EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE CARPATHIAN REGION

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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.
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
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)

GDP per capita (2014) in countries
↑ Slovakia 21 088 PPS
↓ Romania 15 118 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%

Employment rate (2015) in countries
- Czech Republic 68.8%
- Romania 61.4%
- Poland 62.0%

Additional marks
- The Carpathian Area
- State border (NUTS 0)
- Border of region (NUTS 2)
**The Carpathians - socio-economic situation (3)**

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 48,620 PPS
- Hungary 46,508 PPS
- Romania 36,533 PPS

Additional marks

- The Carpathian Area
- State border (NUTS 0)
- Border of region (NUTS 2)
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%
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 (2015) in countries

- **Poland** 162 pers./1km²
- **Czech Republic** 137 pers./1km²
- **Romania** 83 pers./1km²
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 inhabitants in countries (2011-2015)
↑ Ukraine 0.5%
↑ Slovakia 0.2%
↓ Romania -7.2%
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

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
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION