

Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP)



Meeting of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Centres (CSTC)

Date: 25th January; 02:00pm until 26th January 03:00pm

Venue: Ministry for the Environment of the Slovak Republic
Namestie L. Stura 1, 81235 Bratislava
Room 404

Draft Minutes of the Meeting

1. Joint work programme and indicators for the 3 CSTCs 2018-2020

The joint work programme was agreed by the 3 CTSCs with specific tasks allocated to different CSTCs as indicated in **Annex 1** to the meeting minutes.

- CTSC Romania has agreed on all components of the work programme (General Tasks Chapter and Chapter on Country Action Plan for CSTP Romania)
- CSTC Ukraine has internally put the entire country action plan into its work programme, but remains for now with the selection of actions, which are drafted by CSTC-Romania. All actions are set by RTO Zakarpattia and need further refinement in the future
- The chapter on country action plan for CSTC Poland will be finalized until 10th February 2018 and circulated to the members for comments.
- All CSTCs agreed on supporting to other Carpathian countries to create their stakeholder's lists (CSTP PL - Slovakia; CSTP UA – Hungary; CSTP RO – Serbia; Czech Republic will create it on their own and send it to the Coordinating CSTC). The appearance of the stakeholders lists on the website for public use and the self-registration procedure will be discussed during the future CC WG Tourism.
- ETE will propose by 15th of February a common sheet for data collection of all the tourism cluster representatives / defining the different categories in order to select the right representative associations in each country.
- All CSTCs agreed on supporting to other Carpathian countries to create content for the databases (CSTP PL - Slovakia; CSTP UA – Hungary; CSTP RO – Serbia; Czech Republic will create it on their own and send it to the Coordinating CSTC).
- The participants agreed that CSTC – PL will coordinate the activity of creating a **quartely newsletter** based on information received from the other CSTC'S to be uploaded on the <http://cstp.center/>. A proposal to integrate Google Translator and use English as main language.
- Hence ServiceQ is not about sustainability standards, there were discussions on how to extend the ServiceQ with sustainable tourism standards. Suggestions came that ServiceQ members like Czech Republic, Slovakia can present how many members are certified (Slovakia 12 members). CSTC Coordinator will request information from all countries.
- Euroregion Karpacki, being closer to the Carpathia Brand (www.karpacki.pl, www.visitcarpathia.com), proposed to organise a meeting dedicated to the

Carpathian Brand (elaboration of a **road map** on what has been done so far) and Tourism Observatory. Funding is required for a Carpathian Brand, representative for all countries.

- The participants agreed that the Coordinator CSTC, will ask from all the Carpathian countries a simplified description of their marking trail system in order to apply for a project to unify all of them. Funding is required.

2. Joint reporting format to WG-Tourism and CCIC

The reporting format is agreed by all 3 CSTCs. See **Annex 2** to the meeting minutes

3. Joint communication strategy (plan)

The draft communication strategy (plan) was further filled with content during the meeting, but need more details. The CSTCs will send their comments to the CSTC Coordinator until 10th February 2018. The draft communication strategy is enclosed as **Annex 3**.

4. Appointment of the coordinating CSTC for this reporting period

The participants agreed that CSTC Romania will coordinate the CSTP and its CSTCs in this reporting period until next COP in 2020.

At COP 6 the CSTC Poland will take over coordination for the next reporting period 2020-2023, where Poland also has the Presidency for the Carpathian Convention.

For the reporting period 2023-2026 CSTC Ukraine will coordinate.

5. Content and management of the CSTP website, incl. taking over of CEEweb databases

The European Wilderness Society currently manages the website of the CSTP (www.cstp.center). The structure of the website should be changed to enable the CSTCs to individually upload information on (a) their CSTC (staff, contact details, location, activities, events, etc.), current projects, events calendar, link to National Tourism Organisations.

The 3 databases currently managed by CEEweb (www.ceeweb.org/stcdb) will be moved to the CSTP website until 15th February 2018.

Mapping the databases is needed. CSTC-RO checks on it and will take over the entire database in mid February.

For increasing the attractiveness of the database Max Rossberg (European Wilderness Society) suggested that the database should be constructed using an international recognised library such as Mendeley (<https://www.mendeley.com/>).

6. Update on current and planned projects for implementing the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Strategy

- Euroregion is running a number of projects, which will be highlighted in the part of the CSTP Work Plan, e.g. Interreg PL-SK "Ethnocarpathia".
- For the involvement of Ukraine there will be micro grants available in the near future. More info from CSTC-PL

7. Miscellaneous

- Meeting with CSTC-PL in Rzeszow on Carpathian Brand and INSTO (possible dates 11-16 February)
- Meeting with CZ in Prague on their contributions to the strategy implementation (to be requested for March 2018)
- Meeting of NTTF/CSTC-RO 23rd February
- Smart Destinations Conference in Oviedo June 2018
- Possible no meeting of CC WG Tourism in 2018. A first reporting on CSTP at the end of the year during CCIC

Dawid Lasek informed the participants that Slovakia will establish its own Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Centre in Svidnik, Presov Region. More information will be provided during next meeting in Rzeszow. UNEP-SCC will be requested to update the Memorandum so that CSTC Slovakia can sign it.

The participants decided to establish a Dropbox folder with all relevant documents and invite all group members. The group consists of the members, which are in the list of participants and extends further to Iryna Shchoka, Harald Eger, Karol Biedrzycki and Dusan Marusak.

8. Consultation on the effective implementation of the Carpathian Brand and visit to the booth of Carpathian Euroregion at INCHEBA

The group visited the booth of Euroregion on the Carpathian Brand.

Minutes done by Alina Szasz and Michael Meyer
Bratislava, 26 January 2018

Participants

Last Name, First Name	Institution	Country
Szasz, Alina	County Council of Brasov	Romania
Zeleniuc, Silviu	Ministry of Tourism	Romania
Lasek, Dawid	Carpathian Euroregion	Poland
Petrynych, Oksana	Carpathian Euroregion	Poland
Osiecka, Marta	Carpathian Euroregion	Poland
Savelyeva, Natalya	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade	Ukraine
Voloshyn, Valentyn	Regional Tourism Organisation Zakarpattia	Ukraine
Rossberg, Max	European Wilderness Society (EWS)	Austria
Henning, Anni	European Wilderness Society (EWS)	Austria
Kuras, Klaudia	Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP-SCC)	Austria
Meyer, Michael	Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE)	Germany
Kuchta, Lukas	Ministry of Environment	Slovakia
Smalova, Katarina	Ministry of Environment	Slovakia
Paule, Igor	Ministry of Transport and Construction	Slovakia
Csontos Simonakova, Zlatica	Ministry of Environment	Slovakia