

**Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development
of the Carpathians**

The Parties to this Protocol

IN ACCORDANCE with their tasks, arising from the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Kyiv, 2003), hereinafter referred to as the “Carpathian Convention”, of pursuing a comprehensive policy and cooperating for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

IN COMPLIANCE with their obligations under Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention;

APPRECIATING the uniqueness, richness and diversity of the cultural heritage, which evolved throughout the centuries in the Carpathian region, under the influence of specific environmental conditions, in interdependence with the natural heritage, and in result of interactions and cultural exchanges between various ethnic groups;

CONVINCED that the richness and diversity of local cultures are part of the unique values of the Carpathian region, distinguishing it from other regions of Europe and the World;

NOTING that the cultural heritage of the Carpathian region, in particular its intangible manifestations, is increasingly threatened, also by social transformations and changing economic conditions, the ongoing depopulation of rural areas particularly concerning mountain areas, and globalization of culture, which can lead to its deterioration, abandonment and disappearance;

CONSIDERING the need to raise awareness of the values and importance of safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Carpathian region;

COMMITTED to preserving and promoting cultural diversity, and fostering dialogue and cooperation in the Carpathian region;

REAFFIRMING their obligations under other Protocols to the Carpathian Convention: on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, on Sustainable Forest Management, on Sustainable Tourism, and on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, being in favour of the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Carpathians;

NOTING that all Parties to this Protocol are Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985), the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000), and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 2003);

NOTING other relevant conventions and agreements, in particular the European Cultural Convention (Paris, 1954) and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 1992);

RECALLING Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 with the resulting Sustainable Development Goals, and AIMING at the achievement of the Target 11.4 by strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Council of the European Union Conclusions on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe, emphasizing that cultural heritage constitutes a powerful driving force of inclusive local and regional development, and calling on Member States to enhance cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation on cultural heritage issues with relevant stakeholders;

RECOGNIZING the experience gained in the framework of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Salzburg, 1991), and the related Declaration “Population and culture”;

AIMING at ensuring a more effective implementation of existing legal instruments, and BUILDING upon other international programmes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of the local communities and people in the Carpathians to preserving the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, and transmitting such to the next generations for their benefit, and CONVINCED that efforts to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the Carpathians require international and regional cooperation;

RESOLVED to cooperate on the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians;

Have agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I OBJECTIVES, GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Article 1

General objectives

1. In accordance with Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, the objective of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocol”) is to preserve and promote the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the local people in the Carpathians, bringing benefits to present and future generations.
2. In order to achieve the above objective, the Parties shall undertake measures, harmonise and coordinate their efforts, and cooperate especially on:
 - (a) identification and documentation of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians;
 - (b) inventory of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians;
 - (c) preservation of traditional architecture of the Carpathians;
 - (d) preservation of cultural landscapes of the Carpathians;
 - (e) preservation of traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians;
 - (f) preservation of local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians;
 - (g) sustainable traditional use of wild plants in the Carpathians;
 - (h) promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians;
 - (i) promotion of traditional local products, arts and handicrafts of the Carpathians;
 - (j) awareness raising, education and transmission of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians;
 - (k) research on the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians;
 - (l) exchange of information and experience, capacity building.

Article 2
Geographical scope

1. This Protocol applies to the Carpathian region (hereinafter referred to as “the Carpathians”), as defined by the Conference of the Parties.
2. Each Party may extend the application of this Protocol to additional parts of its territory by making a declaration to the Depositary.

Article 3
Definitions

For the purposes of this Protocol:

