

**FINAL PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT¹
following the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention 2018 - 2020**

Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

On 22 and 23 May 2018, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (the Secretariat) organized together with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the Austrian Embassy two events celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Carpathian Convention (adopted in May 2003 in Kyiv).

The high-level event on 22 May 2018 was personally attended by the Minister Semerak and Deputy Minister Poluyko of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, alongside with representatives of various institutions and the Parliament of Ukraine, as well as the representatives of the Carpathian Parties and other crucial partners, like the Alpine Convention. Minister Semerak stressed the importance of the Carpathian Convention for Ukraine and announced to prioritize the Convention in national policies and parliamentary procedures. On the second day, a very well attended technical workshop on “National Parks – Engines for Sustainable Development of mountain regions” took place. The Workshop pointed to the economic opportunities for national parks in the current decentralization process in Ukraine.

The Secretariat was involved in organization of the event – CHANGING ENVIRONMENT: Environmental development in Central and Eastern Europe, Past and Future on 8 November 2018 in Vienna. This symposium examined the development of the environment and of the environmental movement in Central and Eastern Europe since 1989 and cast a look forward to future opportunities and challenges. It brought together a group of people from across the region and beyond that played both very direct and indirect roles in the development of the region, bringing together their insight as well as personal stories.

On several occasions the Secretariat promoted the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of the SDGs, including among other, celebrations of the World Environment Day hosted at the VIC on 5 June 2018 or participation at the Plastic Cup race aiming at cleaning the Tisza River from the waste pollution and raising awareness about the problem. The UN Environment – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention was a part of the JoinTisza team, brought together by the EU-funded JoinTisza Project, which supports the shared management of Tisza river, and by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

¹ All the documents mentioned in the Progress Report are available on the Carpathian Convention website under section of CCIC meeting

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on development of the comprehensive National Report on implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the Protocols and relevant sectors;
- Discussion on outreach programmes targeting local, regional authorities and other stakeholders to increase awareness of the importance of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, and of the Convention's activities.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Making a proposal for reporting on the implementation of the CC Protocol and sharing with the CCIC;
- Submitting a project proposal on outreach programmes.

Cooperation with the European Union

➤ ***Activities related to cooperation with the EU***

The Secretariat has been involved in activities of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, especially through active participation in the meetings of Priority Areas 1b, 5 and 6.

The Secretariat was invited to participate in the seminar on Mountain Dimension of cooperation at the EU level organized by the European Commission, especially DG Regio, 9 November 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The objective of the one-day workshop was to discuss on policies, projects and governance that contribute to the development of mountainous areas in the EU. It brought together EU Institutions, Interreg programmes, stakeholders and representatives of the civil society to potentially send a message to the EU policy makers about the need for better recognition and support for mountain regions in the new EU multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027.

The Secretariat presented the Carpathian Convention as a governance mechanism, also demonstrated a lack of supporting instruments at the EU level, like financing programmes, macroregional strategy, as well as ratification of the Convention by the European Commission. The presentation was well received and was followed by discussion whether the macroregional strategy or the ratification can be realized. Answering these questions, the Commission stressed the importance of strong and consolidated requests coming for the Member States that is currently missing. Recommendation - stronger lobby for the Carpathian region and the Carpathian Convention in Brussels.

Regarding above, the Secretariat is closely monitoring the developments related to the Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathians, which is led by the Polish Government. During the Economic Forum in Krynica, Poland, 5 September 2018, the Declaration of Intent to Create the EU Macro-Regional Strategy for the Carpathian Region was signed by Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine.

Furthermore, Secretariat also established good contacts with the representatives of the Interregional group "Carpathians" of the Committee of the Regions, which is chaired by the Mr. Wladyslaw Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland. The Secretariat will participate in the next meeting of the group planned for early 2019 in order to discuss common activities in Brussels.

On 1st January 2019 Romania will take over the Presidency of the EU Council for six months and during this time Romania will have an important role of a mediator in charge of negotiation of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027. The Regulations shall be agreed by the Sibiu Summit in May 2019, considering the approaching EU elections. There is a need for further discussion on the Romania Presidency's priorities, and possibilities for better advocating for Carpathian matters, including negotiations of the new Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), financial programmes (Interreg).

From November 2018 to October 2019 Romania holds also presidency to EUSDR and will bear the responsibility of managing the process of revision of the EUSDR's Action Plan.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on better advocating for the Carpathian matters at the EU level, including possible joint activities under the Romania Presidency of the EU Council;
- Discussion on influencing of geographic and/or thematic scope of the financial instruments (new Cohesion Policy and INTERREG), the regulations shall be agreed in spring 2019, therefore there is still time for advocating for better inclusion of the Carpathians region, however strong message coming for the Carpathian Countries is needed;
- Discussion on possible inputs to the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Following the EU processes relevant for the Carpathian Convention;
- Contacting the EUSDR Strategy Point to discuss the new EUSDR Action Plan being currently under revision and possible inputs by the Carpathian Convention.

Cooperation with other Conventions and international bodies

➤ ***Activities related to cooperation with other conventions and international bodies***

The Secretariat was involved in the organization of the CBD COP14 side event stressing the importance of adaptation to climate change in the biodiversity sector, UN Environment, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and other partners, including the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, are organising a side event titled "VANISHING TREASURES" at the CBD COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on Monday, 26 November 2018 at 13:15 – 14:45.

