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EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE CARPATHIAN REGION

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Ministry of the Environment, Poland
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EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE CARPATHIAN REGION

Overview

- Why EU macro-regional strategy
- What we have in common
- Potentials of the Carpathian Region
- Proposed objectives of the Strategy
- Proposed priority areas
- Where we are now



Why EU macro-regional strategy

There is a growing importance of macro-regional strategies in EU regional development policy

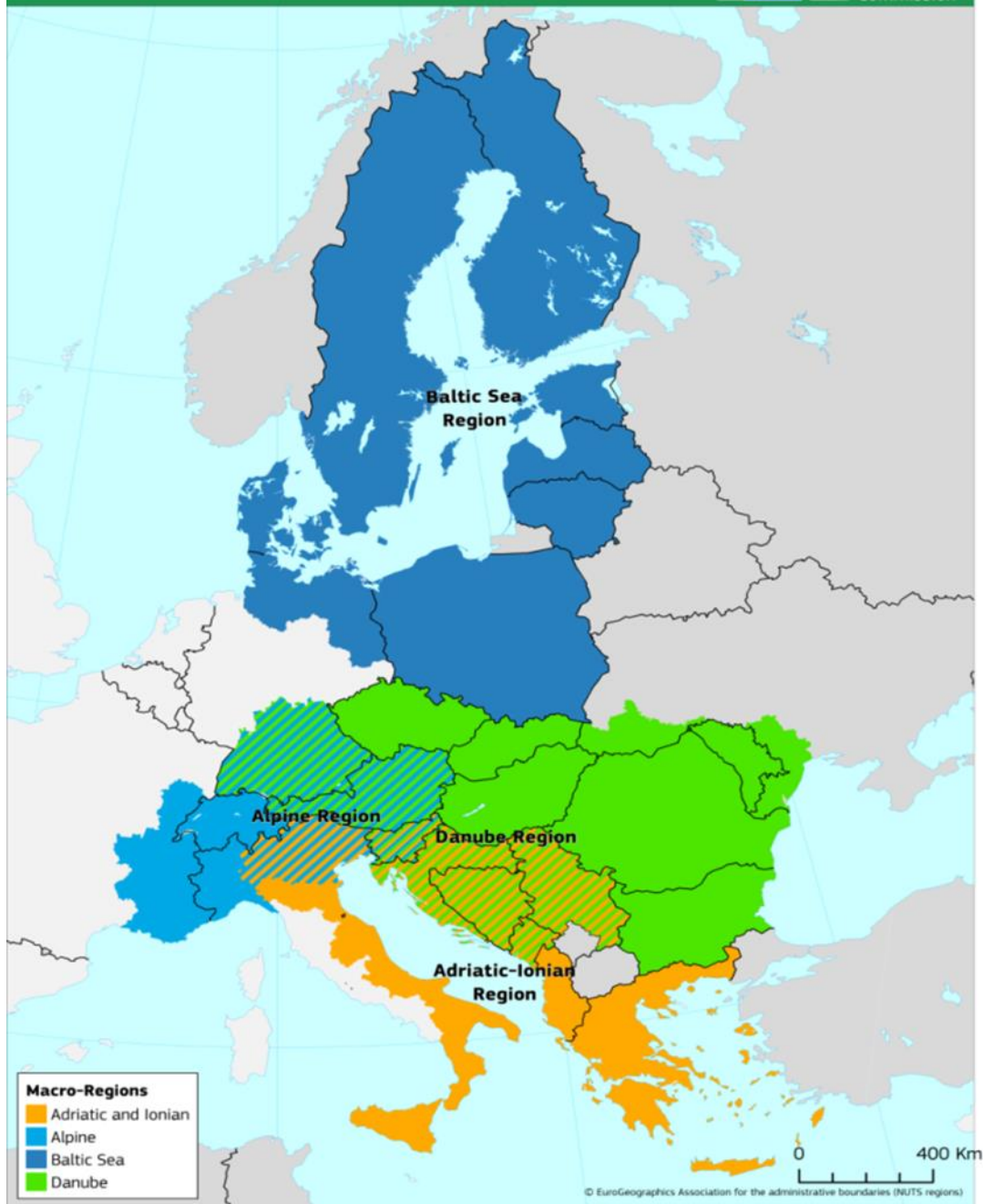
- MSR represents a new opportunity for comprehensive development of the region with EU and non-EU states
- An integrated approach allows for addressing common challenges and potentials of specific mountainous character
- Creation of new cooperation platforms – better connects macro-region
- MRS improves socio-economic development and governance / institutional capacity of involved actors
- but needs political and regional / local interest in cooperation.





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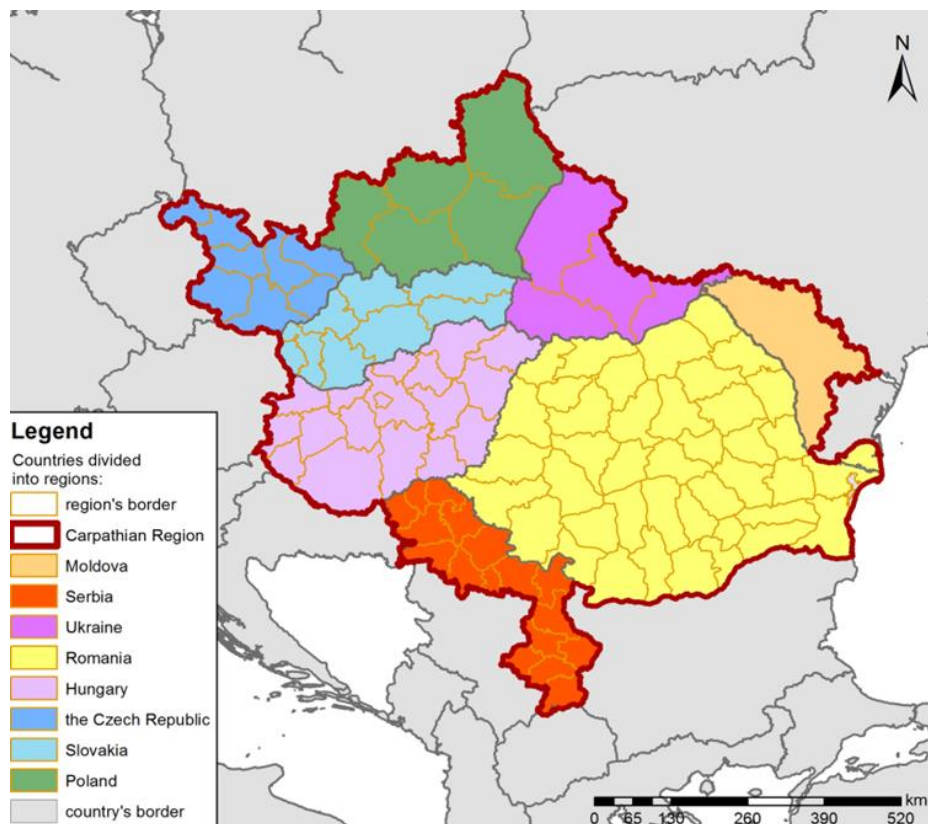
Macro-Regions: Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic, Danube



