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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Slovakia



Slovak Report - Consultations for Carpathian Heritage

Theory



Practice



REC Slovakia
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At the First Meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of the Carpathians, held in Venice in August 2007, ANPED was requested to organise consultations concerning the culture and heritage in the seven Carpathian countries. REC Slovakia was selected to co-ordinate these activities for Slovakia.

REC SL was asked to organize the consultations for key stakeholders in Slovakia to discuss the state of cultural heritage at the beginning of 2008. REC SI was selected because it was already active on this topic, with materials and ideas to contribute. So after discussions it was agreed that REC Slovakia undertake the consultations in Slovakia in a form adapted to the current status of activities. It was decided to organise the consultations in combination with the REC SL activities for Carpathian culture and heritage as follows:

- Sub-project – “Cultural, Historical and Social Topography applied at the regional level” which is part of the Interreg ‘Carpathian Project’ (Work Package 4)
- A one day meeting at the village of Pruske, on the 8th of February with local stakeholders and the expert team in the collaborating region
- A meeting of the National Committee for regional products (this activity has resulted from two Interreg projects, it supports traditional craft workers and traditional goods and is being tested in three pilot regions)
- A national workshop on Sustainable Development Strategies in Carpathians, the second day will be related to the cultural issues in Carpathians (expected dates – the end of May, beginning of June).

Due to the full calendar of planned activities it was decided to conduct our survey in a specific way. We first decided to use the already existing network of meetings for data gathering and secondly, to make consultations with experts. For the experts we prepared a questionnaire with open-ended questions to identify the relevant information concerning the cultural issue. By using this interview method with the open-ended questions we achieved detailed insight into the issues. This deeper insight was achieved by analyzing carefully each actor’s opinions and views, understanding, feelings, interpretations and experiences connected with the studied issues.

1 Short description of the Cultural, Historical and Social topography

The aim of the REC SL, as a project partner of the Interreg ‘Carpathian Project’, is to find the intersection between the culture, history and society, in its natural surroundings. “Culture” can be considered as a result of mutual correlations between society and its environment, in the background of historical events. Therefore, the methodology of the cultural, historical and social topography supports local and regional communities to define the tangible and intangible forms of their culture, transmitted from generation to generation. The case-study is focusing upon both intangible cultural heritage with

traditional knowledge (skills of indigenous people, artifacts, songs, folklore, stories, rituals, beliefs, handicrafts, local goods etc) and tangible (architectural works, buildings, sites etc). The project started in 2005 and is planned to end in August 2008.

This is a short description of this project but lessons learnt during the two years of its execution have helped us to define the main pros and cons for the proposed 'Carpathian Culture and Heritage List'. The aims could be that the List includes items from all forms (tangible and intangible) and could be seen as a kind of inventory or database. Specific recommendations that arose from this activity are set out in a sub-chapter 'Recommendations'.

2 Establishment of a Discussion Forum

Meeting in the White Carpathians with Local Stakeholders and the Expert Team on the 8th February 2008

At the beginning of 2008, REC SL planned to organize several meetings that were to be devoted to the cultural heritage issue. Organisation of the meetings was part of the activities from several different projects. The main one of these was the 'Carpathian Project', funded by the EU Interreg III B Programme. The overall goals of this project are to create a methodology mapping tangible and intangible cultural values in the regions; to apply this methodology in chosen regions and to prepare a study with a generalized methodology and overview concerning the selected region. At the same time, when ANPED asked us for our contribution, a preparation for the meeting concerning the CHST methodology was already planned. Therefore, we decided that it would be worthy to use this meeting for data gathering.

The project is carried out in the selected micro region. This region is situated in the White Carpathians (Biele Karpaty) in the western part of Slovakia. More specifically, we have chosen a micro region '*The Sources of White Carpathians*' including thirteen villages and one city (Ilava). At the first meeting in September 2007 about ten people participated, mostly representatives from the villages. At the meeting with extended the expert team in February 2008 there was wider involvement of people, and more than 40 participants joined the meeting. We consider this a key achievement as more than 90 % of invitees participated. The case study has produced interesting findings about the relationship between culture, society and environment. Based on this experience the following list was defined.

Key stakeholders that should be involved at the local level:

- City mayors and representatives from municipalities
- Locally active people (chroniclers, teachers, priests, craftsmen, others)
- Citizens (all age groups)
- Representatives of local communities (nature protection organizations, different types of NGO's, folk groups, etc)
- NGO *White Carpathian's Sources*.