The event included experts' flash talks on wildlife conservation in the light of climate change followed by interactive discussions in the Fishbowl format involving experts and practitioners from Central Asia, East Africa and the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) Region, as well as other mountain regions. The event was closed by an official kick-off ceremony of the new "VANISHING TREASURES" Programme to support adaptation on mountain species such as Bengal Tiger, Snow Leopard and Mountain Gorilla funded by Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The Carpathian Region was represented by the Slovak Republic, focusing its intervention on green infrastructure measures supporting adaptation of climate change in the biodiversity sector, which further contributed to the guided discussions on wildlife conservation in the light of climate change.

Furthermore, the Carpathians will be represented at the UNFCCC COP14 within the side event on Mountain adaptation, which will gather high level representatives of mountain regions from across the world and feature the launch of two adaptation reports including the global state of mountain adaptation. The Carpathians will be represented by Poland, the Minister of the Environment, Mr, Henryk Kowalczyk. The side event called “Mountain adaptation: Vulnerable peaks and people” will take place on the International Mountain Day, 11 December 2018.

Following the discussions held during the WG SARD, 27 September 2018, Vatra Dornei, Romania, there is a possibility to establish closer cooperation with Euromontana.

[Euromontana](#) is the European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories. It embraces regional and national mountain organisations throughout Europe, including regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organisations, environmental agencies, forestry organisations and research institutes. Euromontana’s mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and quality of life in mountain areas. To achieve this, Euromontana facilitates the exchange of information and experience among these areas by organising seminars and major conferences, by conducting and collaborating in studies, by developing, managing and participating in European projects and by working with the European institutions on mountain issues.

Euromontana is active in many sectors, which are also of interest of the Carpathian Convention, like cultural heritage, sustainable tourism or forestry to mention a few. However, the Secretariat recognizes a potential for cooperation particularly in the field of sustainable agriculture and rural development. One of the potential activities could be promotion local product, where Euromontana has some considerable experience and achievements. Perhaps we could also consider in the MoU cooperation on climate change.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on further cooperation conventions and international bodies, especially closer cooperation with the Alpine Convention;
- Discussion on closer cooperation with Euromontana, including possible development of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Drafting the Memorandum of Understanding with Euromontana for possible signature at the COP6 in 2020.

Biodiversity

- ***Development of the International action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores***
- ***Harmonization of methodologies for the population-based monitoring of large carnivores***

Following the COP5 Decisions, the Secretariat and the WG Biodiversity have prioritized work on large carnivores. For this reason, the Secretariat in cooperation with the Focal Points established the group of Large Carnivores experts within the WG Biodiversity.

The first official meeting of the Large Carnivores took place thanks to the workshop “*Towards the standardization of monitoring procedures for large carnivores populations in the Carpathians*”, organized at the Forum Carpaticum 2018, in Eger, Hungary on 15 October 2018.

The main objective of the workshop was to explore possibilities for standardization of sound monitoring procedures and improved transboundary coordination of large carnivore monitoring within the Carpathian region. Thus, the workshop contributed to the WG Biodiversity/Large Carnivores activities towards achieving the International Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Management for the Carpathian Populations of Large Carnivores, which has been requested by the COP5 Decisions (COP5/4 para3).

During the workshop, participants from all the Carpathian countries presented various monitoring procedures and experiences in this field and it was followed by a discussion on possibilities of enhanced harmonisation, standardisation, and stakeholder involvement in monitoring and transboundary coordination. Meeting report including the recommendations is available online (Doc. 1).

The results of the workshop in a form of report/recommendations will be submitted to the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity and CCIC for its consideration and further actions. The draft recommendations are added also below.

Recommendations of the LC workshop:

- elaboration of a report presenting the population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in every Carpathian country;
- elaboration of joint guidelines on standardized methods estimating population status and promoting common standards;
- better stakeholder involvement in monitoring and transboundary coordination;
- common action preventing illegal activities especially in the border areas;
- standardization/integration of the microsatellite markers and protocols
- reciprocal exchange and access to DNA samples to determinate the geographical and populations;
- accessible online database for the Carpathian countries;
- improvement of educational programs.

The workshop was organized in the in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation.

The Czech Republic kindly offered to host the next meeting of the WG Biodiversity, potentially combine with a workshop organized by the EUSDR PA2 Energy. Subject of the workshop to be further determined, however the current discussion focuses on a topic of impact of powerline on birds.

As connectivity is key for maintaining genetically viable and healthy populations of Large Carnivores, the project ConnectGREEN (briefly described below) will develop a strategy on the identification, preservation, management of ecological corridors in the region to be adopted at COP6 in 2020. How can the Parties best contribute to it, given that there are no project partners from UA (only an ASP in this country) & PL (not even an ASP)?

Life [EUROLARGE CARNIVORES](#) project on improving coexistence with large carnivores in Europe through communication, cross-border cooperation and knowledge exchange can sponsor a workshop

on harmonised monitoring of Large Carnivores in the region, in October or November 2019 in Romania. Sound monitoring is key for having adequate management measures, otherwise the LC populations (including their viability) might be seriously affected.

WWF is currently developing a project proposal with the Secretariat involvement on wildlife crime (Large Carnivores being one focus) in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary. Countries from other regions with experience on reducing wildlife crime might also be included. The targeted funding is the ISP funding line of DG HOME, deadline 14th of February 2019.

- WWF is working on a concept for a LIFE project for submission in autumn 2019 on improving co-existence with Large Carnivores through practical demonstration and management measures
- The action plans for the conservation of Large Carnivore species should be harmonised across the region. In addition, there are cases when the national action plans are missing, as e.g. for lynx in Romania.

