Carpathian Convention Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development
(16-18 April 2019, Budapest)

10th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
11-13 December 2019, Budapest
Mission

Facilitate the launch of cooperation or expand the scope of existing collaboration among the communities of stakeholder groups in ESD in the Carpathian region, and thus contribute to the implementation of ESD policies promoted by prominent international organisations, such as UNECE.
Aims and objectives

• establish a new and enduring tradition of transdisciplinary networking and cross-country exchange of experience;
• initiate networking and exchange ideas in ESD;
• special focus on:
  – whole-institution approach in ESD and
  – ESD competences of educators
• sharing local traditions and approaches and learning from each other;
• exploring ways of facilitating and raising awareness of future generations to recognize the importance of joint actions.
Target groups (50 participants)

• practicing educators at ISCED 0-3 levels;
• teacher educators;
• professionals working in the field of nature conservation and education;
• representatives (leaders and officers) of decision-making bodies in the field of sustainability, environmental protection, environmental education, ESD and public education (including relevant ministries);
• representatives of educational maintenance and governance bodies (state and clerical);
• educational counsellors and experts.
Structure of the seminar

- Plenary session - lectures
  ▪ The whole-institutional approach of ESD (Prof Mariona Espinet, Autonomous University of Barcelona),
  ▪ The Rounder Sense of Purpose project: Developing educator competences in ESD (Dr Paul Vare, University of Gloucestershire),
  ▪ Reflection and thoughts on the whole-institution approach and teachers’ ESD competences (Dr Aravella Zachariou, UNECE Steering Committee for ESD)
- 9 interactive workshops run by participating countries
- On-site visits (2 Green Kindergartens, 3 Eco-schools)
- World Cafe to plan further steps for regional cooperation
Results, lessons learned

• first time that ESD was the main focus of a Carpathian Convention event;
• transdisciplinarity and science-policy-practice interface in the centre of the event;
• ESD as a cross-cutting topic of sustainability must build on teachers (quality of education);
• several valuable practices in the Carpathian countries (Hungarian examples: green kindergartens and eco-schools)
• specific needs and strengths of the Carpathian countries (different from those in Western Europe), culturally embedded practices
• common challenges and shared problems – regional collaboration (joint research, practice-oriented projects, peer learning activities) - establishing a Working Group on ESD;
• value of regional opportunities for learning and development in the field of ESD;
• better disseminating research and practice coming from the region in the international community - more active professional connections needed.
Recommendations (science-policy interface)

- Continuing to integrate discussions and regional exchange on ESD into the COPs of the Carpathian Convention, as well as the Science for the Carpathians events;
- Involving ministerial officials from the ministries of education and environment in research and development - facilitate integration of the best practices on the policy level;
- Accompanying the ESD process in the Carpathians with continuous research, encouraging researchers to work on evaluating ESD initiatives in the Carpathian countries and to co-create recommendations with practitioners and policy-makers - facilitate sustainability transformations in the region;
- Approaching funding programs and donors - elaboration of specific funding programs and calls focused on ESD and transdisciplinary learning for sustainability transformations in the Carpathian region;
- Linking science closer to the classroom, including via:
  - Involving teachers and students in research;
  - Supporting citizen science initiatives, with a focus on developing scientific inquiry competences among the teachers and students;
  - Reporting scientific findings back to the teachers and students, and communicating with them better.