

## **Fifth Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change**

**27 – 28 October 2016  
Vienna, Austria**

### **MEETING REPORT**

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, with generous financial support of the Szent Istvan University, organized the fifth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change, held on 27 – 28 October 2016 in Vienna. The meeting was successfully chaired by prof. Sandor Szalai, Szent Istvan University.

One of the main topic of discussion during the WG Climate Change meeting was the proposal of a new article on climate change to be included in the Carpathian Convention. Prior to the meeting, the Secretariat informed the Parties about the idea of inclusion of the new article and share the first proposal, which was foreseen as a basis for discussion. During the meeting the proposal was discussed and a new version of a possible article was agreed among the WG Climate Change meeting participants. The draft proposal will be circulated together with the meeting report to the Focal Points and WG Climate Change for their consideration and comments. The draft proposal shall be then further discussed during the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee meeting to be held in Vienna on 21 – 22 November 2016.

All the presentation delivered during the WG Climate Change meeting, following the agenda, are available online at the Carpathian Convention website (<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-124/events/fifth-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-working-group-on-adaptation-to-climate-change.html>).

During the meeting, the representative of the European Environment Agency (EEA), Mr. Kati Mattern, presented the EEA activities and reports on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Ms. Mattern described as well the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>), which is the European Commission initiative aiming at supporting Europe in adapting to climate change by providing/sharing available information on the topic. Ms. Mattern informed about the ongoing cooperation with the Carpathian Convention on the contribution to the Climate-ADAPT platform. As agreed, the Secretariat, based on the Countries inputs collected so far, is finalizing the text of the Carpathian webpage and

will act as a focal point for EEA on the webpage development, with the support of Mr. Sandor Szalai and Mr. Henk Zingstra, experts involved in the projects related to Climate Change in the Carpathians.

### **Proposals from participants for priorities and projects**

Mr. Jan Brojáč, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, presented a project proposal based on the project [Resilience and adaptation to climate change in regional strategies](#) (supported by grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), carried out in the Czech Republic in 2015-2016. In this project, the adaptation to climate change was approached from the point of view of disaster risk reduction. The new project idea would benefit from the above-mentioned project outcomes and should be adapted taking into consideration the specific needs and conditions of the Carpathians and of the Carpathian Convention Member States. A draft of the project was also circulated among the WG participants before the meeting. Parties welcomed the proposal and requested the Secretariat to check possible funding programmes which are suitable for it.

### **Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Carpathian mountains, aims & objectives, methodology, preliminary findings**

The Secretariat informed participants about the preparation of the "Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians". As already anticipated to the Members States at the Fourth Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change, the elaboration of the report will require support and contribution from the country experts on climate change. Before the meeting, the Secretariat circulated a pre-filled questionnaire in order to collect relevant information on climate adaptation responses in the Carpathian region at national and regional levels. Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine sent already inputs.

The report is part of an effort to support the countries in the Carpathians to integrate climate change adaptation practices into their development policies, plans and strategies through a sub-regional approach, and to work towards a global mountain action. Its aim is to create common guideline tool to be used by LAGs, regional authorities, etc. on local level across the Carpathian region in order to analyse the vulnerability of the area to the impacts of climate change and assess potential risks, which would subsequently allow the stakeholders to incorporate the findings into local strategies on adaptation to climate change.

This will be part of a global series, which already includes the Tropical Andes, Western Balkans, South Caucasus, Central Asia, East Africa and the Hindu Kush Himalayas, and it is planned to be presented next year during the 5th Carpathian Convention Conference of the Parties in Hungary.

## **Workshop to determine gaps in current adaptation policy for addressing key risks of climate change**

During the meeting a workshop was held to provide further input for the outlook assessment process. The focus on the workshop was on the climate change adaptation policy assessment and gap analysis sections of the outlook. National level and sub-national level adaption planning and policies were addressed in the first session of the workshop. The participants were asked to answer a set of question on how mountain and Carpathian specific climate risks were addressed in their respective countries and on the local level in mountain areas. Climate change impacts on various sectors were covered, including forests, biodiversity, tourism, natural disasters and extreme events. For example, it was stressed by the participants that climate change impacts on forests and biodiversity in particular need further research to determine appropriate adaptation responses. The second sessions addressed regional adaptation plans and policies. Specifically, the participants were asked to discuss what priority areas, as determined in the Strategic Agenda on Climate Change Adaptation in the Carpathian Region, should be the focused on the next period for the Climate Change WG and Carpathian sub-regional level programmatic cooperation. The input from the two workshop sessions will be incorporated in the findings and recommendations of the Outlook, aimed to be published for the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5) in Hungary, 2017.

### **Next steps**

- The draft proposal of the new article on climate change to be included in the Carpathian Convention will be circulated together with the meeting report to the Focal Points and WG Climate Change members for their consideration and comments. The draft proposal shall be then further discussed during the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee meeting to be held in Vienna on 21 – 22 November 2016;
- Based on the Countries inputs collected so far, the Secretariat will finalize the text of the Carpathian webpage under Climate-ADAPT and will act as a focal point for EEA on the webpage development, with the support of Mr. Sandor Szalai and Mr. Henk Zingstra, experts involved in the projects related to Climate Change in the Carpathians;
- The Secretariat will support the Countries in the development of possible project proposals related to the activities of the Adaptation to Climate Change Working Group, checking existing funding programmes and possibilities;
- The Secretariat will develop the "Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians, in close consultation with the Countries and the European Environment Agency, in order to present it at the 5th Carpathian Convention Conference of the Parties in Hungary.