➤ ***Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and its further activities***

Capitalizing on the inspirational discussion held at the COP5, the Secretariat supported the development of the project "CENTRALPARKS – Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection with the local socio-economic development". The project proposal has been submitted to the 3rd (the last one) call of the INTERREG Central Europe Programme under SO. 3.1. To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources. Below is the list of project partners:

1. EURAC - Accademia Europea di Bolzano (IT), research centre, Lead Partner, WP 1 leader
2. Ekopsychology Association (PL), WP 2 leader
3. Duna-Ipoly National Park Administration (HU), WP3 leader
4. State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SK), WP 4 leader
5. The European Wilderness Society (AT), WP5 leader
6. Piatra Craiului National Park Administration (RO)
7. Biele Karpaty National Park (CZ)

The Carpathian Convention will be represented in CENTRALPARKS by the Secretariat and relevant Ministries of the Parties to the Convention as the Associated Project Partners in order to ensure the policy uptake of the project results, implementing the Carpathian Convention provisions.

Information about the potential approval of the project shall be known in mid-January 2019.

WWF will organize a Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas within the ConnectGreen project at the beginning of 2021.

➤ ***Activities on the Carpathian wetlands***

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative shared with the Secretariat the priorities of the CWI work for 2019 – 2024 (Doc. 2) and a draft work and activities of CWI planned for Year 2019 (Doc,3).

➤ *Support for the ConnectGREEN project*

“The [ConnectGREEN](#) - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin” project was approved. The project runs from November 2018 to May 2021 under the leadership of WWF Romania. The main objective of the project is to maintain and improve the ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially Natura 2000 and other protected area categories of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion through identification of ecological corridors, reconciliation of nature conservation and spatial planning practices, as well as capacity building of protected areas' staff and development of management measures by using active stakeholder engagement processes. The overview of the project and its deliverables is available online (Doc.4). List of the project partners:

1. WWF DCP Romania (Lead Partner) (RO);
2. National Institute for Research and Development in Constructions, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development (RO);
3. Piatra Craiului National Park Administration (RO);
4. WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme (AT);
5. Nature Conservation Agency (CZ);
6. Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening (CZ);
7. CEEweb for Biodiversity (HU);
8. Szent Istvan University (HU);
9. State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SK);
10. Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava - SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of EU (SK);
11. Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia (RS);
12. National Park Djerdap (RS).

As in the case of the CentralParks project, The Carpathian Convention is represented in ConnectGREEN by the Secretariat and relevant Ministries of the Parties to the Convention as the Associated Project Partners in order to ensure the policy uptake of the project results, implementing the Carpathian Convention provisions.

The Kickoff meeting of the ConnectGREEN project took place on 20 November 2018 in Bucharest, Romania.

EUSDR PA6 Biodiversity developed a study on Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region (Doc.5). The topic is highly relevant for the Carpathian region, therefore more attention to the study is needed from the Carpathian Convention side.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on activities towards achieving the International Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Management for the Carpathian Populations of Large Carnivores, consideration of recommendation from the Large Carnivores workshop's related to harmonization of methodologies of the population-based monitoring of large carnivores;
- Discussion on finalization of the Carpathian Red Lists;
- Consideration of the National Reports on the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocols;
- Discussion on relevance of the topic on Invasive Alien Species for the Carpathians;
- Discussion on CNPA; CentralParks project proposal, awaiting the evaluation results;
- Discussion on activities on the Carpathian wetlands;

- Discussion on activities on wildlife crime prevention; project proposal targeting ISP funding line of DG HOME,
- Implementation of the ConnectGreen project, how to actively involve Ukraine and Poland in the project implementation?;
- Discussion on the EUSDR PA6 Biodiversity study on Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region;
- Discussion on the next meetings

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Meetings in the framework of activities towards achieving the International Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Management for the Carpathian Populations of Large Carnivores:
 - Organizing the next WG Biodiversity meeting, potentially combine with EUSDR PA2 workshop kindly offered by the Czech Republic;
 - Organizing a workshop on harmonization of monitoring of Large Carnivores in the region, kindly offer by EUROLARGEARNIVORES project in October/November 2019;
- Implementing CentralParks project, if successful;
- Submitting the project proposal on wildlife crime to ISP funding line of DG HOME;
- Providing comments to the EUSDR PA6 Biodiversity study on Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region;
- Organizing the Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas within the ConnectGreen project at the beginning of 2021.

Spatial development

- ***Activities related to the local administrative units within which the Parties implement the Convention and its Protocols***

The Secretariat has published information about the administrative units where the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols are being implemented on the [Carpathian Convention website](#).

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on further dissemination of the information, including to local and regional stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the region;
- Discussion on the workshop on financial programmes by the WG Spatial Development.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Organizing a workshop on access to financial instruments for the Carpathian region (see the para on Cooperation with the EU);

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

➤ Cooperation with ICPDR, including the Tisza River

The Secretariat has continued regular exchange of information with the ICPDR, as well as participated and support with its expertise the meeting of the JoinTisza project. The Secretariat joined the JoinTisza team Plastic Cup race aiming at cleaning the Tisza River from the waste pollution (mentioned at the Implementation of the CC section).

Romania at the meeting of the East European Group requested the UN Environment to provide a focal point for ICPDR in Vienna.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on possible enhanced cooperation with the ICPDR/Tisza Group with a special focus on climate change adaptation, agriculture, water nexus.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Exploring cooperation possibilities with ICPDR on adaptation to climate change;
- Drafting a letter appointing the UN Environment focal point to ICPDR in Vienna.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development

➤ Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

The Secretariat with the great support of the Agency for Mountain Areas (AZM, Romania), the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture of Romania and EUROMONTANA, organized the fourth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, held in Vatra Dornei, Romania, 27 September 2018.

