# Science for the Carpathians - developing the network

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## Global Change Research in the Carpathian Mountain Region

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The Carpathian Mountains in Europe are a biodiversity hot spot; harbor many relatively undisturbed ecosystems; and are still rich in seminatural, traditional landscapes. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Carpathians have experienced widespread land use change, affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services. Climate change, as an additional driver, may increase the effect of such changes in the future. Based on a cultural landscapes offer important ecosystem services to both local and national economies, including agriculture, timber production, and tourism.

The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 profoundly changed Carpathian societies and economies (Turnock 2002). The complexity of recent history; the coexistence of rapidly developing and marginal areas; brought forth the regional science network Science for the Carpathians (S4C) at a follow-up meeting at the European Academy (EURAC) in Bolzano, Italy. S4C was officially launched during a workshop at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management (IG&SM), Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, in May 2008.

This paper summarizes the



## **S4C Scientific Steering Committee**

 currently 34 scientists and practitioners representing all Carpathian countries, Austria, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA S4C Scientific Steering Commitee





**1st Forum Carpaticum Integrating Nature** *and Society Towards Sustainability* 15-17 September 2010, Krakow, Poland 200 participants

### **Environmental Science**

Jacek Kozak Katarzyna Ostapowicz Andrzej Bytnerowicz Bartłomiej Wyżga *Editors* 

The Carpathians: Integrating Nature and Society Towards Sustainability



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2<sup>nd</sup> Forum Carpaticum From Data to Knowledge, from Knowledge to Action
30 May – 2 June 2012, Stará Lesná, Slovakia
200 particpants



Memorandum with ISCC

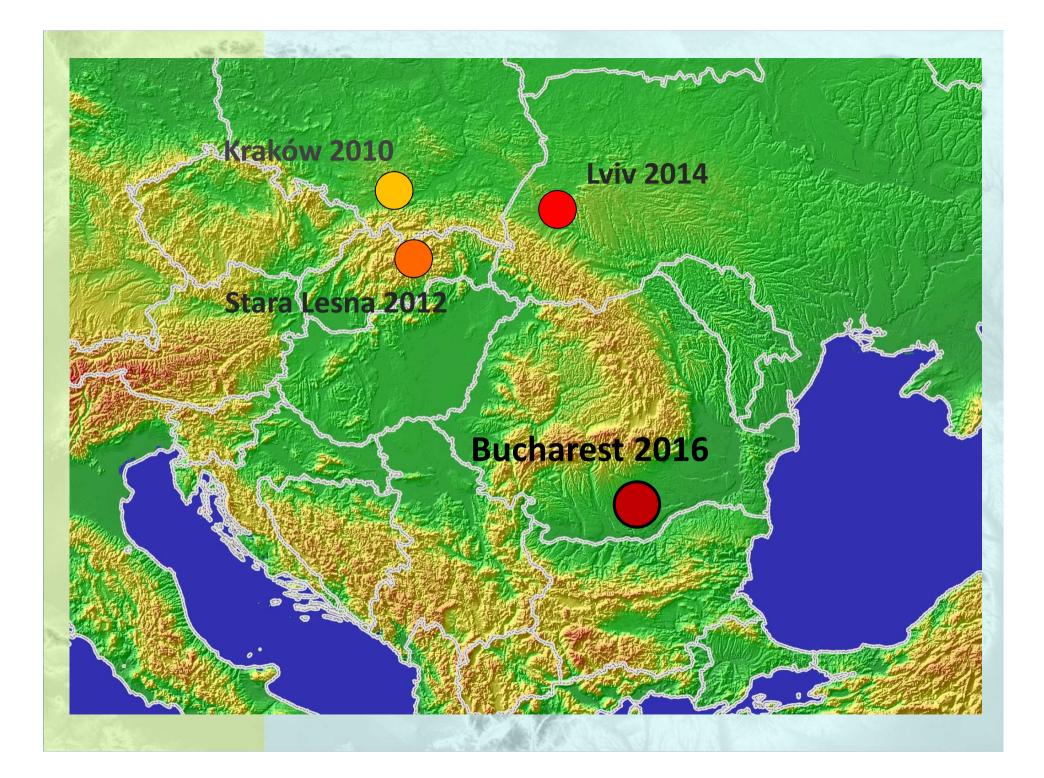
- collaboration on draft documents
- working groups
- Carpathian IS





3<sup>rd</sup> Forum Carpaticum
Local Responses to Global Challenges
16 September – 18 September 2014, Lviv, Ukraine
140 participants







# **Thank you!**

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see also: Björnsen-Gurung A., 2013, Science for the Carpathians: using Regional Capacity to Cope with Global Change. In: Kozak J., Ostapowicz K., Bytnerowicz A., Wyżga B. (editors) The Carpathians: Integrating Nature and Society Towards Sustainability