Overview

1. The Carpathian region
2. The Carpathian Convention
3. The Carpathian Space
Overview

1. The Carpathian region
1. The Carpathians

Over 1,500 km long and up to 500 km wide
> 17 million people
> 50 million incl. surrounding forelands
Cross 7 States
Mountains and forelands cover more than 200,000 km²
but influence 450,000 km²
51.5 km³/year surface water resources
36,000 km² of protected areas
Close to 100,000 km² of natural or semi/natural forests
> 3,000 km² of virgin forests
481 endemic plant species
1. The Alps vs. the Carpathians

They share many geographic and natural features

BUT

After the middle of the 19th century, development trends bifurcated radically:

The Alpine regions are the most advanced and richest regions within rich countries (with a few exceptions)

The Carpathian regions are mostly the poorest regions within poor countries (with a few exceptions)
1. The Carpathian region

Need for an integrated and sustainable (economic) development of the whole Carpathian region

Carpathian’s natural assets as an important factor for development
Overview

2. The Carpathian Convention
2. The Carpathian Convention at a glance

Main objective:
Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian region

7 State Parties
Adoption: 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine
Entry into force: 4 January 2006
Current presidency: Slovak Republic
2. The Convention as an Institution
2. The Convention as a legal framework

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

- Biodiversity Protocol (Entered into force)
- Forest and Tourism Protocols ( Adopted)
- Other Protocols to be elaborated

New possible Protocols e.g. transport and infrastructure, agriculture, cultural heritage
2. The Programme of Work 2012 –2014

- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
- Spatial Development
- Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure
- Sustainable Tourism
- Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
- Climate Change
2. Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area

**AKK** - Alpine Carpathian Corridor

**BIOREGIO Carpathians** - Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

**Access2Mountain** - Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in Sensitive Areas of the Alps and the Carpathians

*Development of projects on biomass / forest management / virgin forests / tourism / adaptation / remote sensing*
2. Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area

Political mandate:
• Renewed mandate – COP3 decision 3/2 on spatial development
• Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area adopted

Recent developments:
Consultative Workshop ‘Moving towards a Carpathian Strategy’
Carpathians integrated in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the accompanying Action Plan
BIOREGIO Carpathians as one flagship project within the EUSDR
EC Calls for Tenders: Preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian region
EU represented at COP3
Europe of the Carpathians Conference, Krynica, Poland, 7 – 8 September
EC Calls for Tenders: Preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian region

Kind offer of the EC – DG Environment to organise the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change meetings within the CARPIVIA project
Overview

3. The Carpathian Space
3. The Carpathian Project

From the Carpathian Project towards the Carpathian Space

Lead Partner UNEP- Vienna ISCC
€ 4.260.000 (2,4 ERDF, PHARE, TACIS, Nat.)
18 partners, 10 countries
36 months (1 September 2005 – 31 August 2008)
3. Call for Carpathian Space

“The Carpathian Space” needed to develop the unique region in a **sustainable, innovative and integrated way** to continue:

- strengthening cohesion
- developing the region sustainably
- preserving the region’s heritage
- address typical mountain challenges in a coordinated manner

The Carpathian region as a region of sustainable development in the heart of Europe.
3. Call for Carpathian Space

Enhance effectiveness and coordination of EU and national financing for the sustainable regional development in the Carpathians

Example of Danube and Baltic Strategies

CALL FOR CARPATHIAN SPACE
3. The Carpathian Space
5. The way ahead

The Polish Presidency of the EU invited the European Commission to consider the accession EU to the Carpathian Convention during the EU Council of Ministers – Environment in December.
THANK YOU

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