



Eighth Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport

16-17 May 2018, Budapest

Meeting venue: Budapest Zoo – Állatkerti krt. 6-12, Budapest, 1146 Hungary

DRAFT MEETING REPORT

Item 1: Opening of the WG meeting, adoption of the Agenda and tour de table

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the UN Environment Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (SCC) opened the meeting. He presented the agenda, which was adopted by the working group members. A tour de table was then held.

Item 2: Introduction to the main objectives of the WG meeting, link to the TRANSGREEN Project and timeframe

Mr. Egerer provided participants with a brief overview on past activities, achieved results and the planned way forward in the field of Sustainable Transport within the Carpathian Convention and the link to the EU Danube Transnational Project (DTP) TRANSGREEN-Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature.

At the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4), held in Mikulov, Czech Republic in September 2014, the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention was adopted. So far, it was ratified by Poland, Slovak Republic and Ukraine. Mr. Egerer recalled Decision COP5/9 para 2. of the Fifth Conference of the Parties, which recommends “the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Infrastructure, Industry and Energy (hereinafter WG Transport) with support of the TRANSGREEN project, to develop a Strategic Action Plan for fostering the implementation of the Transport Protocol, invites other Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to support the process”. The Strategic Action Plan is planned to be elaborated within the meetings of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport and during a joint Carpathian Convention Working Group meeting (transport, biodiversity, spatial planning), to be held back to back to the TRANSGREEN Mid-Term Conference in Bratislava, Slovakia on 5-6 September 2018. In case of consensus among the Carpathian Convention Countries, the Strategic Action Plan is expected to be adopted at COP6 in 2020 in Poland.





Ms. Irina Ionescu, Ministry of Transport of Romania, informed participants that Romania is working on the ratification of the Carpathian Convention Transport Protocol. A new country ratification means that the Protocol will enter into force.

Ms Hildegard Meyer, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme (DCP), lead partner of the TRANSGREEN Project, gave an overview of the Project, presenting its outline, policy context, highlights so far, pilot areas, links to the Carpathian Convention activities, and next steps.

Mr. Vladimir Ondrejicka, SPECTRA, partner within TRANSGREEN project, better explained the link between the project activities and outputs (like the State of the art Report, In-depth analyses and catalogue of measures of specific pilot areas, and Guidelines on Integrated Transport Developments) and the development of the Carpathian Convention Sustainable Transport Action Plan.

Item 3: IENE and the promotion of safe and ecologically sustainable pan-European transport infrastructure

Lazaros Georgiadis, Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE), presented the International approach of IENE on Sustainable Linear Transportation Infrastructures and the IGELI project. IENE is a non-political, formalized network of experts on Ecology and Transportation, providing an independent arena for exchange of knowledge, experience, ideas, with the aim of fostering collaboration for a safer and sustainable transport infrastructure. Mr. Georgiadis underlined the importance of the Carpathian Convention cooperation with the TRANSGREEN Project and the relevance of targeting the problem of fragmentation at international level and, specifically, in Eastern Europe.

Item 4: Collection of inputs on the Carpathian sustainable transport development – Carpathian Convention National Experts

All the Carpathian National Experts were invited to make a short overview/presentation on the status of Sustainable Transport Development in their own country, while answering to the following questions:

- Do you have experiences of integrating sustainable transport into other policies such as spatial planning, conservation of biological and landscape diversity and tourism? Is there cooperation among different Ministries on the topic?
- Which are your country priorities with reference to international cooperation on Sustainable Transport in the Carpathian region?
- Do you have experiences with participation of regional and local authorities and other stakeholders in development of sustainable transport and infrastructure?





Concerning the first and third question, the situation within the countries is quite different, depending on the existing national laws and national administrative procedures. Concerning the second question, most of the Countries underlined the importance of the Via Carpathia project (a north-south, trans-European road route) and the cooperation within the TEN-T network.

It has to be noted that all three of the TRANSGREEN pilot sites are situated on the major corridors mentioned by Mr Andrzej Siemiński, Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland (Via Carpathia and Baltic – Adriatic corridor), meaning that the project is of high relevance at European scale.