The Expert Team at the meeting consisted of the following representatives :

- Ethnography specialist
- Landscape ecology specialist
- Sustainable development specialist
- Physical geography specialist
- Specialist for the cultural issues
- Human geography specialist

This team of experts, from the Slovak Academy of Science, were present at the meeting.

The Workshop venue:

The village of Pruske hosted our meeting in the reconstructed municipality theatre, where the village holds its cultural events. This house was built in 1859.

Agenda of the workshop at the Pruske :

- Opening of the Meeting, Welcoming Words (City Mayor, Academia Istropolitana as a co-organizer, REC Slovakia and the Slovak Academy of Science);
- Introduction of the Participants (institution/organization, description of activities, projects, responsibilities etc.)
- *Morning presentations*: Theoretical approach in the CHST methodology and its application at the local and regional level (the three basic areas of the framework were presented : Landscape of White Carpathians; Demography; and Culture and Cultural Heritage at local and regional level);
- *Afternoon discussion*: The discussion during the meeting was in the line with agenda presented in the framework of the morning presentations. The afternoon discussion was steered to address the following key issues concerning the culture :
 - Local and regional stakeholders and the cultural heritage list
 - Awareness of local people : '*clash of generations*'
 - Traditions (intangible culture) and its displacement by the 'new' culture
 - Co-operation between the organizations (Municipality authorities and local communities (nature protection organizations, different types of NGOs, folk groups, etc.)
 - The needs of local and regional communities to promote cultural specifics of their culture
- Closure of the meeting

This meeting enabled further cooperation between the expert team and the regional and local stakeholders. Also a first draft of the case-study was prepared as a result of the meeting. Both the case-study and the minutes from discussion were able to be used as source for the elaboration of recommendations for the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List.

3 Establishment of Discussion Forum – Meeting at REC SL with the Labeling Committee for Regional Products, held on 31st of March

One of the activities of the REC Country Office Slovakia is to support local producers and craftsmen by awarding a regional product label.

Regional Trademark

The Regional Trademark is a label for regional products, aimed at showing that protected areas can provide opportunities to develop local traditions and environmental protection, which support traditional production processes and environment-friendly technologies. Branding (certification) of local products can help to draw attention to a specific protected area, and thus demonstrate the benefits and advantages of its existence. The regional trademark aims to assist and promote traditional means of production (intangible culture). The certification criteria and questionnaire for producers has been elaborated and widely distributed. The external experts involved to the project cover different areas (culture and heritage, arts and crafts, association of craftsmen, sustainable development, nature conservation, environmental policy etc.).

Workshop venue:

The workshop was held in REC SL meeting room on 31st of March. The Expert team evaluated the applications of traditional producers and in the afternoon a brainstorming session and discussion took place concerning intangible culture heritage and the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List.

Agenda of the workshop in REC SL offices

- Opening of the Meeting, Welcoming (REC Slovakia and the representative of Ministry of the Environment)
- Introduction all of the members of the evaluating committee (institution/organization, description of activities, responsibilities etc.)
- *Morning session*: was dedicated to the awarding criteria; producers have been introduced based on their applications; institutionalization of the “Regional product” label, etc.
- *Afternoon discussion*: discussion of the meeting was in the line with the agenda presented during the framework of the morning presentations. The afternoon discussion was steered to address the following key issues concerning the culture:
 - Local and regional producers
 - Promotion of local producers
 - The label as a promotional tool;
 - The main problems for local producers
 - The needs of local and regional craftsmen to promote traditional means of production.
- Closure of the meeting

The evaluation committee of the regional trademark (local branding) consists of the following experts:

