



Memorandum of Cooperation

between the

Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)

and the

Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland with the registered office in Rzeszów

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland (hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories")

Considering that the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the "Carpathian Convention") is a sub-regional treaty to foster the sustainable development and the protection of the Carpathian region, signed by seven Carpathian States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine) in 2003 and entered into force in 2006. The Carpathian Convention is the only multi-level governance mechanism which covers the entire Carpathian region. Its vision is to pursue comprehensive policies and cooperation to protect and sustainably develop the Carpathian mountain region.

Considering that the Carpathian Convention stands for the improvement of livelihoods in the Carpathians while conserving natural values and cultural heritage in part by providing assistance to its member states through the promotion of sustainable tourism.

Considering that the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol on Sustainable Tourism's objectives are to enhance and facilitate cooperation of the Parties for the development of sustainable tourism in the Carpathians for the benefit to present and future generations, and to maximize the positive benefits of tourism to biodiversity, ecosystems, and economic and social development, and of biodiversity to tourism, while mitigating negative ecological, environmental and socio-economic impacts from tourism.

Considering that Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland representing the Polish party of the Carpathian Euroregion, which aim is the socio-economic development of the Carpathian Euroregion by supporting development processes in the scope of territorial cooperation.

Recognizing that the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland and the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland have established a Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Centre in Rzeszow to coordinate cooperation and processes related to the development and promotion of tourism based on the unique cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathians.

Have reached the following understanding:

Section 1. Objective

The main objective of this cooperation is to enhance the capacity of countries in the Carpathian region to promote sustainable tourism in the Carpathians, providing benefits to the local people, based on the exceptional nature, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Carpathians.

Section 2. Scope of cooperation

With a view to attaining the above objective, the cooperation envisaged by this Memorandum of Cooperation may include collaboration within the framework of the work programs of the two Signatories on the following types of activities:

- a) Identifying, documenting, and disseminating successful experience and best practices on sustainable tourism;
- b) Promoting exchange of data and information on sustainable tourism;
- c) Mutually recommending experts upon request that could contribute to technical assistance for undertaken activities. It is understood that the respective Signatories will keep the ultimate responsibility to select and appoint the experts;
- d) Promoting networks of professional experts in fields related to sustainable tourism;
- e) Developing joint projects within the scope of their collaboration, mainly (but not restricted to) demonstrating best practice, to test innovations, and to train human resources. Jointly identifying financial resources and execution modalities for the implementation of developed projects;

- f) Assisting the Carpathian Convention in organizing conferences, seminars, training workshops, outreach and other extension services, and technical meetings on matters related to sustainable tourism;
- g) Communicating the results of their joint work through joint press releases, via internet postings, joint publications in public, and general and professional media;
- h) Coordination of cooperation and implementation of the Strategy of the Carpathian Brand CARPATHIA.

Section 3. Annual work plan

Subsequent to this Memorandum of Cooperation, a work plan will be discussed annually for common areas of work and the concrete activities to be carried out in collaboration. The outcome of this discussion will be annexed to this Memorandum of Cooperation. Both the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland will designate a focal point for the coordination of the communication with each other.

Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply a financial obligation by either Signatories to this Memorandum. Any financial questions will be regulated by separate letters of arrangements related to possible future projects or joint activities. It is recognized that for certain activities to be implemented fully, additional resources may be required. Signatories will endeavor to carry out joint fundraising for this purpose.

Section 4. Use of official logos

The Signatories will not use in any press release, memo, report, website, or other published disclosure related to this Memorandum of Cooperation any of the other Signatories' name and logo without prior written consent by the Signatory concerned.

Section 5. Disputes

1. Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Memorandum will be resolved by consultations between the Signatories, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.



Section 6. Amendment

1. The Signatories may amend this Memorandum by mutual written consent, which will be appended to this Memorandum and become an integral part of it.

Section 7. Termination

1. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be terminated by the Signatories at a jointly approved time or by one Signatory giving three months' notice in writing to the other Participant.
2. This Memorandum of Cooperation represents the understanding reached between the Signatories upon its signature by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland.

Section 8. Final provisions

1. Nothing in this Memorandum of Cooperation will bind any of the Signatories either jointly or severally.

Signed in duplicate at [place] on [date] in in two original copies in English language.

Signatures

On behalf of the
Secretariat of the Framework
Convention on the Protection and
Sustainable Development of the
Carpathians (Carpathian
Convention)

On behalf of Association of the
Carpathian Euroregion Poland



Annex:

To be elaborated and filled in with proposed activities, including those of the Polish Sustainable Tourism Centre in Rzeszow