- (a) “Carpathian Convention” means the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, done in Kyiv on 22 May 2003;
- (b) “Conference of the Parties” means the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention;
- (c) “cultural heritage of the Carpathians” means the diversity of tangible and intangible cultural assets specific for the Carpathians, inherited from the past human generations inhabiting the Carpathians;
- (d) “cultural landscapes of the Carpathians” mean traditional landscape structures, including landscape intentionally created and maintained by men, organically evolved, associative cultural landscapes, which are specific for the Carpathian region or its particular sub-regions, in particular those containing objects of the traditional architecture of the Carpathians, or resulting from the application of the traditional land-use patterns and practices in the Carpathians;
- (e) “Carpathian Heritage” means the diversity of natural and cultural and mixed tangible and intangible assets, and their interaction;
- (f) “intangible cultural heritage of the Carpathians” means the diversity of beliefs, representations, practices, rituals, ceremonies, expressions, traditional knowledge, skills, dialects and cants, music, oral and dance traditions, as well as the accessories, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith, which are specific for the Carpathian region;
- (g) “local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians” mean breeds of livestock, poultry and other domestic animals as well as cultivars of plants which are either native to the Carpathians or have evolved in the Carpathians, adapted to the specific environmental conditions in result of long-term influence of local environmental factors and traditional agricultural practices;
- (h) “tangible cultural heritage of the Carpathians” means the diversity of tangible objects such as sacral and secular constructions, historical monuments, historic towns and towns centres, canals, routes and railways, documents, artefacts, traditional arts, local products, cultural landscapes and sacred natural sites which are specific for the Carpathian region;
- (i) “traditional architecture of the Carpathians” means urban and rural architectural arrangements, groups of buildings and architectural objects constructed with the use of traditional skills and traditional materials, following traditional architectural design patterns typical for particular sub-regions of the Carpathians;
- (j) “traditional handicrafts of the Carpathians” mean craftsmanship using traditional materials, techniques and skills, following traditional design patterns typical for particular sub-regions of the Carpathians;
- (k) “traditional knowledge of the Carpathians” constitutes part of the intangible cultural heritage of the Carpathians and means a set of information from different spheres of life which constitutes the basis of skills and practices of local people and communities inhabiting the Carpathians, inherited from the past generations;
- (l) “traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians” mean land-use patterns which are specific for the Carpathians and result from the application of the traditional knowledge of the Carpathians, in particular traditional ecological knowledge and agricultural land management practices appropriate for the specific environmental conditions, and associated with the culture and traditional lifestyle of local people and communities inhabiting the Carpathians;

- (m) “traditional local products of the Carpathians” mean products which are specific for the Carpathian region and are manufactured in the Carpathians with the use of traditional materials, techniques and skills inherited from the past generations of the local people and communities inhabiting the Carpathians, in particular traditional arts, products of local handicrafts following traditional design patterns typical for particular sub-regions of the Carpathians, and traditional local goods, including agricultural and regional cuisine products utilizing raw materials originating from the local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians, and from wild plants and animals traditionally used in the Carpathians, acquired in a sustainable manner and in accordance with the national law of particular Party;
- (n) “Party” means a Party to this Protocol;
- (o) “Preservation of cultural heritage” means undertaking measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the various aspects of the intangible cultural heritage, or ensuring the maintenance of historical, aesthetic, scientific or conservation values by the artefacts, objects and sites constituting the tangible cultural heritage; such measures include identification, documentation, research and protection, as well as revitalization of the various aspects of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;
- (p) “Promotion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge” means undertaking measures aimed at promulgation, dissemination and propagation of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

CHAPTER II GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 4

Policies aiming at preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians

Each Party shall develop and implement policies and strategies aiming at preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians while taking into consideration policies and strategies developed and implemented by other Parties.

Article 5

Integration of the objectives of preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians into sectoral policies

1. The Parties shall take into consideration the objectives of this Protocol in their other policies, in particular on rural development, agriculture, forestry, spatial planning and tourism.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on the integration of the objectives of this Protocol into other, regional or global sectoral policies which could benefit and have influence on the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.

Article 6

Participation of regional and local authorities, and other stakeholders

1. Each Party shall take measures, within its existing institutional framework, to facilitate the involvement of relevant institutions, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations, experts, and other stakeholders in the preparation of policies and implementation of resulting measures for the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall take measures, within its existing institutional framework, to facilitate coordination and cooperation between institutions, authorities and other stakeholders, with the objective to encourage shared responsibility and enhance synergies.

Article 7

Common programs and projects

The Parties shall facilitate the cooperation on the development of common programs and projects for the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians, and participate in such, accordingly to their needs and possibilities.

Article 8

International cooperation

1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation at the international level among their competent authorities, institutions and organisations, as well as enhance their cooperation with UNESCO, with regard to the preservation and promotion of the Carpathian cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.
2. The Parties shall cooperate, where appropriate, on the preparation and submission of joint applications concerning the inclusion of serial or transboundary properties into relevant UNESCO lists.

CHAPTER III

SPECIFIC MEASURES

Article 9

Identification and documentation of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures to identify the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall establish, maintain and update digital catalogues, repositories and databases concerning the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.
3. The Parties shall cooperate on harmonizing their methods of documentation to ensure the compatibility and interoperability of the catalogues, repositories and databases of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.

Article 10

Inventory of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall consider the nomination of the most valuable, unique and representative elements of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians present in its territory, for inclusion into the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on the establishment, maintenance, and updating of the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory.