Family Name	Name	Organizations	Address
Đureje	Ľudovít	The Slovak Pottery Association (keramikárov Slovenska)	Súkenická 2, 900 01 Modra
Gerát	Rudolf	Slovak Association for Landscape and Nature Protection (SZOPK Čadca)	Nám. Slobody 30/28, 022 01 Čadca
Ivanová	Katarína	Bratislava's Self Governing Region – Bratislavský samosprávny kraj - Odd. Cestovného ruchu	Sabinovská 16, P.O.Box 106, 820 05 Bratislava 25
Jašová	Ivana	Ekoporadňa Živica (ENGO)	Vysoká 18, 811 06 Bratislava
Klenová	Silvia	Ministry of Agriculture SR	Dobrovičova 12, 812 66 Bratislava
Klimeková	Marta	VURV Piešťany	Bratislavská cesta 122, 921 68 Piešťany
Korbová		Bratislava's Self Governing Region – Bratislavský samosprávny kraj - Odd. Cestovného ruchu	Sabinovská 16, P.O.Box 106, 820 05 Bratislava 25
Kramárik	Jozef	Ministry of the Environment	Nám Ľ. Štúra 1, 812 35, Bratislava
Mach	František	Tourist Information Centre, Modra (Small Carpathians) TIK Modra	Štúrova 117, 900 01 Modra
Medal	Richard	Environmental Activities Centre, CEA (ENGO)	Mierové nám. 29, 911 01 Trenčín
Melicharová	Alžbeta	Bratislava's Self Governing Region – Bratislavský samosprávny kraj - Odd. Cestovného ruchu	Sabinovská 16, P.O.Box 106, 820 05 Bratislava 25
Menkynová	Jana	The Centre for Folk Art Production, ÚĽUV	Obchodná 64, 816 11 Bratislava
Poliak	Marián	Association of the Historical and Craftworks Guilds Združenie cechov historických remesiel	Peterská 1221/126, 908 77 Borský Mikuláš
Turečeková	Slávka	Ministry of the Environment, Carpathian Convention Focal Point	Nám Ľ. Štúra 1, 812 35, Bratislava

The discussion concerning intangible culture was fruitful and produced a lot of outcomes. Usually, associations working with craft workers are very enthusiastic about the List, they see it as a potential tool to protect their traditional knowledge and also promote it. Most of the representatives expressed their interest in participating in events and presenting the traditions from the Carpathian region of Slovakia. The Art Director from the Centre for Folk Art Production who specializes in representing traditional folk art production provided very valuable information. She provided us with outstanding knowledge and she completed our picture of understanding concerning intangible cultural heritage.

4 Consultations with Key Stakeholders

In order to obtain more detailed information it was also decided to conduct interviews with key stakeholders and complete the following tasks:

1. Analysis of the relevant materials concerning cultural heritage in Slovakia
2. Provision of background information for the Slovakian part of The Carpathian Culture and Heritage List
3. Definition of key organizations at a national level and local level (based on the experience from the Interreg 'Carpathian Project')
4. Identification of steps to establish the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List
5. Provide recommendations for a strategy and programme of practical activities to support local communities active in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

Based on evaluation of the information gathered at the meetings we decided to conduct two more consultations with specialists. Both experts were able to provide us with outstanding information and they gave us chance look at this complicated topic from a distance. The interviews were elaborated based on key topic areas defined above. The following key stakeholder were interviewed for the Culture and Heritage Survey :

Organisation	Department	Name	Address	Email
Ministry of Culture	Cultural Heritage Protection	Pavol Izvolt	Nám. SNP č. 33 813 31 Bratislava	Pavol.izvolt@culture.gov.sk
The Centre for Folk Art. Production, ÚĽUV	Folk art Production	Jana Menkynová	Obchodná 64, 816 11 Bratislava	Menkynova@uluv.sk

5 Overall Recommendations

A) Stimulate projects covering whole area of the Carpathian Region

There are many small-scale project underway in Slovakia. Usually, these projects are carried out in pilot regions (including those from the REC Slovakia - Carpathian Project, the Parks and Economy, and the Green Belt, etc). There were significant results in all of the mentioned projects, but in some cases it is not certain if the pilot areas mirror reality on a wider scale. There is strong need for continuity covering a larger area. There are doubts about real achievements, resulting from the value placed on different sources of information. On the one hand there is a general study by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic which concluded that there was a low level of awareness and a lack of interest about cultural heritage. However, on the other hand, we were co-operating with local citizens in the regions and we have a completely different experience. Local citizens and stakeholders were very proactive and moreover, a good source of information. In some cases, they were the driving force for activities (especially in the Kysuce region, involved in the project 'Parks and Economy'). Therefore we can conclude that at the small scale one can more quickly reach positive results but there is a strong need to work in more general level in order to support long term development.

Recommendation: Involvement of local citizens on the larger scale, maybe transnational is necessary and this would work in favor of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List. It is recommended to make a overall List, which would list cultural heritage common for several countries.