The WG SARD meeting was organized in frame of the XI European Mountain Convention on “Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development of Mountain areas” held on 25 - 27 September 2018 in Vatra Dornei.

Bearing in mind that it was the first meeting of this Working Group after the adoption of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (Lillafüred 2017), the meeting aimed at initiating discussion on priority topics for the implantation of the SARD Protocol following the COP5 Decisions, which requested the WG SARD to prepare and prioritize strategic actions taking into account the provisions of the SARD Protocol (COP5/7 para 2). Therefore, the Parties were invited to present national best practices of the mountain farming/farming in the Carpathians, which could be transferred to other mountain areas but also could serve as a source of inspiration for activities at the Carpathian scale. Furthermore, the Secretariat asked to propose priority topics relevant for the SARD Protocol implementation facilitating the discussion during the meeting.

During the discussion on the priority topics for implementation of the SARD Protocol the following topics were proposed by the Parties:

- Elaboration of a database on agriculture in the Carpathians (structure of land use). The Secretariat will analyze the already existing reports and documents, which could be useful in respect of the database creation;
- Preparation of a list of the biggest problems in the field of agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian area that the Parties are facing. Based on the inputs from all the Parties, the WG SARD will be able to identify common problems;
- Better involvement of local stakeholders in the Agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) in a form of a specific Operational Group or Thematic Network within the EIP-AGRI;
- Closer cooperation of the WG SARD with the WG Climate Change;
- Promotion of organic production;
- Strengthening development of local products;
- Common presentation of local products at the big fairs or conferences;
- Better understanding of farming systems in the Carpathian countries, what is the level of sustainability of these systems, which would be particularly relevant for local product;
- Need for strengthening cooperation between the Carpathian farmers; elaboration of guidelines on ways and means for a better cooperation between the farmers, best practice exchange;
- Farmers associations should be strengthened as well e.g. through advisory services;
- Better understanding better of the management status of meadows and pastures;
- Identification of good practices on innovation in agri sector;
- Better promotion of the extensive farming;
- Workshop on local breeds of local animals / common approach on agrobiodiversity.

Above topics have been arranged in a table format corresponding to the provisions of the SARD Protocol. The draft table – Towards Implementation of the SARD Protocol is available online (Doc.6), with the recent comments by Hungary.

During the WG SARD meeting, Eurac Research, presented a Horizon 2020 project idea on Mountain Value Chains providing private and public goods resilient to climate change and other future challenges.

The overall objective of the Mountain Values project is to prepare mountain value chains for the future challenges through changes of climate, ecology, demography, policy, and socio-economic context. The project provides approaches for supportive policies at EU, national and regional level, and identifies possible value chain development strategies to deliver private and public goods in the coming decades. In order to arrive at targeted solutions, the project will work closely with selected case studies/value chains, which of primary production take place in mountain areas, as well further processing and thus also the creation of value takes place as long as possible in the mountain area. Currently possible case studies are being collected and it brings an opportunity to include a few case studies from the Carpathians.

The Parties were requested to consider this possibility and suggest potential case studies from their countries. More information about the selection criteria for case studies were shared with the WG SARD and the Focal Points by the Secretariat.

Recommendation by the WG SARD:

1. The Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development – need for smooth ratification processes by the Parties giving a strong mandate for the implementation activities.
2. Next meeting of the WG SARD – Secretariat remains open for receiving offers to host the next meeting/s.
3. EEA sharing information on HNV farmland.
4. Mountain Value Chain Horizon 2020 project – identification of the case studies on value chain in the Carpathians. The Secretariat will send a separate email with more information including the selection criteria for the case studies.
5. Secretariat will analyze already existing documents and report relevant for agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians, including the Background paper substantiating the decision on the elaboration of the SARD Protocol.
6. Elaboration of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and Euromontana to be signed at the COP6 in 2020. The first draft will be prepared by the Secretariat and consulted with the WG SARD.
7. Preparation of a matrix/table linking the discussed ideas for the implementation with the Articles of the SARD Protocol (Toward implementation of the SARD Protocol).
8. Further discussion on the Priority Actions to be linked to the Background paper and potentially presented/adopted at the COP6 in 2020.

Full WG SARD meeting report is available online (Doc.7)

Carpathian session - *The Role of local products in agritourism: a Carpathian approach for sustainable rural areas* - has been organized on November 7th and 8th during the [Congress on Agritourism](#) in Bolzano, Italy (November 7-9, 2018). During the first part of interactive session, followed by a framework setting presentation of the Carpathian Convention, participants from various Carpathian countries, representing different aspects of the Agritourism sector (practitioners and researchers, as well as participants involved in governance) presented information about the main challenges of agritourism development in the Carpathians.

During the second part the results of the discussion have been presented, and information about Forum Carpaticum 2018, and specifically its aspects linked with Agritourism have been presented, followed by a scientific presentation focused on potential for agritourism development in Hungary. In addition to presentations focused on the Carpathians, case studies from other countries have been shared, which resulted in an international exchange on good examples and challenges in the field of agritourism.

An important observation from the global Agritourism congress was that the unique feature of the Carpathian region is that small scale farms are dominating in the Carpathian countries, as opposed to many other countries and regions, where large scale agricultural production is more dominant. This positions the Carpathians as a region with unique potential for sustainable agritourism initiatives. However, one of the challenges is the lack of cooperation among actors in the Carpathian region. The good example from Austria and Italy demonstrated the importance of strong associations promoting and supporting farmers in agritourism development.

Online are available the abstract of the Carpathian Session (Doc.8) and a short summery (Doc.9)

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on implementation of the SARD Protocol and consideration of strategic priorities actions, consideration of the table Towards implementation of the SARD Protocol;
- Consideration of the WG SARD recommendations;
- Discussion on a next meeting of the WG SARD.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Contributing to the Horizon 2020 project proposal on Mountain Value Chains, including the case studies from the Carpathians;
- Organizing next WG SARD meeting to prioritize concrete strategic action/s for implementation of the SARD Protocol;
- Seeking proactive cooperation with FAO on implementation of the SARD Protocol.

Sustainable forest management

- ***Finalization of the inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathians***

Due to the total or partial lack of feedback from some of the countries, the revision of the Inventory of Virgin Forest is incomplete and will need to be finalized next year. The outlook of the current update status is given in Table 1: The revision is complete for Czech Republic and Slovakia and Hungary, only partial for Ukraine and Poland while no feedback has been provided by Romania and Serbia.

| Country | Forest Type Harmonization | Tabular Data | |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| CZ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| HU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| PL | ✓ | ✓ | |
| RO | ✗ | ✗ | Legend ✓ Complete ✓ Partial ✗ None |
| RS | ✗ | ✗ | |
| SK | ✓ | ✓ | |
| UA | ✗ | ✓ | |

Table 1: Current status of the revision of the official Virgin Forest Inventory

For more information please refer to the report on the recent work supporting the WG forest prepared by the European Environment Agency and the European Topic Center on Urban, Land and Soil system (Doc. 10).

The Secretariat received a request from the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry to support organization of an international workshop on forest transport issues in the Carpathians with exchange with other countries, in particular Austria.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on finalization of the Inventory of the Virgin Forest,
- Discussion on activities related to natural forest in the Carpathians;
- Strengthening cooperation with the WG Climate Change;
- Discussion on activities preventing illegal logging in the Carpathians;
- Discussion on the workshop on forest transport issues in the Carpathians;
- Discussion on next meeting of the WG Forest.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Organizing the WG Forest meeting specifically dedicated to the Inventory of the Virgin Forest and its finalization;
- Exploring financial possibilities for preparation of a workshop on forest transport issues;
- Seeking proactive cooperation with FAO on implementation of the SARD Protocol.

Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy

➤ Implementation of the Transport Protocol

After successful ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport (Transport Protocol) by Slovakia Ukraine and Poland, also Serbia met all the national requirements for ratification of the Transport Protocol, becoming the fourth Party to the Protocol required for its entry into force. Exact date of entry into force shall be announced shortly by the Depository. Please see the Status of signature and ratification of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention (Doc. 11).

In cooperation with TRANSGREEN project partners and Eurac Research, the Secretariat organized the Eight Meeting of the Working group on Sustainable Transport, back to back to the IENE (Infra Eco Network Europe) Workshop on Sustainable Transportation in the Carpathian Convention frame. The event took place in Budapest, Hungary on 16-17 May 2018. The Workshop objective was to create a forum for national and international researchers, ecologists, engineers and environmentalists, thus finding an opportunity for communication and reviewing successful and less successful solutions for the target problem. The findings of the workshop were reported during the Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport, which aimed at implementing Article 8 “Sustainable Transport and infrastructure” of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol on Sustainable Transport, developed in cooperation with Eurac Research within Access2Mountain project. In relation to this, a result of the WG meeting was the discussion on and the development of a first draft of the Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathians. Eurac Research is involved in the development of the Action Plan, based on subcontract by the Slovak TRANSGREEN partner SPECTRA (Centre of Excellence of EU – Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava). Meeting Report is available online (Doc. 12).

The Secretariat, as agreed with the WG participants, circulated a draft structure of the Transport Strategic Action Plan, developed with the support of the TRANSGREEN partnership and Eurac Research, before the TRANSGREEN Mid-Term Conference, planned for the beginning of September in Bratislava Slovakia. The draft Transport Strategic Action Plan is available online (Doc. 13).

The TRANSGREEN Mid-Term Conference was finally held back to back to the WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, WG on Biodiversity and WG on Spatial Development, in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 5-6 September. The Conference was organized by the TRANSGREEN project partners, Eurac Research and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. Full meeting report is available online (Doc. 14).

László Sólymos, Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic, opened the Conference emphasizing the needs for a responsible approach and for cooperation of different sectors and stakeholders. He highlighted the importance of the TRANSGREEN project as well as the conference, and pointed out the Ministry of Environment to play an important role in transport infrastructure development.