Proposed geographic scope of the Carpathian Strategy

EU MS: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania

Non-Member States: Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine



Most extensive mountain system in Europe after the Alps, covers an area of 190 000 km²



What we have in common (1)

- **Homogenous mountain range** – *specific challenges and potentials as a result of the geographical conditions*
- **Eastern border of the EU** – *an extremely important geopolitical area, that extends across the territory of the several EU Member States (CZ, HU, PL, SK, RO) and also into non-Member States (UA, MD, XS)*
- **Long-term peripheral character** *in regard to the national and EU centres,*
- **Similar history**, *which strengthened or consolidated barriers in the transboundary cooperation,*



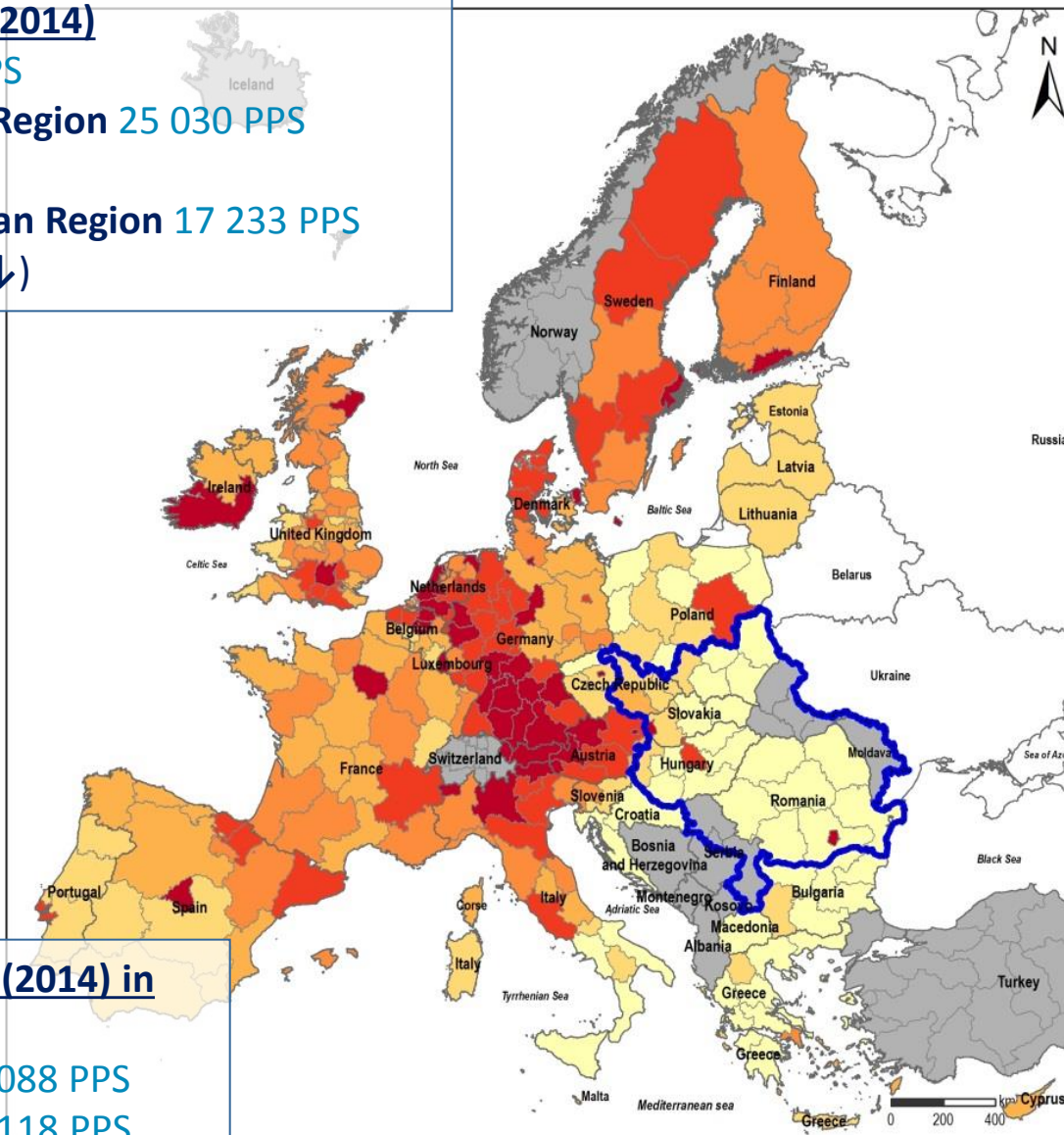
What we have in common (2)

- **Untapped potential for macro-regional economic cooperation** – *diversity of natural and social resources,*
- **Scattered regional policy** – *many different thematic frameworks of cooperation, but lack of the one integrated strategic document,*
- **Common challenges of the Carpathian Regions:** low GDP per capita comparing to the EU average, on-going process of the economic transformation, poor accessibility and mobility, the need for balance between economic growth and environmental protection, global tendencies: climate change, globalisation, migration