B) Ensure cross-border co-operation an a common map of Cultural Heritage

The Carpathian Cultural Heritage Map could be developed based on the heritage inventory or database. This map would be a type of guide of movable and immovable cultural heritage in the Carpathians, but it should be an overview, listing only the most important and common cultural values. For example it could include the wooden churches which are found in the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine. This could also link well to sustainable tourism as it could be developed as a “pilgrimage” – so the tourist is following the route of Carpathian Heritage. Also it promotes the region (by a combination of natural and cultural values). For this purpose the List would be a useful starting point.

C) Stimulate and connect the co-operation between the governmental authorities and the Self Governing Regions

The Self Governing Regions we can consider as the link between global strategies approved at the national level and their application at the local level. In most cases this role is substituted by a proactive third sector. There is a strong need for co-operation between Self Governing Regions and the municipalities. REC SL is trying to be a pioneer on this issue and for the planned June workshop concerning the Carpathian Convention representatives from eight Self Governing Regions have been invited.

D) Promotion, Promotion, Promotion

This point was made at the meetings. **The Carpathian Culture and Heritage List** could be considered as a potential **tool for promoting Carpathian Cultural Heritage values**. A key remark from the stakeholders was to make the Convention more visible.

E) Establish a process to stimulate public awareness – especially in the young generation

Based on our first experiences we conclude that there is high interest in cultural issues and a high level of awareness. But when we went more deeply into preparing the Cultural, Historical and Social Topography case-study we became aware that this interest was present in the older generation. At the meeting with local stakeholders they emphasized a lack of interest in traditions by the young generation. One example was the traditional Easter holidays, with the characteristic 40 days fast, before which is the time for the last ball and celebrations – the *‘Burying of the bass fiddle’*. The Easter holidays were full of old traditions. Recently, these traditions (in the past accompanied by stories, proverbs, folk dances and rituals) are not in favor by young people anymore. So, these traditions are vanishing from the villages. The question put by the local citizens was how could the List help them to motivate young people to keep such traditions? It is again one more “promotional function” of the proposed List.

The educational character of the List was also discussed as it could be a starting point for educational materials. In the past, in Slovakia we had a special education programme the so-called *‘Get know your city’* with specially trained teachers and guides undertaking outreach activities and introducing the city, where each school belonged, to students from high schools and primary schools. There was an idea to make the same programme but on the regional level – *‘Get know your region’*, and again the basic information could be provided for the Culture and Heritage List.

F) Promotion of traditional craftworks – in the past crafts was transferred from “father to son”, but nowadays this is rare

The craft workers argued that there is a loss of continuity in crafts passed from father to son, which is caused by a lack of interest in the traditional means of life, and also by a lack of demand for traditional products. The same point was made by the Ministry of Culture. The Carpathians, especially in their Slovak, Polish and Ukrainian parts was characterised by the traditional folk houses made of wood. Traditionally the roof was covered by wooden shingles and carpenters in the villages were very high valued craftsmen. Recently, these traditional houses with wooden shingles are located in villages such as Osturňa, Vlkolínec, Čičmany, Ždiar and others. These villages were characteristic for such craftsmen.

G) To find common activities between Carpathian Convention and the European Landscape Convention

This point came out of the discussion at the Ministry of Culture. A nice example is a traditional way of farming, and use of traditional styles, such as to store hay in a haystack. This traditional way of farming refers to intangible cultural heritage and at the same time this traditional way refers to the European Landscape Convention, because makes the rural country more spectacular and attractive. Common actions are recommended and again *the Carpathian Culture and Heritage* List could be a starting point.

H) The Carpathian Culture and Heritage List and Carpathian Branding

A following activity of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List (inventory or database) could be the *Carpathian Culture Heritage Award*. It could be created with criteria for cultural property or traditional knowledge that has outstanding value for the whole Carpathians. It could be considered as a key working tool. This initiative would be applicable for tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and especially focused for local communities, which are transmitting intangible cultural heritage from generation to generation, and which need support and to make their traditional goods, arts and handicrafts more visible.

Overview of the Experts, Local Materials and Knowledge on Cultural Heritage and its Links to Sustainable Development in the Slovakian Carpathian Region

Based on consultation we defined the key stakeholders who should be involved in Carpathian Culture ad Heritage List initiative. We made a distinction according to level and the scope of those to be involved.