The two-days event was conceived as a conference including collaborative workshops and a world café session aiming at bringing together cross-sectoral perspectives on the current research and policy recommendations in the field of integrated transport infrastructure development, which take nature conservation into account. The Conference objective were the following:

- To learn about recent developments in the Carpathians and to raise awareness on the need for cross-sectoral approaches on sustainable transportation infrastructure development and planning in the Carpathians,
- To gain feedback on preliminary findings of the TRANSGREEN project for better integration of stakeholders' needs in the documents to be developed,
- To prepare the basic background for elaborating the Carpathian Convention Strategic Action Plan on Sustainable Transportation (Transport SAP) in the Carpathians during a world café session with members of different Carpathian Convention WGs,

Around 90 participants from 10 countries in Europe and different fields of experience gathered in Bratislava to connect to the current developments of the TRANSGREEN project and to contribute to the fruitful discussions during the workshops and the world café. The world café session was organized with the support of Eurac Research. Six different tables, each referring to a specific objective of the draft Transport SAP, chaired by a rapporteur, were prepared. The world café approach allowed each participant to provide their point of view, interests and knowledge on each objective and related actions. The discussions in the six tables revised the proposed six objectives and the general actions for the Carpathian area indicated in the Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan (SAP) draft, by collecting ideas, critics and valuable inputs for their improvement. At the end of the six rounds, rapporteurs were then asked, in a plenary session, to provide an overview about the main inputs received. The inputs received have been further elaborated by Eurac Research and SPECTRA, with the support of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, to provide a revised version of the draft Transport SAP. The content of the draft Transport SAP was planned to be further discussed with the Carpathian Convention National Focal Points during the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC), to be held on 17-18 December 2018 in Vienna. Another important opportunity to work and finalize the Sustainable Transport SAP will be during the 9th CC Transport Working Group meeting, to be held in spring 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. In case of successful negotiation process, the Carpathian Countries are expected to adopt the Transport SAP during the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2020 in Poland. The TRANSGREEN project results will be presented during the Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN Project, to be held on 25th June 2019 in Bucharest, Romania under the EUSDR Romanian Presidency.

Summarizing the next steps for the TRANSGREEN implementation by the Carpathian Convention:

- the draft the Carpathian Convention Strategic Action Plan on Sustainable Transport is up for comments - Carpathian Convention Focal Points, WG Transport and others are encouraged to provide feedback;

- Draft Guidelines how to minimize impact of transport infrastructure development on nature in the Carpathian countries" will be sent for review for CCIC and WG Transport. The Ministry of Environment of Romania is willing to support the adoption of the Guidelines at the Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project;
- Catalogue of Measures for all 4 pilot areas in the TRANSGREEN project are expected to be ready by January 2019;
- Cross-border meetings will be held in spring 2019 in CZ, HU, RO, SK, UA. The project team is ready to travel to Poland and Serbia to present results for experience sharing.
- There is a need to support promoting the above-mentioned documents towards policy makers, planners and implementers once they are finalized.

The CCIC and the WG Transport are welcome to join the Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project in Bucharest on 25 June 2018 and to engage as speakers, moderators, etc.

The Secretariat supported development of a project proposal on "Strengthening Capacity building on Sustainable Transport for Ecology and People" – STEP, which was submitted to the first call of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation (submitted June 2018). STEP project SCC will share its extensive experience and key role in facilitating transboundary cooperation both among the stakeholders from countries of the Carpathian region, and with other European regions. The project will largely benefit from utilizing the regional cooperation network coordinated by SCC, and its official communication channels with the Governments and the EU. SCC will give the appropriate support on a strategic level transferring experience and participating in the following responsibilities of the project:

1. Organization of two official meetings of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention
2. Organization of a small conference/side event on sustainable transport and infrastructure in the Carpathians during the Mid-term conference of the project.
3. Provide general substantive support and international promotion of the three Conferences of the project
4. Promotion of the project at the international relevant events and dissemination of the project results
5. Participation or providing a Carpathian Convention expert in selected project's meetings
6. Participation in selected working groups concerning the specific Themes of Interest in the Transport Ecology Training Packages as, a) policy, b) Stakeholders' involvement through communication

Furthermore, SCC will facilitate uptake of project results to the policy level and mainstreaming project outcomes into the planned future follow-up project applications.

Duration: 4 years

List of project partners:

1. Asociația Zarand, Romania Lead partner
2. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY, Greece
3. Black SeaNGO Network,
4. Black Sea Branch of Ukrainian Environmental Academy of Science, Ukraine
5. Liga para a Protecção da Natureza, Portugal
6. Danube-Carpathian Programme, Ukraine
7. Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungary

8. Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
9. Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic
10. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia Beneficiary
11. Transport Research Centre, Czech Republic
12. EGNATIA ODOS S.A., Greece Beneficiary
13. National Motorway Company, Slovakia
14. WWF International Danube-Carpathian, Austria
15. Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Austria
16. Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway
17. Waardenburg B.V., Netherlands
18. UN Environment Vienna Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
19. Infra Eco Network
20. Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Environment Agency Austria)

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on implementation of the TRANSGRREN project

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Finalizing the Carpathian Convention Strategic Action Plan on Sustainable Transport by spring 2019;
- Circulating of the final version of the TRANSGREEN Guidelines on integrated transport infrastructure development for collecting the Parties' feedback;
- Organizing a cross-border meetings will be held in spring 2019 in CZ, HU, RO, SK, UA and sharing experience with Poland and Serbia;
- Promoting the above-mentioned documents towards policy makers, planners and implementers once they are finalized;
- Organizing the 9th CC Transport Working Group meeting, to be held in spring 2019 in Budapest, Hungary;
- Organizing Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project in Bucharest on 25 June 2018 under the EUSDR Romanian Presidency;
- If successfully approved to the second stage, further developing the STEP project proposal.

Sustainable tourism

- ***Implementation of the Tourism Protocol and the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians***

Meeting of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Centres (CSTC) took place on 25 – 26 January 2018 in Bratislava in order to discuss, among others, the joint work programme and indicators for the 3 CSTCs 2018-2020 and joint report format to the WG Tourism and CCIC. Minutes of the meeting are available online (Doc 18).

The Secretariat is expecting to receive a report on the progress and undertaken activities by the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform, which will be then submitted to the WG Tourism and CCIC.

Main discussion points:

- Consideration of the Interim Report on the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform activities, discussion on further activities;

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

- ***Further priorities of the WG Cultural Heritage***

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, with a generous support and hospitality of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, organized the fifth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge (WG Cultural Heritage), held in Szentendre Open Air Museum (Skanzen) and Budapest, Hungary, 4 – 5 April 2018.

The Parties were invited to deliver presentations focused on the Carpathian cultural heritage specific for their countries, including sites/objects/practices/examples of tangible and intangible cultural heritage they would like to promote, especially in consideration of sustainable tourism development, including possibilities for regional/trans-border cooperation activities. The national presentations revealed some common elements, ideas and activities like, among others, pastoralism, bagpiping traditions, cultural routes, vernacular architecture and the necessity to actively involve local and regional stakeholders in the cultural heritage activities.

Following the discussion on potential development of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, it was agreed that together with the meeting report the Secretariat circulates a zero draft of the Protocol asking the Parties for feedback by June 15, 2018. The Secretariat underlined that a strong leading country will strengthen the process. The WG Cultural Heritage should have made suggestions for decisions making by the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, however, until now not all the Parties have submitted comments/positions regarding the development of the Protocol. The zero draft of the Protocol is available online (Doc. 15).

Furthermore, during the WG Cultural Heritage meeting, the Czech Republic volunteered to undertake one of the tasks as set out in the Road Map from 2014 (Doc. 16) to achieve the objectives of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, namely to *Prepare, maintain and update a list of relevant institutions from all the Parties*. For this purpose, the Czech Republic prepared and circulated a template for collecting information on relevant Carpathian institutions and stakeholders in the field of Cultural Heritage. The information may be provided through a google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/J6GM73KqLLWNqv3u2>

The complete list will then be available on this website: <https://goo.gl/haehFj>

Meantime, the Secretariat supported development of the project proposal on exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage – “Carpathian Region” submitted to the first call of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation (submitted June 2018). The project involves partners from all the Carpathian countries, under lead of the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland.

The main objective is to foster the sustainable socio-economic development of the Carpathian mountain region, by implementing common innovative solutions to shared European challenges



related to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage. Proposed measures include capacity building activities, promote exchange of good practice and sharing knowledge. The project shall strengthen existing and initiate new cooperation networks, enhance regional cross-border cooperation between seven Beneficiary States (incl. five EU MSs and two non-EU countries) being Parties to the Carpathian Convention, and their transnational cooperation with the two Donor States (Norway and Liechtenstein). The cross-sectoral project partnership consortium involves the public administration entities (self-governments), museums and academia, civil/NGO and private business sectors. Cooperation under the Convention provides for worldwide visibility of project outcomes, transfer and replication in other mountain regions (e.g. Alps and Balkans), and enhanced sustainability due to uptake to the policy level, and implementation in a long-term perspective. The project has high potential for up-scaling under future joint applications to EU programmes, shall prepare and pave the way for the planned “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification(<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/certification>), to which the project title refers.

The main expected project results are the enhanced joint management and safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the shared Carpathian region, and improved transnational policy coordination between involved beneficiary countries. The project will reconcile heritage conservation and local economic development, raise support for conservation activities, and encourage the use of best available European practices in cultural resources management for sustainable local development. Regional transboundary and transnational cooperation enhanced by the project will allow networking, exchange of information and knowledge, transfer of know-how and experience, capacity building and improved cultural heritage management capacities. The project shall support the development of cultural tourism, by inventorying existing and designing new cultural heritage routes, as well as the revival of vanishing traditional occupations and crafts, by promoting traditional local products. Overall, it will produce several thematic workshops and related handbooks and compendium of best practices, study visits to Norway and to the Alps, project’s conferences, a Carpathian Cultural Route Guidebook, and the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory. Furthermore, it will lay foundation for obtaining the certification of the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in the future. The project proposal envisages also support for development of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, which implementation will guarantee the sustainability of the project.

The results of the evaluation process have been delayed the EEA and Norway Grants Fund due to the big number of application, the Fund Operator shall inform the applicants about invitation to the second stage/final stage of application by the end of the year or early January 2019.

Proposed project duration: 3,5 years

Project partners (tbc):

1. Marshal’s Office of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland (Lead Partner)
2. Wallachian Open Air Museum, Czech Republic
3. Humtour LLC, Hungary
4. Brasov County Council, Romania
5. Homeland Museum of Knjaževac, Republic of Serbia
6. The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Republic
7. International Charitable Organisation Information Center "Green Dossier" / Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians NAS of Ukraine
8. UN Environment Vienna Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Austria (expertise partner)
9. GRID-Arendal , Norway (expertise partner)
10. CIPRA International, Liechtenstein (expertise partner)

Project Steering Committee:
The Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of the Carpathian Convention

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on possible development of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge;
- Discussion on promotion of the World Heritage Sites in the Carpathians;
- Discussion on next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage meeting.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- If successfully approved to the second stage, further developing of the Carpathian Route project proposal;
- Organizing next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage.

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

- **Activities related to implementation of the Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Secretariat together with WWF and EEA is planning to further develop and improve the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) with support of the TRANSGREEN and ConnectGREEN projects and possible other future projects.

The Secretariat, continue cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) with operational priorities focused on forests, climate change adaptation, biodiversity and ecological connectivity and there is a strong interest in further developing of the common activities.