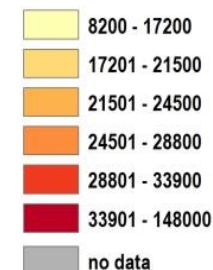
The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (1)

GDP per capita (2014)



- in EU 27 500 PPS
- in the Danube Region 25 030 PPS
(91% of the EU)
- in the Carpathian Region 17 233 PPS
(63% of the EU) ↓



Gross domestic product per capita (in PPS)
in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2014



Additional marks

-  The Carpathian Area
-  State border (NUTS 0)
-  Border of region (NUTS 2)

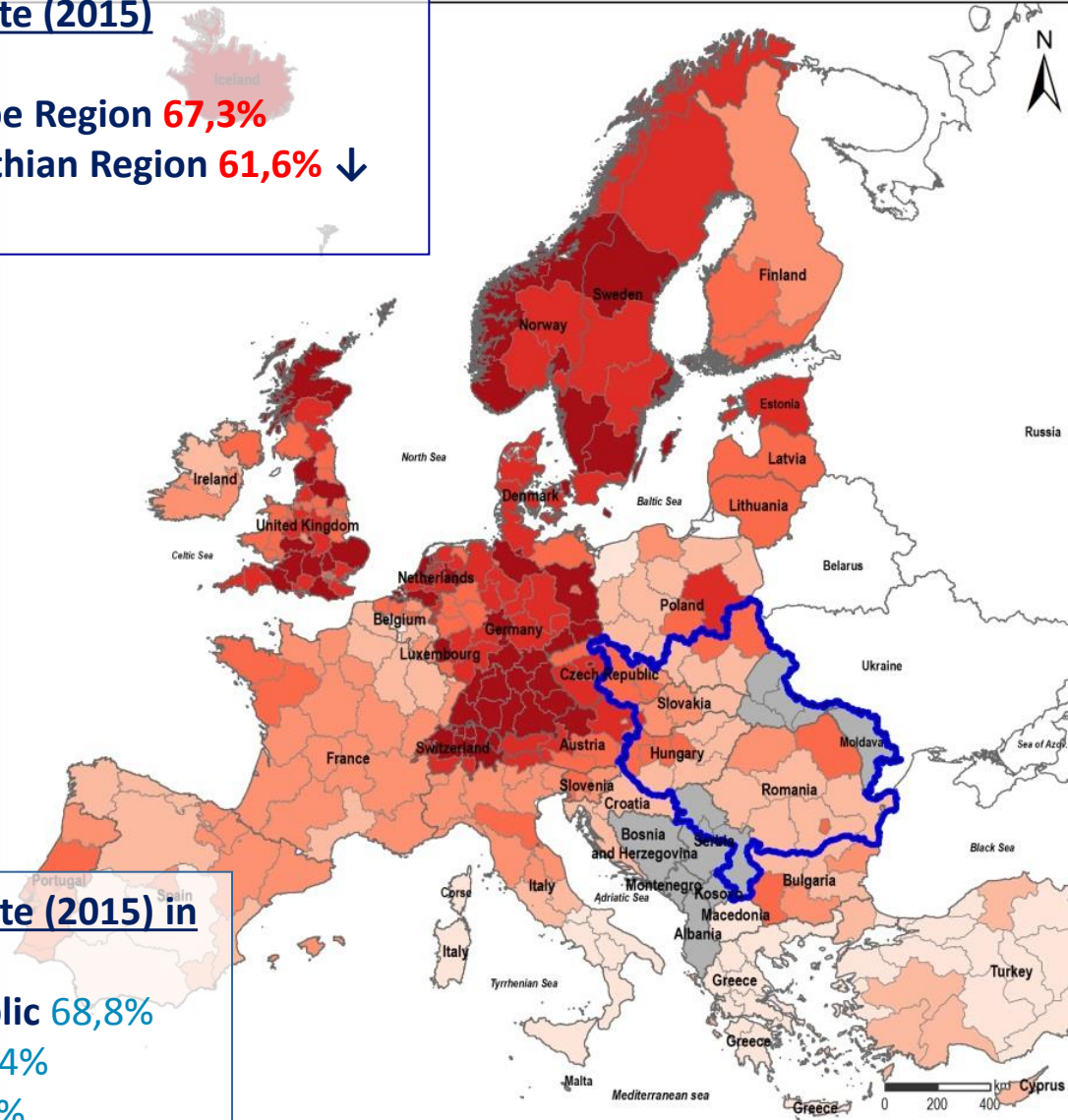
GDP per capita (2014) in countries

- ↑ Slovakia 21 088 PPS
- ↓ Romania 15118 PPS

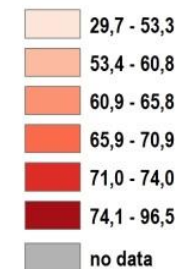
The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (2)

Employment rate (2015)




- in EU 64,7%
- in the Danube Region **67,3%**
- in the Carpathian Region **61,6%** ↓



The employment rate in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2015



Additional marks

-  The Carpathian Area
-  State border (NUTS 0)
-  Border of region (NUTS 2)

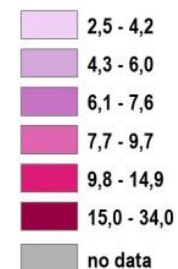
Employment rate (2015) in countries

- ↑ Czech Republic **68,8%**
- ↓ Romania **61,4%**
- ↓ Poland **62,0 %**

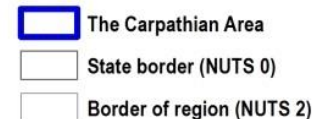
The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (3)



Percentage of unemployed persons in the economically active population in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2015