From the National via Regional to Local Level

The conditions for the protection of cultural heritage monuments and historic sites were established by the legal Act on the Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites, number 49, in 2002, which has entered into the force in 2004. The Act defines the competencies of the state administration authorities and territorial self-government authorities in the field of the protection of monuments and historic sites. The main responsibilities lies with the following authorities:

- Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic
- Inspection of Monuments and Historic Sites of the Ministry
- Regional Monument Boards
- Ministry of the Environment (in charge of the natural issues as part of the *Convention concerning the Protection of World Culture and Natural Heritage*)
- Self-governing Regions
- Municipalities

An important role concerning the inventory is played by the Monument Board of the Slovak Republic.

Enhance Communication among the key stakeholders – an institutional problem at the national level

Communication between the **Self-Governing Regions** (Slovakia has eight Self-Governing Regions) and **the Ministry of Culture Slovak Republic should be improved**. The Ministry of Culture is undertaking many activities to protect and promote cultural heritage but there is lack of pro-activeness from the self-governing regions. The regions should have an interest to protect and promote cultural values in their region. Their involvement is strongly recommended. (To be able promote tourism development and to make immovable cultural heritage more accessible in any region there is need for good quality of infrastructure, therefore in the discussion this point for improved communication between governmental institutions and communal policy institutions was stressed. Some Self Governing Regions lack a department concerned with cultural issues.)

List Of Key Actors at the National Level (Source: REC SL)

Contact Person	Organization	Competency	Contact
Mr Pavol Izvolt	Ministry of Culture	Department responsible for cultural heritage and cultural monuments in Slovakia	Pavol_izvolt@culture.gov.sk

Mr. Škoviera Ľuboslav,	The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic	The State Information System (about cultural heritage)	Skoviera.lubos@pamiatky.gov.sk
Ms Slávka Turečeková	Ministry of the Environment	Carpathian Convention Focal Point	Turecekova_slavka@enviro.gov.sk
Viera Vilinovicova Jozef Klinda	Ministry of Environment	Responsibility for UNESCO Natural Heritage sites	Viera.vilinovicova@enviro.gov.sk Jozef.klinda@enviro.gov.sk
Ms. Pavlína Misikova	Ministry of Environment	NFP for European Landscape Convention	Pavlina.misikova@enviro.gov.sk
Ms Viera Polakovicova	UNESCO	General secretary of the Slovak Committee for UNESCO	Unesco@mzv.sk

List of Key Actors at the Regional and Local Level (Source: REC SL)

Contact Person	Organization	Competency	Contact
Ms Jana Menkynová	The Centre for Folk Art Production, ÚĽUV	Folk art Production	Menkynova@uluv.sk
Ms Michaela Chalupova	NGO "National Trust of Slovakia"	Culture and Heritage	Chalupova@nt.sk
Mr. Jan Rohac	Ekopolis Foundation	Member of the Carp. Convention WGST working for sustainable tourism activities	Rohac@stonline.sk
Ms. Denisa Zdechovanová	NGO Strom života	Activities focused on cultural heritage, especially education	Http://www.stromzivota..sk
Mr. Stefan Baco	The Outdoor Svidník	Drveny Cerkvy v Karpatoch, Carpathians wooden Churches	http://www.drevenecerkvy.szm.sk/
Mr. Jozef Halcin	Folkór bez hraníc NGO	Folk	Redakcia@jankohrasko.sk www.jankohrasko.sk

The opinion about the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List varied due to a wide variety of stakeholders, but we can conclude there are two groups. One is an enthusiastic group and the other is a more sceptical or realistic group. Generally, the second group is related to the stakeholders at the national level. They welcome this initiative but also require specification on ideas for the cultural list. We received several recommendations concerning what should be done with regards to future steps for the list.

In Slovakia there is a wide variety of cultural heritage in both forms, tangible and intangible. Moreover, there is a large number of cultural heritage sites and artifacts. The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic is preparing a database of mentioned heritage for almost eight years and it is still in the process. More sceptical are the representatives of governmental organizations (the Ministry of Culture). In total, in the Slovak Republic, the **actual national cultural fund** consists of **13212 cultural sites**

(buildings, etc.) and 14437 national cultural monuments (98 % of which have a sacral character), which consist of **30410** cultural monuments

Therefore it was strongly recommended to :

- Set up exact criteria for the creation of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List and to find the sites or heritage issues which are common for more countries. It was recommended to focus on traditional **folk architecture**.