The 5th Forum Carpaticum conference took place on 15-18 October 2018 in Eger, Hungary, covering a wide range of topics related to sustainability in the Carpathians, including land cover and land-use change, renewable energy, climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation, and connections between water and forests. The breadth of topics extends to the humanities, such as traditional ecological knowledge, spatial inequalities, and social innovation in mountain areas.

In conjunction with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the 5th Forum Carpaticum specially highlighted topics on biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism development and education for sustainable development (ESD).

The Secretariat strongly supported organization of the FC2018 by obtaining funds from the Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) provided by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany. The project titled "Integrating nature

protection and sustainable tourism development into the Carpathian region via science-policy-practice interface” supported integrating the results from the previous CC work on sustainable tourism development and biodiversity protection into a comprehensive follow-up in the Carpathians, via strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and transdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development, as well as building synergies among the researchers and practitioners. Specifically, the project supported participation of young scientists, social and interdisciplinary scientists and practitioners who could especially benefit from these approaches and also facilitate their integration in the Carpathian region.

Moreover, synergies between S4C and other science-policy-practice interface networks and initiatives in the field of sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation were supported, at the Agritourism Congress10, held in Bolzano in November 2018.

Science of the Carpathians (S4C) will present results of the last Forum Carpaticum during the upcoming CCIC meeting in Vienna. More information about the Forum Carpaticum 2016 can be found on the FC2018 website.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on follow up on the activities and support from the Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) provided by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany
- Discussion on further EEA support to the Carpathian Convention activities;
- Discussion on further development of CIBIS

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Continuing successful cooperation with EEA
- Integrating CIBIS into the Carpathian Mountain Information System

Climate Change

- ***Implementation of the Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention on climate change***

The Secretariat continued cooperation with EEA on the development of a Carpathian webpage under the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT), which is the European Commission initiative aiming to support Europe in adapting to climate change by providing/sharing available information on the topic. The WG Climate Change support the Secretariat in collecting relevant information on the activities and projects in the Carpathians. Secretariat is currently discussion with EEA finalization on the Carpathian webpage on Climate-ADAPT.

The Secretariat and Eurac Research contributed to the development of the European Environment Agency “Technical Paper on Adaptation in European Transnational regions”, to be published at the end of 2018. In this context, they were responsible for the development of the paragraphs on the Central Europe and Danube Regions and the Carpathian Convention, in cooperation with the

colleagues of the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation of EEA. The Secretariat took also part in the 'EIONET Workshop on 'Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation', organized by EEA on 5-7 June 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The aim of the meeting was to discuss with EEA and EIONET Focal Points about future activities and initiatives on Climate Change.

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on implementation of the Article 12bis and ratification of the new Article by the Parties;
- Consideration of the ICPDR updated study on adaptation to climate change;
- Discussion on next meeting of the WG Climate Change.

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Exploring possibility of organizing a joint workshop on adaptation to climate change with ICPDR.

Awareness raising, education and public participation

- Activities related to implementation of the Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

Following the COP5 Decisions, Hungary kindly offer to organize a seminar in 2019 on the issues on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools with the aim of exchanging best practices in the Carpathian region and exploring of further cooperation. More information about the workshop will be shared with the Parties in due course.

There is an opportunity to broaden up the seminar and consider it as an opening for better recognition of the education, especially ESD, in the Carpathian Convention's agenda. This idea comes from the workshop on Education for Science & Society in the Carpathians, which was organized with support of the Secretariat at the Forum Carpaticum 2018.

The workshop invited participants to present their education, awareness raising projects and examples of good practice aimed at building bridges between the scientific community and other stakeholders of the society within the Carpathians in order to find common solution for the sustainability challenges the region faces. The main focus of the workshop was: How could citizens contribute to scientific research on sustainability issues? How could scientific results help local communities to find sustainable solution for their environmental challenges? The format of this session allowed more time for discussion and exchange of experiences.

The following draft recommendation for the Carpathian Convention has been made:

1. Promote cross-sectoral cooperation between mountain regions (also outside Carpathians - lessons learnt in the Caucasus or the Alps and exchange of ideas can be very important and effective)

2. Promote projects focused on teacher education (teachers are neglected, major vectors of knowledge and ESD - supporting teachers is a more cost and time-efficient and also more realistic way of improving efficiency of ESD at local and regional levels and in local and regional contexts)
3. Enhance/ channel communication between stakeholders and science community
4. Support education
 - a. formally through communication with the ministries of education (to emphasize the importance of mountain and help adapting curricula to new markets)
 - b. coordinate/build data base with information about projects
 - c. require scientific assessments of the effects of supported education projects (ideally long-term but this can be very difficult to achieve in reality)
 - d. support/develop Carpathian MS programme in sustainable mountain development, organization of a summer school
 - e. establish CC working group in education influencing ESD policy, and enhancing communication with the Convention
 - f. support scientific study of ESD in Carpathian countries (starting with comparison of curricula throughout the education system)
5. Strong message from the S4C and stakeholders regarding the better consideration of the education, especially ESD, in the Carpathian Convention's agenda
6. Promotion of the Presidency's workshop in 2019 focusing on exchanges on kindergarten and school education practices. To consider organization of an informal/formal meeting of the CC WG Education, in the margins of the workshop

Main discussion points:

- Discussion on the seminar on the issues on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools; proposal by the Hungarian Presidency
- Considerations of the recommendations by the S4C on ESD

Actions to be undertaken/CCIC recommendations:

- Co-organizing education workshop in Hungary in 2019