

FINAL Meeting Report

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
5th Meeting
4 – 5 April 2018, Szentendre Skanzen and Budapest, Hungary

Visit to the Hungarian Open Air Museum and opening of the meeting

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 (see full list of participants in Appendix 1).

The WG Cultural Heritage meeting started with a visit to the Hungarian Open Air Museum where the meeting participants could get familiar with the folk architecture, old household objects of Hungary's different regions. The visit was kindly organized by Ms. Eszter Csonka-Takács, director of the Directorate of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, in the Hungarian Open Air Museum, Szentendre.

Opening of the 1st session on of the WG meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The official part of the meeting was opened by Dr. Zsolt Sári, the deputy director of the Hungarian Open Air Museum, and the chair of the meeting, Ms. Anna Vágási-Kovács, representative of the Prime Minister's Office of Hungary also giving the greetings of Dr. Csaba Latorcai deputy state secretariat to the Parties' representatives. Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the UN Environment Vienna Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, also gave opening remarks underlining the need of promoting cultural heritage for local and regional development.

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted without any changes.

Round of presentations of the Parties' national cultural heritage in the Carpathians

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. All the national presentations are available on the Carpathian Convention website/WG Cultural Heritage¹. 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.

Consultations on the project “Carpathian Cultural Heritage in Wetlands”

Ján Kadlečík presented the results of the first rapid inventory of cultural values in wetlands of the Carpathian countries, coordinated by the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) supported by the MAVFA Foundation through the Ramsar Convention Secretariat's project “Conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in wetlands:

¹ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-cultural-heritage/events/fifth-meeting-of-the-wg-cultural-heritage-and-traditional-knowledge.html>

Global leadership for an integrated approach through the Ramsar Convention"², as well as the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and relevant Ministries and organisations of five Carpathian countries.

An electronic brochure on Carpathian cultural heritage in wetlands, compiling baseline information on wetland cultural heritage for Slovakia and Ukraine, as well as for parts of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Serbia, is available at http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian_cultural_heritage_in_wetlands.pdf.

The WG members and experts are invited to make comments and expand the study with additional information using a questionnaire available at the CWI website (<http://www.cwi.sk/index.php?page=projects>). The comments, proposals and information with photographs and maps should be sent to the CWI coordinator (jan.kadlecik@soprsr.sk).

The information collected will support both the conservation of the cultural heritage of Carpathian wetlands and its integration into the management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, as well as will support development of sustainable tourism in the region.

Presentation of the CARPATHIAN TOURISM project and its follow up

Ms. Agnes Szabó-Diószeghy coordinator of the CARPATHIAN TOURISM project³, which was developed under the Visegrad Fund with the support of the Secretariat, presented the project and its follow up idea. Ms. Szabó-Diószeghy shared the experiences gained while implementing the Carpathian Tourism project, which among others, are related to organization of workshops providing pragmatic marketing and tourism knowledge to rural tourism entrepreneurs in the Carpathians, involving also local craftsman. Presentation and contact details of Ms. Szabó-Diószeghy are available on the Carpathian Convention website⁴.

Identification of priorities for the implementation of the Article 11. of the Carpathian Convention, including the possibility of the development of a redrafted Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge – discussion.

The discussion started with analyzing the document *Road Map to achieve the objectives of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention*, which was adopted by the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP4) in 2014. Since none of the tasks of the Road Map has been achieved so far, the Working Group decided to review all of them and potentially set new deadlines and identify countries leading particular activities.

Task 1 of the Road Map refers to the preparation of the Draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge. The Parties were asked to present their opinion in this respect.

Czech Republic: In the opinion of the Czech Republic, the role of a possible protocol in the implementation of Article 11 is limited and cannot replace activities needed at local and regional level. Moreover, it takes many years for a protocol to be negotiated, adopted and to enter into force, while Parties should not postpone the implementation of Article 11 any further. Czech Republic is of the view that elaboration of a protocol has very limited value without other activities being undertaken in parallel.

It also emphasized the need to take into account the experience gained from other Protocols to the Convention. As shows the example of Sustainable Transport and the TRANSGREEN project, significant work in relevant field can be done even without the Protocol being in force. On the other hand, in other areas, such as Sustainable

² <https://www.ramsar.org/nine-regional-projects-celebrate-the-links-between-culture-and-wetlands>

³ <http://carpathiantourism.humtour.com/>

⁴ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-cultural-heritage/events/fifth-meeting-of-the-wg-cultural-heritage-and-traditional-knowledge.html>

Agriculture, their work of the WG and the form of cooperation among Parties in recent years focused only on the elaboration of a protocol.

In addition, the preliminary conclusions from the analysis of the first National Reports on the Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol admit that all measures related to Biodiversity were implemented under other legal and policy instruments than the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol. Therefore, the added value of the Protocol cannot even be distinguished. Thus, the Czech Republic sees any protocol only as a possible political instrument of supporting concrete activities of cooperation of Parties in relevant field. Its added value has to be clear in advance and based on proper analysis of its benefits, regulatory impact, as well as human and financial resources required for its implementation.