Additional marks

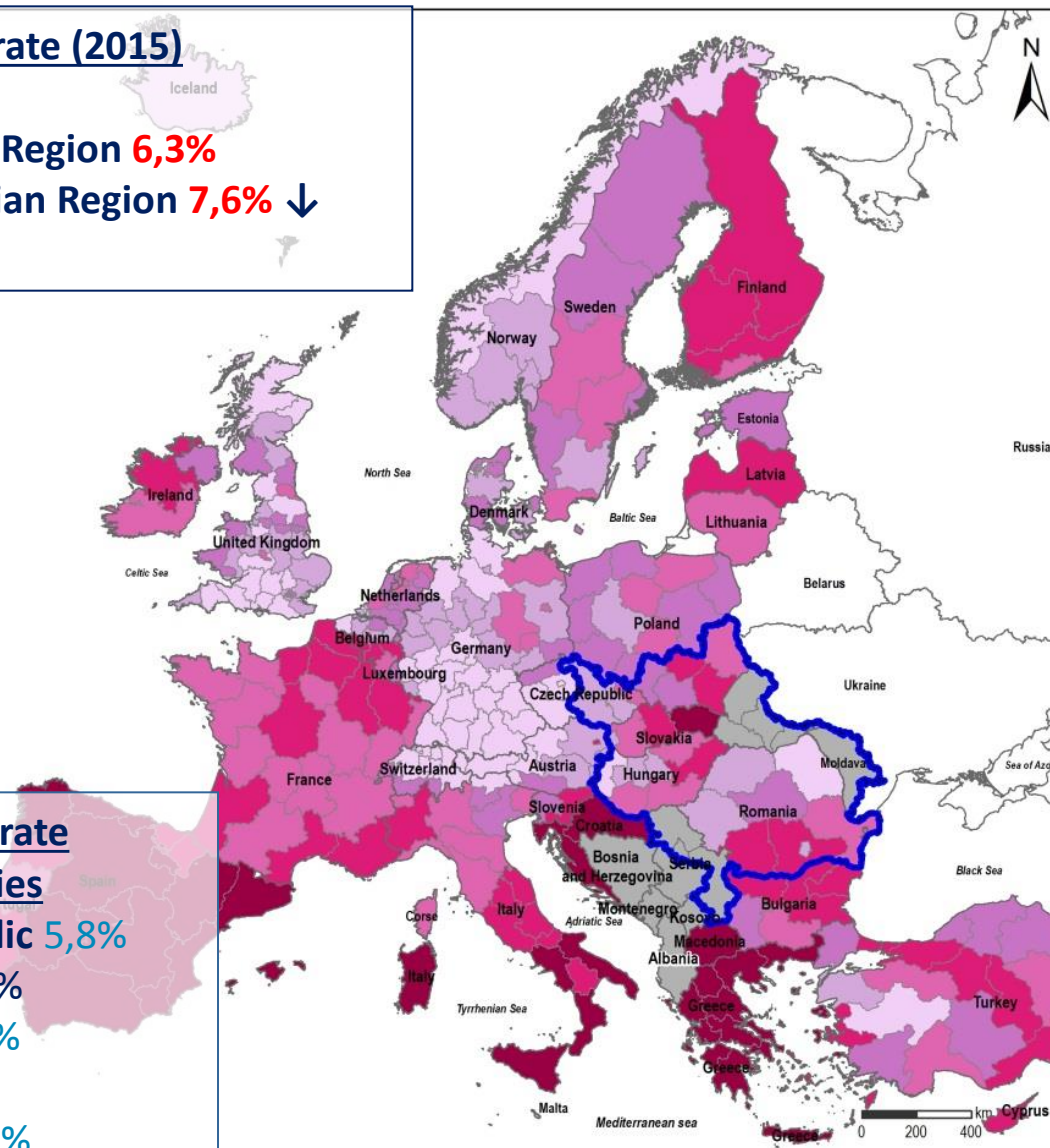


Unemployment rate (2015)

- in EU 9,4%
- in the Danube Region 6,3%
- in the Carpathian Region 7,6% ↓

Unemployment rate (2015) in countries

- ↑ Czech Republic 5,8%
- ↑ Hungary 6,7%
- ↑ Romania 6,8%
- ↓ Poland 8,6%
- ↓ Slovakia 11,5%



