

# Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



Pictures: A. Czaderna, A. & D. Nowak, Pieniny National Park

Harald Egerer UNEP Vienna – ISCC

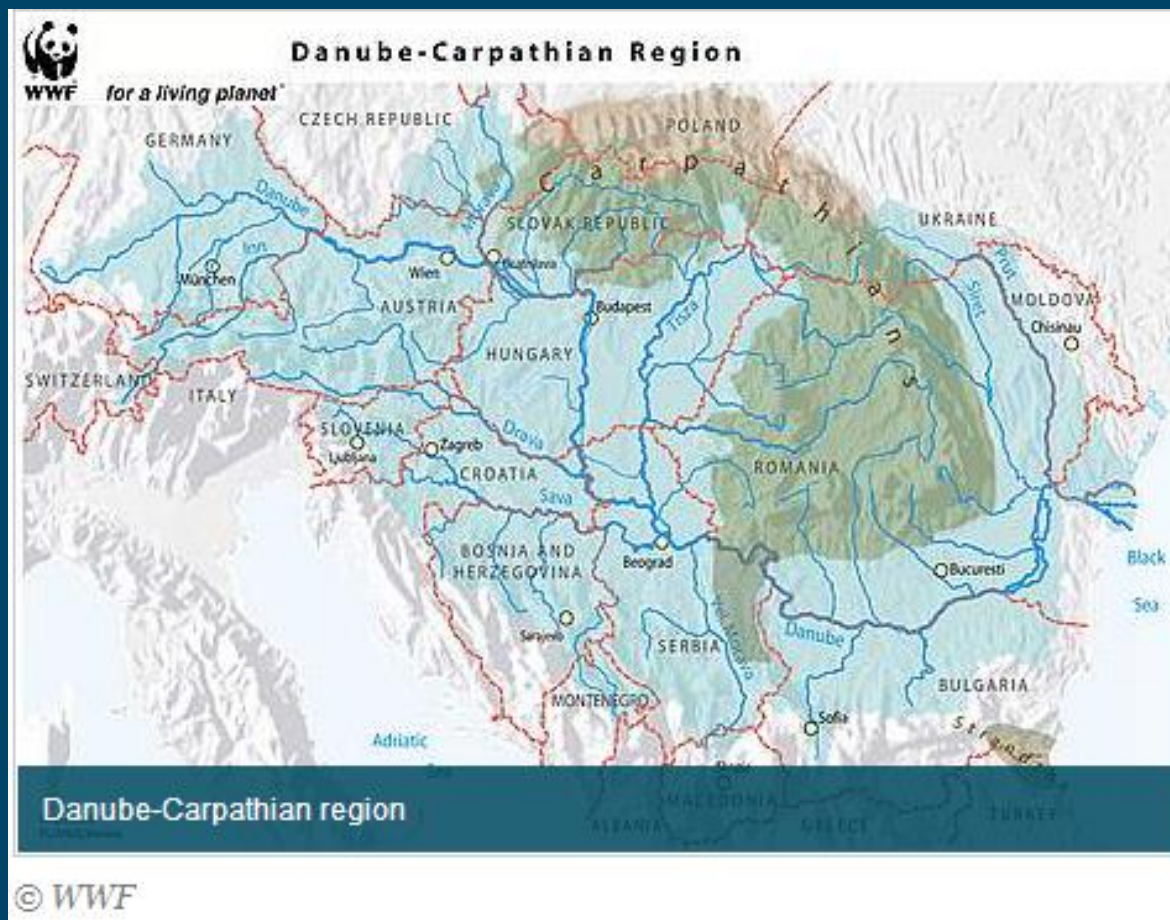
3rd Annual Forum EUSDR 2014

27th June 2014

Vienna, Austria



# The Danube Carpathian Twin regions of European and Global importance



# European Parliament – EU Commission Position

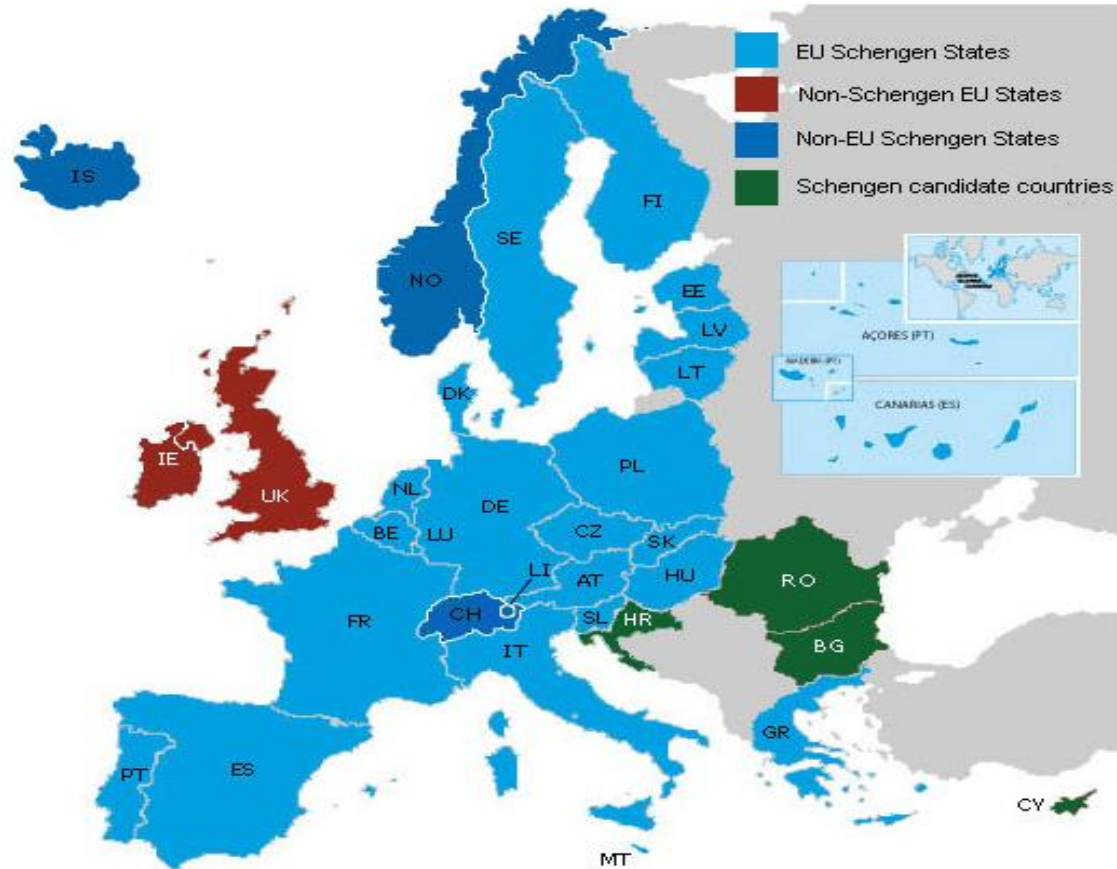
European Parliament, Debate Thursday, 24 October 2013 - Strasbourg  
Item 8. Strategy for the Carpathian region - Commission statement:  
(2013/2896(RSP)):

- 1) *The European Commission recommended to the Carpathian countries to make use of the EUSDR;*
- 2) *At this stage, no need to create a strategy of the European Union for the Carpathian region;*
- 3) *Poland - which is not directly covered by the EUSDR - can also benefit case by case on the basis of the functional approach.*



# Boundaries cutting the Carpathian Region

Schengen Area as of 1/7/2013



(source: <http://ec.europa.eu>)



# The Carpathian Convention at a glance

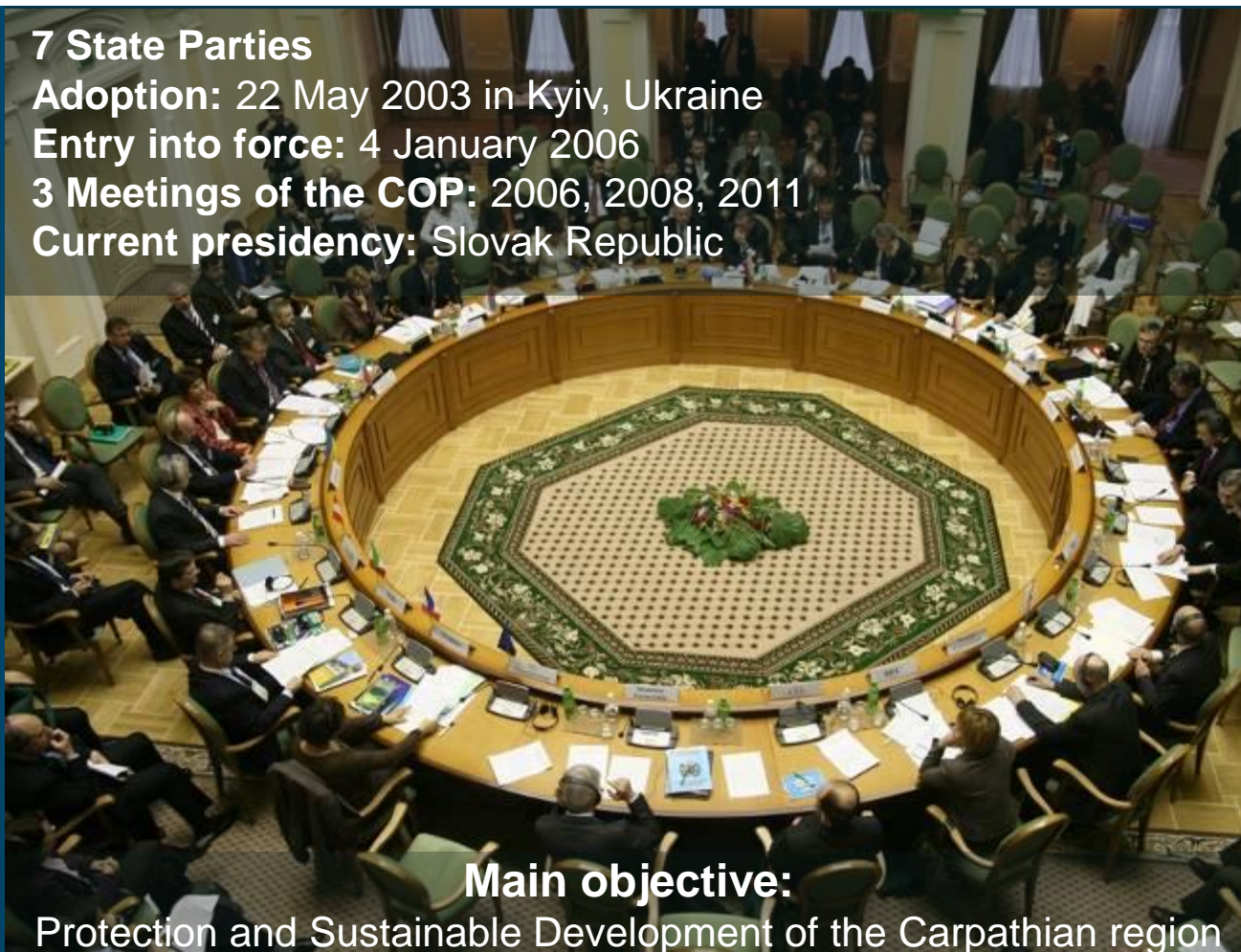
**7 State Parties**

**Adoption:** 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine

**Entry into force:** 4 January 2006

**3 Meetings of the COP:** 2006, 2008, 2011

**Current presidency:** Slovak Republic



**Main objective:**  
Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian region



# Carpathian Convention – Framework of cooperation



Conference of the Parties

Carpathian Convention  
Implementation Committee CCIC



WG  
Sustainable  
Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development

WG  
Biodiversity

WG  
Sustainable  
Tourism

WG  
Sustainable  
Transport and  
Infrastructure

WG Spatial  
Development

WG on  
Adaptation to  
Climate  
Change

Carpathian  
Network of  
Protected  
Areas (CNPA)  
Steering  
Committee



# The Convention as a legal framework

## The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

Biodiversity and  
Forest Protocol\*  
(Entered into force)

Tourism Protocol  
(Adopted)

Other Protocols to be  
elaborated

New Protocols under elaboration e.g. transport and infrastructure, cultural heritage





# The Convention as a Stakeholder Forum And Project Oriented Platform

- Not only a legal framework but also a platform for cooperation between different stakeholders acting in the Carpathian Region at different levels through the development of common documents and projects strategic for the Carpathian Area





# Science for the Carpathians - S4C

➤ Fora Carpatica (Cracow, 2010 and Stara Lesna, 2012)

## ➤ FORUM CARPATICUM L'viv 2014 (16.-19.9.)

➤ MoU S4C



Picture: Bartosz Zaluski



# The Convention and its partners



alpenkonvention • convention alpine  
convenzione delle alpi • alpska konvencija



WWF®

Austrian



Development Agency



Mountain Partnership



Ramsar

**EURAC**  
research



UNIDO



FORUM CARPATICUM

Science for the Carpathians S4C

**icpdr iksd**

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River  
Internationale Kommission zum Schutz der Donau



UNOOSA



FAO  
FIAT PANIS



UNESCO



ÚNIA MIEST  
Slovenska



UNSCEAR



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE  
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE



CARPATHIAN ECOREGION INITIATIVE



CEI  
CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



UNEP



CARPATHIAN CONVENTION



**EURAC**  
research

# Carpathian Convention as an Holistic Tool for Sustainable Development





# Carpathians and EU Programmes – the challenge

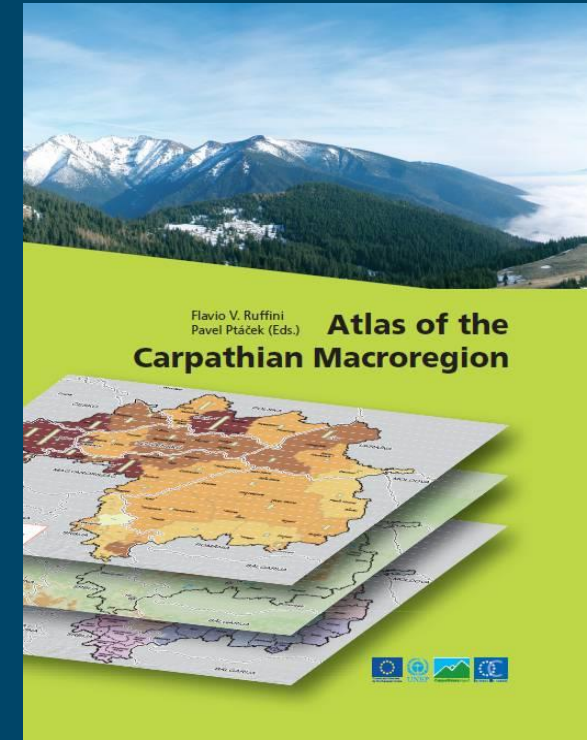
- **VASICA – Visions and Strategies for the Carpathian Area:** one of the main outcome documents of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian project (2006 – 2009)
- Conceptual document based on a social-economic analysis, which is exploring some development opportunities in the Carpathian area and sets some priorities for development actions



Call for Carpathian Space Programme



# CADSES Programme Area



# The Central Europe Programme



(source: <http://www.central2013.eu/>)





# South East Europe Programme



**South East Europe Programme**

(source: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/))



**Adriatic Ionian Programme**



**Danube Programme**

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# Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area

- Adopted by COP 3 in May 2011
- Finalization at the Consultative Workshop “Moving towards a Carpathian Strategy – Implementing the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in the Carpathian Area”, Brussels, January 2011
- Document based mainly on VASICA and some of the EUSDR elements
- **Main objective:** Strengthening cooperation and coordination between initiatives and stakeholders at different levels in the Carpathian Region



# Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area: Priority Areas

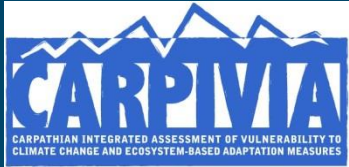
- Tourism and Local Economy
- Nature Conservation and Natural Risks Prevention
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Transport, Accessibility, Communication
- Sustainable Industry and Sustainable Renewable Energies
- Social Identity, Security, Governance, Capacity Building





# Successful Projects in the Carpathians

## ➤ Climate Change



## ➤ Transport



## ➤ Biodiversity



# Successful Projects in the Carpathians –Swiss funded

- **Poland** - with a total amount of 489 million Swiss francs between 2008 – 2012 as agreed in the Bilateral Framework Agreement
- **Slovak Republic** - Development of nature conservation and of protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians (Amount of the Swiss grant: CHF 2 072 000)
- **Hungary** - Biodiversity assessment in the Carpathian region (Amount of the Swiss grant: CHF 1 735 397)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

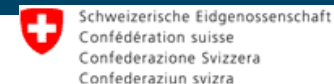
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



# Successful Projects in the Carpathians –Swiss funded in Poland

- **Regional Development Initiatives in Gorlice and Nowy Sącz** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 6 753 818**)
- **Alpine Carpathian Cooperation Bridge** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 5 217 903**)
- **Małopolska Local Product** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 3 576 610**)
- **Development Programme in Dolina Strugu Micro-Region, Podkarpackie** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 3 564 294**)
- **The Alps for the Carpathians** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 4 818 388**)
- **Regional Development Initiatives in Gorlice and Nowy Sącz** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 6 753 818**)
- **Renewable Energy Systems in the Mszana Dolna Region** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 9 094 519**)
- **Renewable Energy Systems for the Malopolskie Region** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 14 369 355**)
- **Carpathian Convention** (Amount of the Swiss grant: **CHF 1 943 054**)





# Example: Brand for Sustainable Tourism



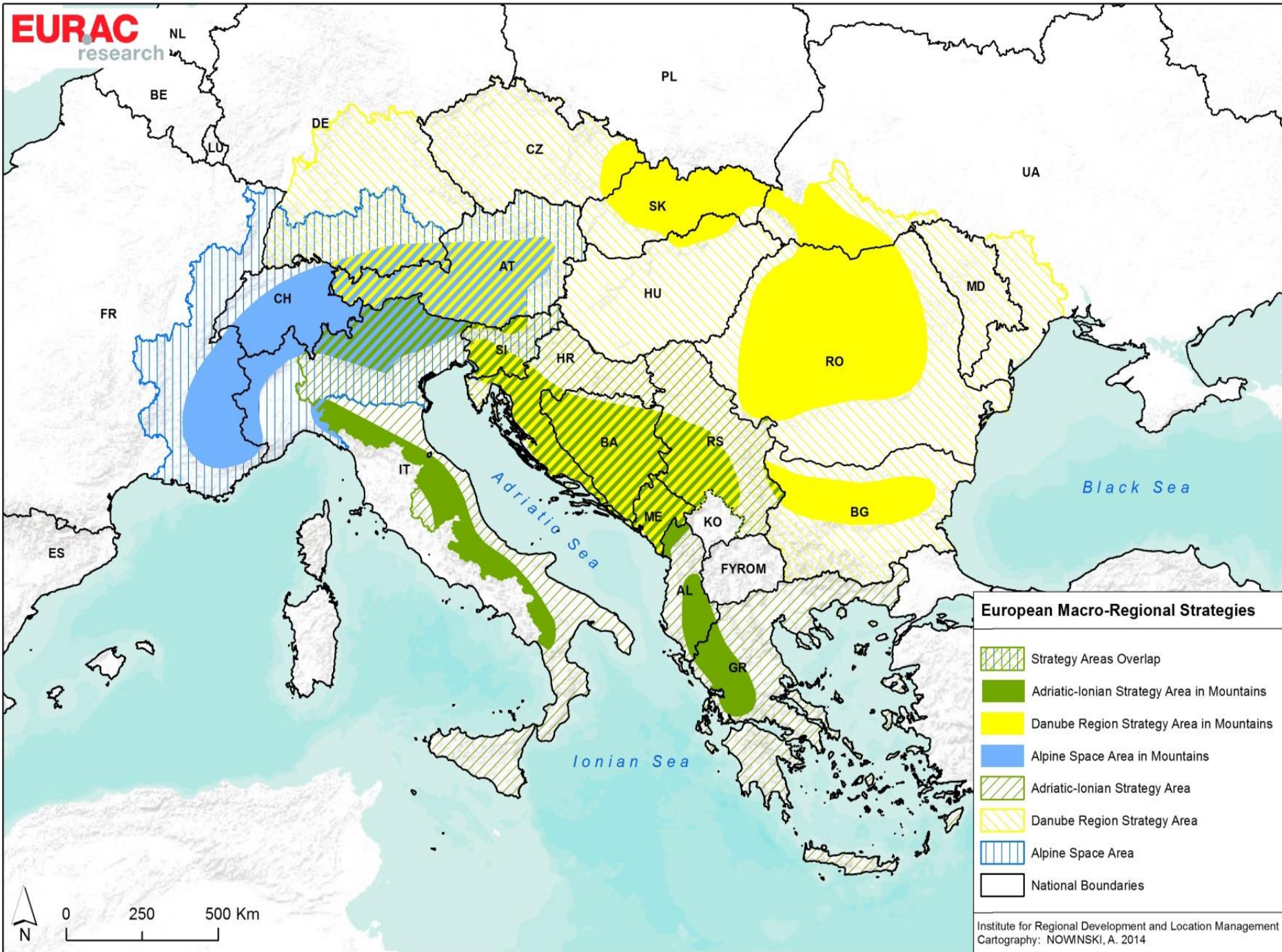
WHAT'S NEXT?



# NEED TO ENHANCE GOVERNANCE OF EU PROCESSES











# EUSDR and Carpathian Convention Governance

- Strengthening EU dimension of Carpathian area through Carpathian Convention → strategic tool complementary to EUSDR
- Strengthening ownership of the regions and stakeholders by offering an already existing platform
- **Making sure that Danube Operational Programme 2014-2020 will address Carpathian Convention together with EUSDR**





[www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)

23-26 September, Mikulov



COP4

CARPATHIAN CONVENTION  
CZECH REPUBLIC