One of the irreplaceable parts of the national cultural heritage is **folk architecture**, as evidence of the skill of our predecessors. Historically preserved objects of folk architecture are found in almost every location in Slovakia. The variety that is represented by folk architecture and its forms with characteristic signs for the urban arrangement may be identified according to the regional ethnic signs.

The previous era brought a decrease in interest in maintaining traditional skills and folk art. It also brought about a decreasing interest in folk architecture and rural village planning, which was shown in the post-war period during which the reconstruction of rural locations copied foreign patterns. However, following efforts to maintain and renew folk architecture traditions, a process began directed towards preserving traditional folk architecture, in all its regional variety. This was closely linked with carpentry craftwork, which in its traditional form is diminishing. In previous times wooden shingle was used as a traditional cover for roofs of houses. Nowadays, you can hardly find producers of the wooden shingle in the regions. This lack of such wooden shingle has resulted in the degradation of such traditional houses. In Slovakia, the historical preservation of folk architecture has been gradually promoted in the following villages Čičmany, Podbiel, Vlkošínec, Ždiar, Špania, dolina, Osturňa, Sebechleby, Veľké Leváre and Veľké Leváre.

Folk architecture and its different forms can be found also in other Carpathian countries, therefore it should be included at the List.

- The List can act to share information about cultural sites over borders and can stimulate processes for increasing public awareness (see the role of the List in promotion activities).
- Further cultural activities within the Carpathian Convention should be focused on important groups – locally operating NGOs focused on cultural issues. It was argued that where there is a lack of NGOs specialized for cultural topics, environmental NGOs can take on this role.
- There is need for special training for municipalities, to introduce them to new approaches – how to use traditional cultural values as an advantage for tourism development.

Another category should be **wooden churches**, which should be involved at the List. Unique wooden churches are found in Slovakia. They were built in a very specific way - all parts had to be made of wood and no nails were allowed. According to historical records there were more than 300 wooden churches in Slovakia. Their architecture combined elements of the western, mainly Roman Catholic tradition and of the Byzantine culture. At present, there are around 50 of these sacred monuments which were built during the 16th - 18th Century.

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

There is different perception of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List at the national level compared to the regional and local level. Local communities represented by nature and heritage protection organizations, NGO's, folk groups and others are in favor of this initiative. They see this initiative as a promotional tool for their cultural activities at the transnational level.

Discussions with stakeholders during the consultation process helped us to prepare suggestions and recommendations for the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List in Slovakia.

Operational Guide for the Carpathian's Cultural Heritage

Each country should prepare an **operational guide** for the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List, depending on the relationship between authorities at the national to local level. In Slovakia key points would include :

- Strengthening the involvement of the Self Governing Regions and their relations to the cultural issues;
- The Carpathian Convention Focal Point should be invited to be a partner and assist with the co-ordination of supra-national activities and moreover, to work with organization on the national level;
- The creation of the List will require first national discussion and then it should be promoted at the international level;
- To prepare exact criteria concerning what should be included and what excluded (we already have mentioned some examples which are common in Carpathian's countries);
- The set of criteria could try to define what is unique for the Carpathians and also common among all involved countries (it has been - wooden churches, wooden shingle craft workers etc.);
- The list should not have just a function of a database or inventory – but it has to be tool followed by other activities (Map of Carpathian Cultural Heritage, special training for municipalities, a restoration contest among Carpathian countries etc.).

Operationalisation in Slovakia

It is proposed to invite the Carpathian Convention Focal Point to assist with co-ordination of supra-national activities and to work with organization on the national level. State organizations like Ministry of Culture and The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic should guarantee expert information and theoretical approaches. Municipalities, local organizations and local authorities should be responsible for the implementation phase and to be involved in activities like training, work with local citizens, and leading joint Carpathian projects. As the Ministry of Culture recommended it would be worthwhile to stimulate NGOs specialized in the cultural issues, but it doesn't mean that environmental NGOs will be excluded from mentioned processes. The key issue in Slovakia is to increase public awareness concerning cultural issues. This is a mid-term objective but it requires more applied projects than theoretical ones (as we mentioned before: the Map of Carpathian Cultural Heritage, special training for municipalities and restoration contest among Carpathian countries should be key parts).