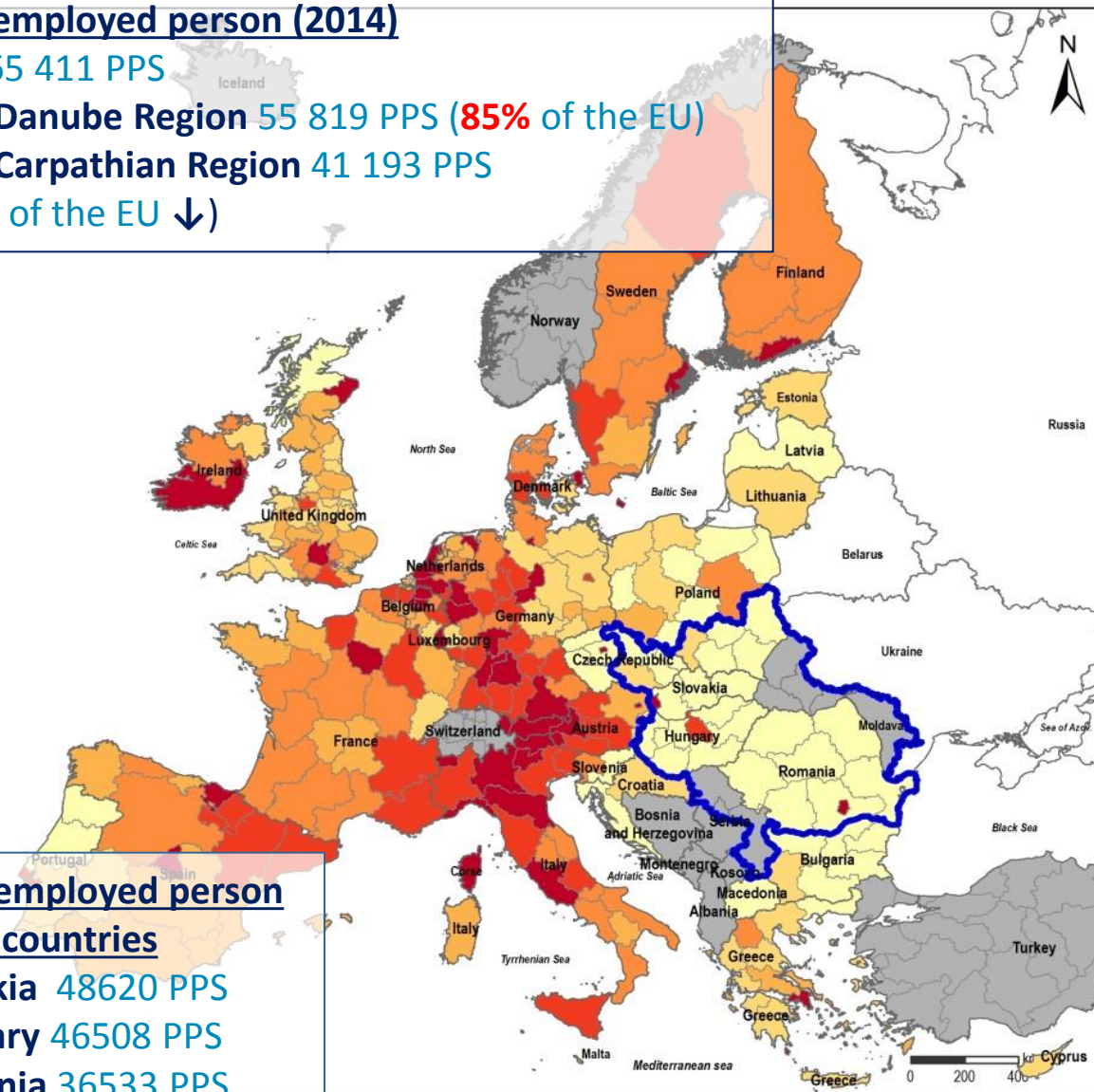
The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (4)

GDP per employed person (2014)

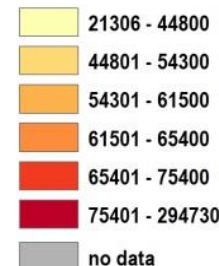
- in EU 65 411 PPS
- in the Danube Region 55 819 PPS (85% of the EU)
- in the Carpathian Region 41 193 PPS (63% of the EU ↓)

GDP per employed person (2014) in countries




- ↑ Slovakia 48620 PPS
- ↑ Hungary 46508 PPS
- ↓ Romania 36533 PPS



Gross domestic product per employed person (in PPS) in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2014



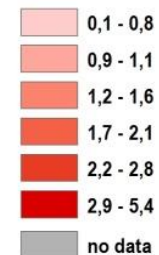
Additional marks

-  The Carpathian Area
-  State border (NUTS 0)
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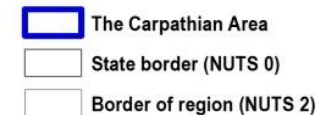
The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (5)



The percentage of people employed in research and development (R&D) in the number of total employment in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2013