Hungary stressed the need for implementation of the Road Map and the importance of the development and finalization of the Protocol in parallel, which will be a basis for cooperation and strengthening the implementation of Article 11 of the Convention.

Poland underlined that a Protocol to the Carpathian Convention will be highly important for the local communities, local and regional development, and for awareness raising processes. At the same time, Poland mentioned that very complex nature of the Protocol, which requires involvement of sectors other than culture in the consultation process, will make the development process challenging, so timely action and a stringent planning of the process will be required.

Romania – an open question is the development of the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory (one of the tasks deriving from the Protocol). Due to the large area of the Carpathians within the country, it may require a lot of time and specialists involved in this task, so the consideration and adaptation of the planned inventory to the needs and possibilities of the countries involved will be required. Romania also noted that there is already an adopted Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians, which can be a help at this point.

Slovakia underlined the implementation of the Article 11 of the Convention will be easier with the Protocol, ensuring cooperation between the Ministries, a good tool for cooperation and awareness raising. Slovakia asked if there is a possibility to extend the scope of application of the Protocol to additional parts of a country's national territory.

Secretariat intervention – according to Article 1. para 2 of the Convention, each Party may extend the application of the Convention or its Protocols to additional parts of its national territory (and each Protocol also contains such a provision at the Protocol level).

Serbia – emphasized that the WG Cultural Heritage should lobby for the Protocol in order to receive support for its development and proper visibility. Local stakeholders should be more involved in the process and other WG activities, like project's development. Serbia suggested to link activities WG Cultural Heritage with the WG Tourism, which was well received by the coordinator of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform present at the meeting, Ms. Alina Szasz.

Concluding the discussion on the Protocol, it was agreed that together with the meeting report the Secretariat will circulate a zero draft of the Protocol asking the Parties for feedback by May 31, 2018, however, **the deadline has been extended to June 15, 2018**. The Secretariat underlined that a strong leading country will strengthen the process. The WG Cultural Heritage should make suggestions for decisions making by the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, to be held in December 2018.

Task 2 of the Road Map refers to elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan to the Protocol (SAP). The discussion about SAP shall be postponed until the process of the Protocol is cleared.

Task 3 of the Road Map - Prepare, maintain and update a list of relevant institutions from all the Parties. The Czech Republic volunteered to undertake this task. The structure of the list will be proposed by the Czech Republic and circulated to the Parties for inputs. **The Parties should fill in the table by the end of June 2018.**

Task 4 - Prepare, maintain and update a list of project ideas. Hungary volunteered to create a platform for project ideas collecting already proposed common points

Task 6 - Establish and maintain efficient communication channels – for example Yammer platform, active mailing list - among the members of the Working Group, the volunteering countries for a specific task shall report on a regular basis about their activity to the members of the WG.

For Task 7 - Ensure that all the Parties exchange information on the new/emerging funding programs and related calls, the WG Cultural Heritage has not identified specific actions, volunteers or deadlines.

Task 5 - Create and maintain a website subsection of the Cultural Heritage Working Group, the Secretariat will keep updating the subpage of the Carpathian Convention related to the activities on Cultural Heritage⁵

Task 8 - Define common criteria for definition of items to be included into a possible Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory – the Secretariat suggested the WG Cultural Heritage to send **comments on the possible creation of the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory**, including ideas for categories included in there, together with the comments to the zero draft Protocol, i.e. **June 15, 2018.**

The Secretariat presented a financial programme and related call for projects, which could be suitable for the activities on cultural heritage in the Carpathian region. The Secretariat stressed that the project development gives an ideal opportunity to start implementation of the Article 11 of the Convention, while elaborating the Protocol, which will give a framework for strengthening cooperation and awareness raising on many levels. **The Secretariat will shortly share with the WG Cultural Heritage a concept of the project idea asking for comments and further support. Working title of the project idea could be “Via Carpatica – an imaginary route to explore the richness of the cultural heritage of the Carpathian Region”.**

Next steps

Ms. Alina Szasz, coordinator of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform, suggested organization of the next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage together with the WG Tourism in Romania during the first half of 2019, when Romania will hold the Presidency of the European Council. This idea shall be further explored by the Secretariat in consultation with the National Focal Points and the WG Cultural Heritage.

Action to be undertaken by the WG Cultural Heritage:

- Comments to the zero draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge by June 15, 2018 (attached to the email)
- Comments on the idea of the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory, including ideas for categories included, by June 15, 2018
- Inputs to the list of relevant institutions by June 30, 2018.
- Consultation on the project development “Via Carpatica”, as soon as possible.
- Filling in the questionnaire related to the “Carpathian Cultural Heritage in Wetlands” project

⁵ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/cultural-heritage-and-traditional-knowledge.html>