is preliminary list which would be broadened, depending on the procedure for developing the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List.

It was mentioned that international working groups, together with national representatives (selected by the participants in each country), should involve the representatives of international organizations including for example UNESCO, NGO networks, the Alpine Convention, and the Convention on Biological Diversity etc.

C) Basic Elements to be in Place to Make the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List Operational

The points stressed during the meeting and consultations include:

- Designation and establishment of competent bodies on the national and local level to safeguard the process
- Fostering research
- Establishment of management plans for the conservation of tangible cultural heritage
- Definition of the financial contribution for conservation and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- Establishment of co-operation with sustainable tourism bodies
- Ensure constant monitoring

D) National Priorities for Carpathian Culture and Heritage (including some Recommendations for Future Strategic Planning)

The list of priorities is based upon the experiences of the participants during the work and result mainly from the current problems. As mentioned previously, the Carpathian region in Serbia is dealing with economical instability and a lack of investment. Numerous tangible locations of cultural heritage (monuments, building and sites) are in very bad conditions, since the conservation and protection activities are weak.

The most urgent measure to take place is **to find funds for the reconstruction, conservation and protection of tangible cultural heritage.**

The next step would be **to assure proper management of sites and improve the development of sustainable tourism**, which is recognized by the local population as the best solution for the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Co-operation among the sectors should be improved (especially at the national level) to **prevent misunderstandings during the planning processes**_(e.g. plans in tourism which do not adequately consider cultural sites).

Further research is needed in order **to record traditional knowledge in the region** and to take the necessary measures **to protect the elements of Vlach culture.**

Communication, Education and rising of people awareness_on all levels are necessary.

Co-operation with cross-border areas and the implementation of joint projects is also recognized as a very important element.

Better **promotion of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage in the media** is also among the top priorities.

It is expected that Government of the Republic of Serbia will acknowledge the **National Strategy for Sustainable Development**_soon. This document has **to be considered for strategic planning in Carpathians.**

E) Recommendations for a Programme of Practical Activities to Support Local Communities Active for Culture and Heritage

Local communities are very active for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage. Events in the region are planned and organized by local communities and they are also good examples of co-operation. Some of the events have an international character but the visibility of the activities is not sufficient. Keeping in mind all positive and not so positive outlooks it is recommended to :

- Organize capacity building seminars for the local civil society organizations, with a special focus on project cycle management, PR and fundraising, in order to increase the professionalism of their work and enable them to achieve their goals and realize their plans
- Strengthen good practice exchanges at the national and international level (visiting events in other regions of the country, participation in international meetings etc.)
- Allocate funds for the establishment of workshops (e.g. for weaving, handicrafts) in local communities
- Organise and promote the sale of local products (traditional food and drink) to tourists in the region, and present those products at promotional events
- Organize educational programs for traditional farmers in the region
- Record songs and dances

These are some of the recommended activities. Furthermore, every organization in the region and local institutions has its own annual plan of activities that could be supported or harmonized with other activities. Local communities are willing to work and co-operate; they are open for suggestions and advice.