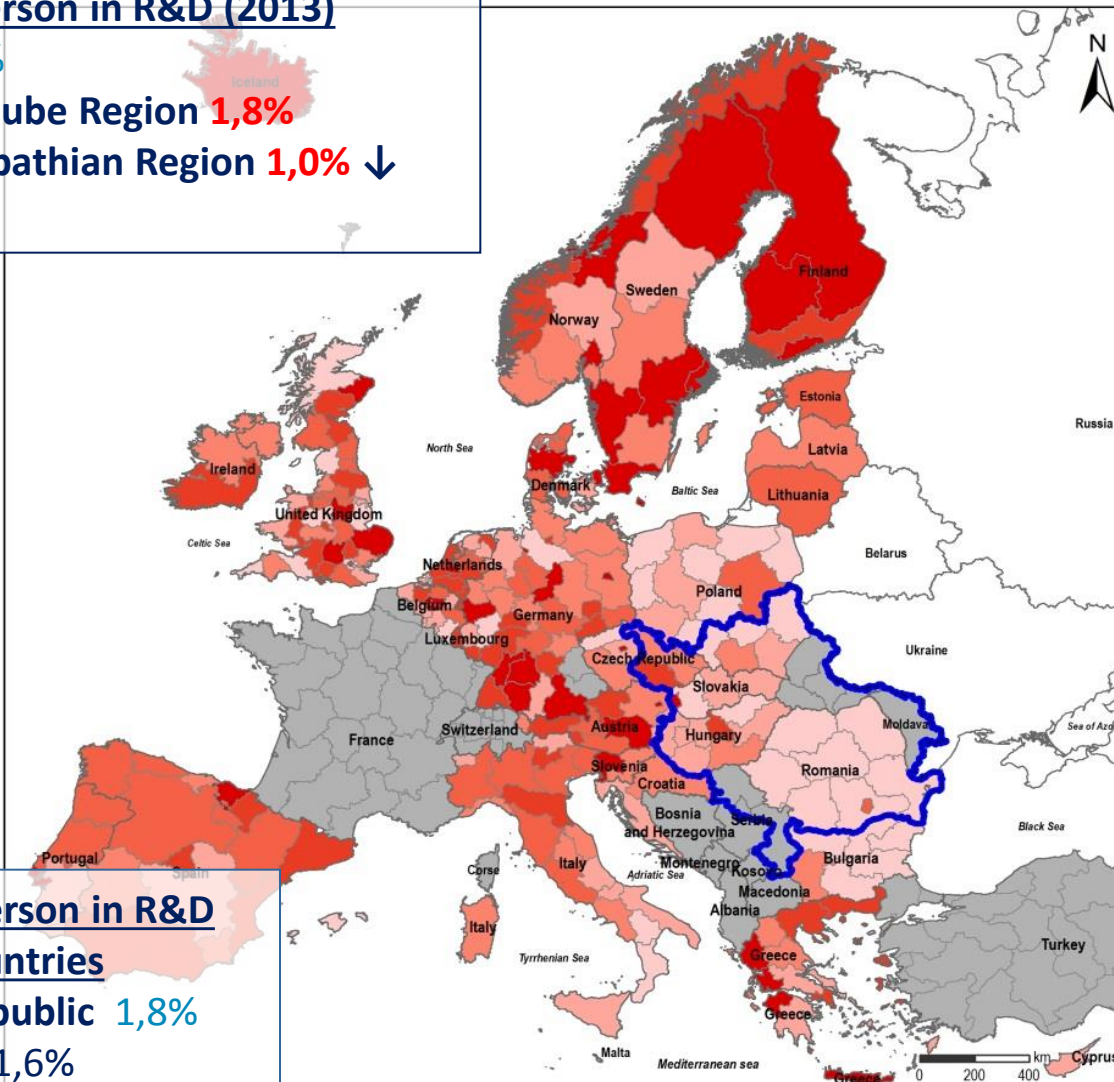


Additional marks



Employed person in R&D (2013)

- in EU 1,9%
- in the Danube Region 1,8%
- in the Carpathian Region 1,0% ↓



Employed person in R&D (2013) in countries

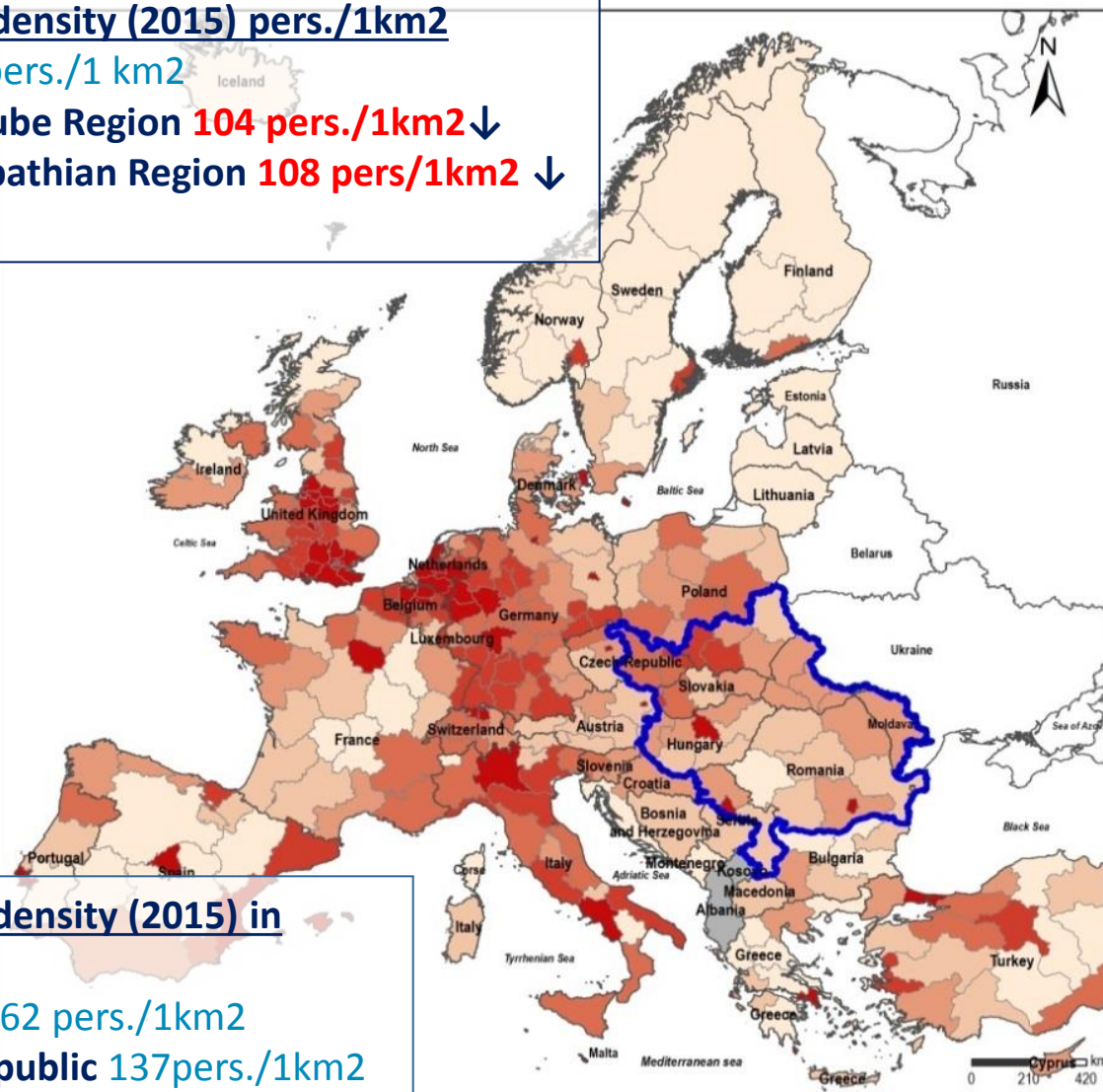
- ↑ Czech Republic 1,8%
- ↑ Hungary 1,6%
- ↓ Romania 0,5%

The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (6)

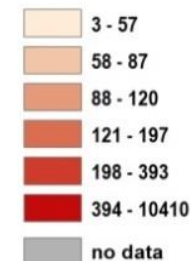


Population density (2015) pers./1km²

- in EU 114 pers./1 km²
- in the Danube Region **104 pers./1km²** ↓
- in the Carpathian Region **108 pers/1km²** ↓



Population density in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2015 [persons/square kilometer]



Additional marks

- The Carpathian Area
- state border (NUTS 0)
- region border (NUTS 2)

Population density (2015) in countries

- ↑ Poland 162 pers./1km²
- ↑ Czech Republic 137pers./1km²
- ↓ Romania 83pers./1km²

The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (7)

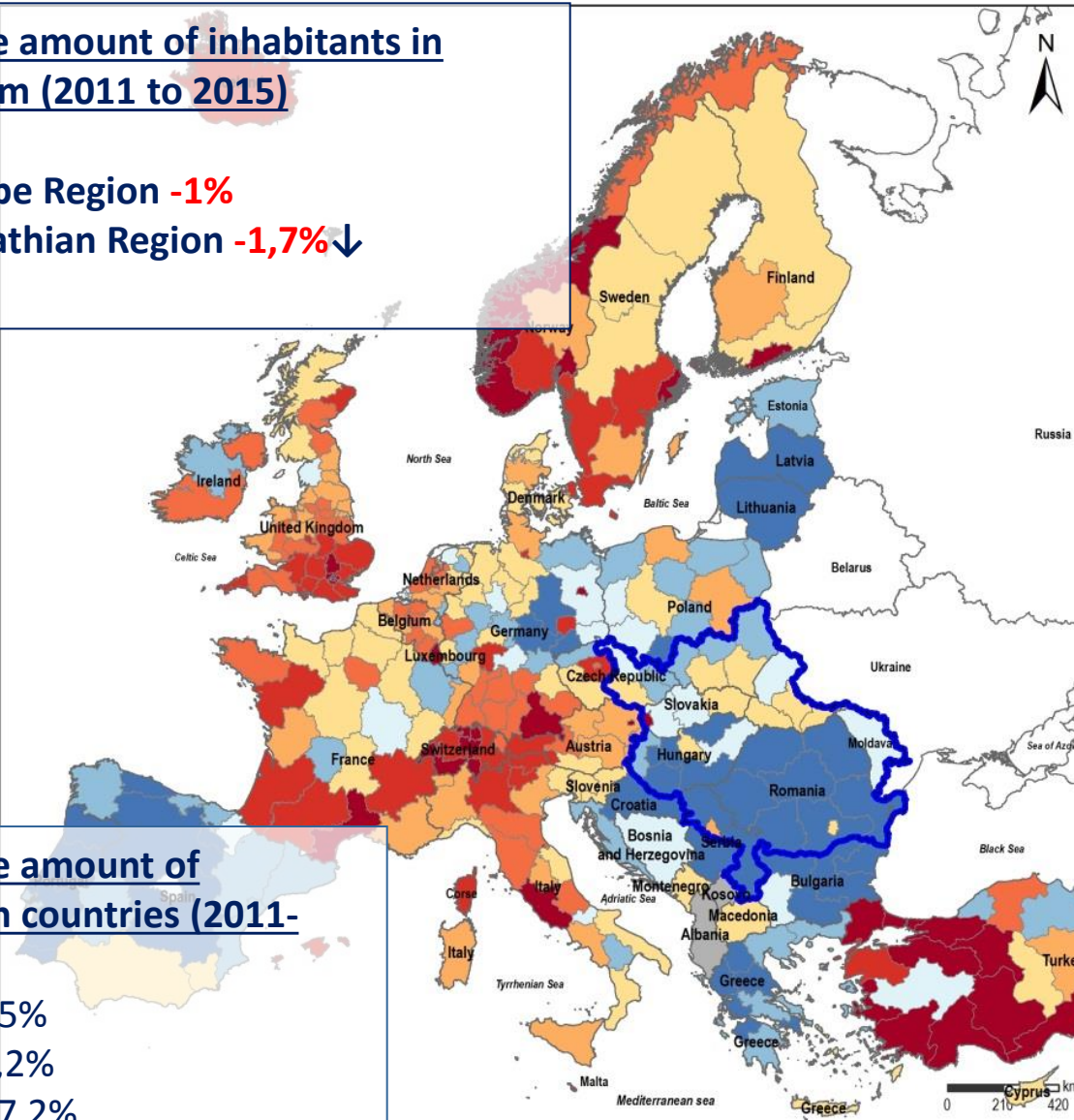


Change in the amount of inhabitants in Europe in from (2011 to 2015)

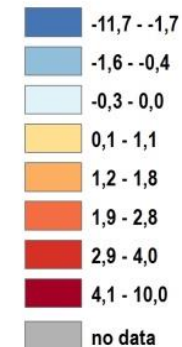
- in EU 0,8 %
- in the Danube Region -1%
- in the Carpathian Region -1,7%↓

Change in the amount of inhabitantst in countries (2011-2015)




- ↑ Ukraine 0,5%
- ↑ Slovakia 0,2%
- ↓ Romania -7,2%



Population change in Europe (NUTS 2) in 2011-2015 [%]



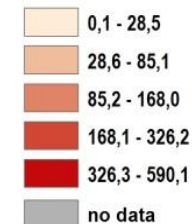
Additional marks

-  The Carpathian Area
-  state border (NUTS 0)
-  region border (NUTS 2)

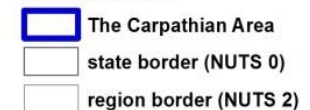
The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (8)



Patents per 1 million people in Europe (NUTS2) in 2012 [%]



Additional marks

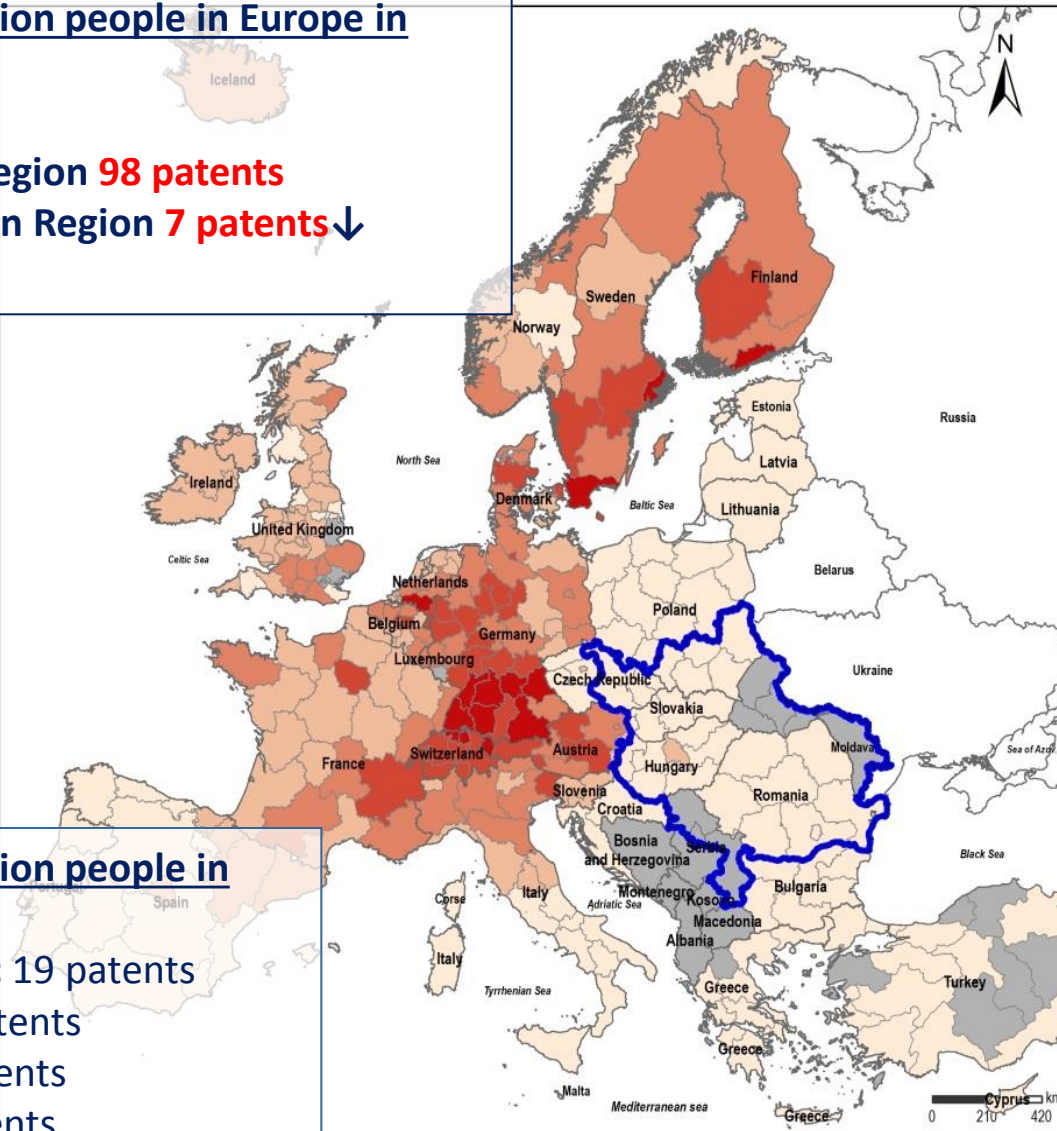


Patents per 1 million people in Europe in 2012

- in EU 92 patents
- in the Danube Region **98 patents**
- in the Carpathian Region **7 patents** ↓

Patents per 1 million people in Europe in 2012

- ↑ Czech Republic 19 patents
- ↑ Hungary 18 patents
- ↓ Romania 3 patents
- ↓ Slovakia 5 patents





Why not join Danube – Carpathian Strategy?

- **Lack of the common geographical identity**– *different history, culture, paths of development,*
- **Different needs and priorities of development**– *mountainous area vs. river valley,*
- **Mountain borders facilitate the isolation** *in a higher degree than the borders on the rivers and sea,*
- **Too broad scope of the joint macro-regional strategy** – *problems with the formulation of the precise set of well-defined objectives for the joint strategy,*
- **Risk of further consolidation of peripheral character of the Carpathian Region** *since until now Carpathians have never been the central part of any strategic document at the EU level.*





Potentials of the Carpathian Region (1)



- Cultural, environmental and tourist attractiveness
 - Central location in Europe
 - Unique natural assets
 - Cultural heritage
 - Perfect conditions for sports and recreation
- Economy
 - Innovative industries and environment-friendly technologies
 - Wood-processing and furniture industry
 - Agri-food processing, organic farming
 - RES
 - Extraction potential in some parts of the region





Potentials of the Carpathian Region (2)



- Science, innovation and education
 - Significant potential for innovation and R&D activities
 - Universities and academic centres
 - Potential related to natural and cultural heritage
 - Perfect conditions for sports and recreation
- Population and society
 - Large and unused labour resources
 - Relatively high number of young people in demographic structure
- Spatial development
 - Important location for European politics, economy, environment and security
 - Opportunity for exchange of products (intl trade)
 - International and interregional transport





Proposed objectives of the EU MSR for the Carpathian Region

➤ MAIN OBJECTIVE:

Strengthening the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Carpathian Region based on internal development potentials and ***creating competitive advantages*** to increase the level and quality of life of the inhabitants of the Carpathian Region.

➤ COMPLEMENTARY OBJECTIVE:

Maintaining ***cultural and environmental values of the Carpathians Region*** and establishing the conditions for their sustainable socio-economic development.





Proposed priority areas

➤ Priority area I: Competitive Carpathians

- Development of the clean, green industries
- Sustainable development of tourism
- Improvement of the competitiveness of the agri-sector
- Development of the macro-regional innovation ecosystem

➤ Priority area II: Green Carpathians

Objective: high quality of natural environment

- Protection and rational management of natural resources
- Diversification of energy sources
- Management of environmental risk and natural threats





Proposed priority areas

- Priority area III: Cohesive Carpathians
 - Increasing the transport accessibility of the Carpathian Mountains
 - Increasing the digital accessibility of the Carpathians
 - Development of the e-services system

- Horizontal area: Institutional cooperation
 - Spatial planning
 - Cross border cooperation



Where we are now

- The draft outline for Macro-regional Strategy for the Carpathian Region
- Consultation process
- Planned meeting at the level of ministers from Carpathian countries, ended with political decision
- Submission of assumptions for the EU Macro-regional Strategy for the Carpathian Region to the European Commission





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