Article 11

Preservation of the traditional architecture of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures to identify and catalogue objects of the traditional architecture of the Carpathians present in its territory; assess the current state, representativeness or uniqueness of these objects.
2. Each Party shall ensure the preservation of objects of the traditional architecture present in its territory and included in the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory.
3. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation and experience exchange for the preparation of common guidelines for the preservation of the objects of the traditional architecture of the Carpathians, promoting the application of traditional techniques, skills, and materials.

Article 12

Preservation of cultural landscapes of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures to identify, demarcate, and catalogue sites harbouring cultural landscapes of the Carpathians, present in its territory; assess the current state, representativeness or uniqueness of these sites.
2. Each Party shall ensure the preservation of cultural landscape sites present in its territory and included in the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory.
3. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation and experience exchange for the preparation of common guidelines for the preservation of cultural landscapes of the Carpathians, promoting the application of traditional ecological knowledge, skills and methods of landscape management which contribute to the protection of the biological diversity.
4. In case of transboundary cultural landscape sites included into the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory, the Parties concerned shall cooperate on the preservation and, if necessary, restoration or revitalization of such landscapes, encourage transboundary cooperation on local and regional level, coordinate and harmonise their efforts and measures applied, and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape preservation, restoration or revitalization programmes.

Article 13

Preservation of the traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures to identify and catalogue traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians applied in its territory.
2. Each Party shall take measures to ensure the inclusion, where necessary and appropriate, of the objective to preserve the traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians into their relevant policies and strategies, in particular on rural development, agriculture, forestry, and spatial planning.
3. Each Party shall take measures to maintain and strengthen the interest of local communities and individual farmers in the preservation and application of the traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians, with the objective to maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in the Carpathians in a sustainable manner, in particular by promoting educational and training programmes targeted at farmers in the Carpathians.
4. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation and experience exchange for the preparation of common guidelines for the preservation of traditional land-use patterns of the Carpathians, with due regard to, and application of the traditional ecological knowledge of the local communities.

Article 14

Preservation of local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures to identify and catalogue the local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians in its territory.
2. Each Party shall take measures to ensure the inclusion, where necessary and appropriate, of the objective to preserve the local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians into their agricultural policies and strategies.
3. Each Party shall take measures to maintain and strengthen the interest of local communities and individual farmers in the preservation and sustainable use of breeds and varieties mentioned under paragraph 1., in particular by adopting economically and socially sound incentive programs and measures, and by promoting educational and training programmes targeted at farmers in the Carpathians.
4. Each Party shall ensure the preservation of the local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties included in the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory, with the objective to prevent their extinction or substantial decrease of their populations.
5. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation and experience exchange for the preparation of common guidelines for the preservation of the local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties of the Carpathians.

Article 15

Sustainable traditional use of wild plants in the Carpathians

Each Party shall encourage the traditional use of wild plants in the Carpathians, compatible with nature conservation and sustainable use requirements, and promote the wider application of the related traditional knowledge.

Article 16

Promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures to promote the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians as an important asset for sustainable regional and local economic development.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on the promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.

Article 17

Promotion of the traditional local products, arts and handicrafts of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures with the objective to promote the traditional local products, arts and handicrafts of the Carpathians.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on developing, adopting and implementing the common policy and measures for the promotion, labelling, and certification of traditional local products of the Carpathians, local producers, local creators, craftsmen, and their networks.

Article 18

Awareness raising, education and transmission of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians

1. The Parties shall take measures to raise public awareness at the local, national and international levels, of the values and importance of the preservation of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall encourage, facilitate and support the transmission of the intangible cultural heritage of the Carpathians to the future generations, inter alia by intergenerational learning activities, aimed at passing of the traditional knowledge, techniques and skills for the preservation and continuation of traditional arts, craftsmanship and vanishing occupations, as well as traditional practices related to the sustainable agriculture and forestry, and sustainable use of natural resources.

Article 19

Research on the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall facilitate scientific research undertaken in its territory with regard to the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on the coordination and harmonization of research programs and projects which are conducive to achieving the objectives of this Protocol.
3. The Parties shall facilitate common research programs and projects in the Carpathians, on the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians, in particular on the harmonization of databases, exchange and dissemination of scientific research results, in accordance with applicable legislation on intellectual property rights and personal data protection.