TRANSGREEN Project partners were advised to make a presentation in the international Via Carpathia Working Group, which is led by the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure.

Item 5: Presentation of the draft Guidelines on Integrated Transport Development of the TRANSGREEN project and discussion

Mr. Václav Hlaváč, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, presented the “Handbook on Wildlife and Traffic in the Carpathians”, under development within the TRANSGREEN Project. Transport infrastructure and traffic itself are among the most important threats to wildlife. In order to prevent and to diminish these threats and pressures on nature, the handbook will be an easy understandable and generally accepted basis for discussion for biologists, architects, planners, officials and decision makers. Below a schedule for the handbook preparation:

- End of June 2018 – 1st Draft of all chapters will be available in English
- July – August 2018 – 1st Draft commented by PPs
- End of August – 2nd Draft prepared
- September 2018 (Mid-Term event)– 2nd Draft discussed with stakeholders
- Final version : November 2018

Translation to other languages will be done after proof reading.





Item 6: Presentation of the draft “State of the Art” on Environmentally friendly transport infrastructure development of the TRANSGREEN project and discussion

Mr. Cristian-Remus Papp, WWF Romania, presented the Report on "State of the Art" and Gap Analysis in the field of Environmentally-Friendly Transport Infrastructure Development, under development within the TRANSGREEN Project.

The report consists in an up-to-date overview of the current level of knowledge, information and practices in the field of environmentally-friendly transport infrastructure development in the different countries of the Carpathian Ecoregion. It is also summarizing the actual level of knowledge and information related to the topic of ecological connectivity and its preservation in the Carpathians. It is connected to the Carpathian Handbook on sustainable transportation and to the State of the Art report, which will be developed under the EU Danube Transnational Project ConnectGREEN-Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin.

The report, which includes Country reports from Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Poland and Serbia, will be finalised by 30th June 2018 and it will be promoted at national and regional levels

Item 7: Brainstorming on the Transport Action Plan

As highlighted at the WG opening, one of the main objective of the meeting was the discussion about the possible development of a Transport Strategic Action Plan, implementing the Sustainable Transport Protocol to the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Filippo Favilli, Eurac Research, chaired the session, focused on the brainstorming on the content of the Transport Action Plan.

During the discussion phase, the countries requested to focus on concrete actions implementing the Sustainable Transport Protocol.

Countries' representatives underlined that the Protocol is not yet ratified by all countries but suggested to work in parallel on the countries' ratification and Strategic Action Plan development.

The Strategic Action Plan is considered also one of the main output of the TRANSGREEN project. It is planned to mirror the achievements of the project, which are relevant for political decision-making. It should be also closely linked to the project Handbook on Wildlife and Traffic in the Carpathians and its recommendations.

Purpose of the action plan according to the discussion

The new Action Plan has to delineate the roadmap to integrate transport issues into other topics such as spatial planning and wildlife conservation, highlighting the main issues of international cooperation for moving from national views to a Carpathians-wide one, using the experience of regional authorities and local stakeholders.

The Action Plan should show the general recommendations of the countries and their vision of the Protocol.





The Action Plan should regulate the process of integration of the different topics, having a hierarchical approach in both a long-term (15-20 years) and a short-term strategy (3-5 years).

The Action Plan should connect the Protocol's articles with the TRANSGREEN results and highlight the potential contributions of the project activities to the definition of the concrete actions on the ground.

The Action Plan should integrate and harmonize the concept of spatial development for each country and provide a clear picture of how the countries should look in the future.

Action plan Objectives and Targets

The Action Plan should follow the objectives and the targets of the Protocol

General Objective:

“to enhance and facilitate cooperation of the Parties for the development of sustainable freight and passenger transport and related infrastructure in the Carpathians for the benefit of present and future generations with the objective to contribute to the sustainable development of the region while avoiding, minimizing and, where necessary, mitigating and compensating negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of transport and related infrastructure development.”

