

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Work Plan for the years 2016 - 2017

For the present Work Plan of common interest, the following priority thematic areas have been identified:

- Biodiversity and ecological connectivity
- Forests
- Tourism
- Transport
- Water
- Climate change

As well as the following general objectives:

1. Regular sharing of information and experiences on priority thematic areas related issues of mutual interest
2. Enhance interoperability of environmental observation and data collection in the Carpathians with the European level, such as coordination with Copernicus and Climate-ADAPT. This implies that the Carpathian Convention would strive to adapt to EEA's standards on data.

To reach the mentioned objectives, the following activities are planned:

I. Joint efforts to:

- Streamline data gathering: identification of the needs of the Carpathian Convention for European level data for activities related to the development of the Carpathian Integrated Information System, filling data gaps and formulation of metadata as well as strategies on how to adapt statistics and data collection at Carpathian level.
- Elaboration of common technical reports and specific indicators within the activities, if any, also supported by the EEA European Topic Centres on the identified priority thematic areas referred to above.
- Contribution to the respective EEA and the Carpathian Convention reports and publications

II. Networking, partnership building and support activities:

Exchange between EEA officials, EIONET (including the relevant European Topic Centres) and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

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- participation in the respective relevant EEA and the Carpathian Convention meetings and organization of ad hoc joint meetings
- Exchange of working, technical or scientific documents relevant to objectives 1 and 2.
- exchange of information about EEA and the Carpathian Convention projects focused on the priority thematic areas of cooperation identified

Operational priorities of the joint Work Plan 2016– 2017

The setting of priorities serves primarily the purpose of avoiding as much as possible unplanned ad-hoc requests, which are difficult to fulfil. In this context, the following priorities are jointly agreed for the period 2016-2017.

1. Finalisation of the Joint Carpathian Convention and European Topic Centre on Urban, Land and Soil Systems (ETC/ULS) report on data and indicators relevant for sustainable forest management and for the elaboration of an inventory on the Carpathian Virgin forests. This will be done taking into consideration the “Criteria and Indicators for the Selection of Virgin Forests in the Carpathians”, adopted by the Carpathian Countries during the COP4 meeting. The report aims at improving the knowledge base on the state of forest ecosystems in the Carpathians.
2. Organization of a joint EEA – Carpathian Convention Workshop back to back to the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management in order to present the above mentioned report and inventory to the competent Carpathian Convention bodies, partners and stakeholders for final inputs and comments and discussion on possible related projects to be developed.
3. Web link between the EEA information systems and related Carpathian information systems to be further developed and finalised (e.g. the Carpathian Climate Change Information System with CLIMATE - ADAPT and the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System with BISE – Biodiversity Information System for Europe).
4. Cooperation on the development of a sub-regional report on adaptation policies in the Carpathian Region, with the support of and in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention Adaptation to Climate Change Working Group.
5. Exchange of data and information on ecological connectivity, green infrastructure, migration corridors in the Carpathians aim at strengthening the knowledge base and at avoiding landscape fragmentation and biodiversity loss in the area.
6. Inputs on the Carpathian mountain issues by the representatives and partners of the Carpathian countries under the coordination of the Carpathian Convention to the next SOER 2020, according to and within the limits of the new format of the future report.



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7. Identification together with the Carpathian Convention bodies and partners of technical and operational needs, as well as advice by EEA on designing and functioning of a future Carpathian Integrated Information System, in particular concerning the collection and harmonization of remote sensing data.
8. Sharing information, when and if available, on opportunities of resource mobilization from third Parties or programmes, including possible development of additional projects or initiatives, aiming at addressing the above priorities.
9. Participation of the EEA (including the competent European Topic Centres representatives) in the meetings of the relevant Carpathian Convention bodies planned for the period 2016– 2017, in particular in the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP 5) to be held in Hungary on second half of 2017.