Article 20

Exchange of information and experience, capacity building

1. The Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information and experience, and promotion of good practice examples concerning the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on the development and strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities perceived as conducive to achieving the objectives of this Protocol, inter alia by rendering mutual technical assistance in the form of exchanges of experience and specialists in the preservation of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

CHAPTER IV IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Article 21

Implementation

1. Each Party shall undertake appropriate legal, scientific, technical and administrative measures for ensuring implementation of the provisions of this Protocol, and monitor the effectiveness of these measures.
2. Each Party shall explore the possibilities of supporting, through financial measures, the implementation of the provisions of this Protocol.
3. The Conference of the Parties shall develop and adopt the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of this Protocol, with due consideration of the necessity to support local community initiatives for the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians.

Article 22

Education, information and public awareness

1. The Parties shall promote the education, information and awareness rising of the public regarding the objectives, measures and implementation of this Protocol.
2. The Parties shall ensure access of the public to the information related to the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 23

Meeting of the Parties

1. The Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention shall serve as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
2. The Parties to the Carpathian Convention that are not Parties to this Protocol may participate as observers in the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, decisions under this Protocol shall be taken only by those that are Parties to it.
3. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, any member of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing a Party to the Convention but, at that time, not a Party to this Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to this Protocol.
4. The Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meeting of the Parties, except as may be otherwise decided by consensus by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
5. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be convened by the Secretariat in conjunction with the first meeting of the Conference

of the Parties that is scheduled after the date of the entry into force of this Protocol. Subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.

6. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall make, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Protocol and shall:
 - (a) make recommendations on any matters necessary for the implementation of this Protocol;
 - (b) establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Protocol;
 - (c) consider and adopt, as required, amendments to this Protocol that are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Protocol; and
 - (d) exercise such other functions as may be required for the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 24

Secretariat

1. The Secretariat established by Article 15 of the Carpathian Convention shall serve as the Secretariat of this Protocol.
2. Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Carpathian Convention on the functions of the Secretariat shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to this Protocol.

Article 25

Subsidiary bodies

1. Any subsidiary body established by or under the Carpathian Convention may, upon a decision by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, serve the Protocol, in which case the meeting of the Parties shall specify which functions that body shall exercise.
2. Parties to the Carpathian Convention that are not Parties to this Protocol may participate as observers in the meetings of any such subsidiary bodies. When a subsidiary body of the Carpathian Convention serves as a subsidiary body to this Protocol, decisions under the Protocol shall be taken only by the Parties to the Protocol.
3. When a subsidiary body of the Carpathian Convention exercises its functions with regard to matters concerning this Protocol, any member of the bureau of that subsidiary body representing a Party to the Carpathian Convention but, at that time, not a Party to the Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to the Protocol.

Article 26

Monitoring of compliance with obligations

1. The Parties shall regularly report to the Conference of the Parties on measures related to this Protocol and the results of the measures taken. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the intervals and format at which the reports must be submitted.
2. Observers may present any information or report on implementation of and compliance with the provisions of this Protocol to the Conference of the Parties and/or to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Implementation Committee").
3. The Implementation Committee shall collect, assess and analyze information relevant to the implementation of this Protocol and monitor the compliance by the Parties with the provisions of this Protocol.
4. The Implementation Committee shall present to the Conference of the Parties recommendations for implementation and the necessary measures for compliance with the Protocol.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall adopt or recommend necessary measures.

Article 27

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the provisions

1. The Parties shall regularly examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the provisions of this Protocol. The Conference of the Parties may consider the adoption of appropriate amendments to this Protocol where necessary in order to achieve its objectives.
2. The Parties shall facilitate the involvement of the local authorities and other stakeholders in the process under paragraph 1.

CHAPTER V FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 28

Links between the Carpathian Convention and the Protocol

1. This Protocol constitutes a Protocol to the Carpathian Convention within the meaning of its Article 2 paragraph 3 and any other relevant articles of the Carpathian Convention.
2. The Protocol shall be open for signature at the Depository from ... to
3. The provisions of Articles 19, 20, 21 paragraphs 2 to 4 and Article 22 of the Carpathian Convention on entry into force, amendment of and withdrawal from this Protocol and on settlement of disputes shall be apply *mutatis mutandis* to this Protocol. Only a Party to the Carpathian Convention may become Party to this Protocol.

Article 29

Reservations

No reservations may be made to this Protocol.

Article 30

Depositary

The Depository of this Protocol is the Government of Ukraine.

Done at on in one original in the English language.

The original of the Protocol shall be deposited with the Depository, which shall distribute certified copies to all Parties.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol

For the Government of the Czech Republic

For the Government of Hungary

For the Government of the Republic of Poland

For the Government of Romania

For the Government of the Republic of Serbia

For the Government of the Slovak Republic

For the Government of Ukraine