Targets:

- a) policies of sustainable transport and related infrastructure planning and development, which take into account the specificities of the mountain environment;
- b) development of sustainable multi-modal transport policies, which provide the socio-economic benefits of mobility and access to urban, rural, remote areas and tourist destinations in the Carpathians;
- c) reducing negative impacts on human health and improvement of transportation safety;
- d) avoiding fragmentation of natural and semi-natural habitats caused by all transport modes and related infrastructure, as well as maintenance and improvement of ecological connectivity on the local, national and regional level;
- e) development and promotion of environmentally friendly transport models and systems, in particular, in environmentally sensitive areas;
- f) incorporating sustainable transport planning and traffic management in the Carpathians, avoiding overload of transit capacities across the Carpathians where possible;
- g) assuring infrastructural functionality of the transport network;
- h) improvement or maintenance of transport infrastructure in terms of efficiency, safety, security passenger and freight mobility and emissions of greenhouse gases.





The Action Plan should have as general objective the identification of the necessary actions by each country in a Carpathians-wide approach in the respect of the articles of the Protocol, underlying:

- **What** are the needed actions
- **Who** will be in charge of their implementation
- **How** the implementation will be carried on
- **When** the foreseen actions will be done (in a short- medium- and long-term strategy)
- The indicators to evaluate their efficiency

Necessary Update

The Action Plan is planned to undergo an update after 3 years from its approval by the countries.

Modifications and Monitoring

The countries' representatives will provide the necessary suggestions and modifications to the Action Plan draft.

The countries' representatives agree on the necessity of monitoring the foreseen actions, both for their implementation approach and for their results.

Role of National Focal Points and national appointed experts

Focal points and experts will be in charge of the implementation of identified actions at local level, defining the necessary cooperation with local administrators and stakeholders.

Main identified topics and proposed first actions (implementation of article 8 of the Sustainable Transport Protocol)

1. *Ecological connectivity, corridor maps, roadkill crossing structures*

- Identification of corridors
- Critical intersections
- Standards of monitoring
- Corridor protection
- Realization of green infrastructures
- Approval and use of Guidelines, State of Art Report developed under TRANSGREEN
- Use of tools (EiA tool, stakeholder tool, CIBIS)
- Increase formal and informal cooperation with other Working Groups (i.e., Biodiversity, Tourism) and Creation of Inter-ministerial platforms
- Further recommendations





2. Prioritization of Targets (Art. 1 protocol), countries positions

- **Poland:** development of sustainable multi-modal transport policies, which provide the socio-economic benefits of mobility and access to urban, rural, remote areas and tourist destinations in the Carpathians (TARGET b)
- **Czech Republic:** avoiding fragmentation of natural and semi-natural habitats caused by all transport modes and related infrastructure, as well as maintenance and improvement of ecological connectivity on the local, national and regional level (TARGET d)
- **Slovak Republic:** development of sustainable multi-modal transport policies, which provide the socio-economic benefits of mobility and access to urban, rural, remote areas and tourist destinations in the Carpathians (TARGET b)
- **Romania:** policies of sustainable transport and related infrastructure planning and development, which take into account the specificities of the mountain environment (TARGET a)
- **Ukraine:** absent
- **Hungary:** absent
- **Serbia:** absent

Item 8: Next steps

Participants agreed that the SCC will circulate a draft structure of the Transport Strategic Action Plan, developed with the support of the TRANSGREEN partnership and Eurac Research by the end of July asking for comments and inputs.

Transport WG members will be also invited for the TRANSGREEN's Mid-term Event to be held in Bratislava, Slovakia on 5-6 September 2018. The event is addressed to international stakeholders from the field of transport, spatial planning and nature conservation – planners, implementers, authorities, NGOs – from the local to the international level with the aim to foster cross-sectoral cooperation and awareness raising on the topic.

During the event, a thorough discussion on the development of the Transport Strategic Action Plan is planned to be held with all participants together with the Carpathian Convention Working Groups on Biodiversity, Transport and Spatial Planning, respectively.

Item 9: Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed.

