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# TOWARDS A CARPATHIAN OBSERVATION AND EARLY WARNING PLATFORM FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

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**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change  
9 October 2019, Budapest, Hungary**

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# Introduction

- A mountain range such as the Carpathians encompasses **transboundary ecosystems**, where adverse climate impacts on one part of a transboundary ecosystem can create impacts for all the countries that share the ecosystem's services.
- In order to steer **progress towards building resilience and supporting collaborative action** on climate risks and impacts in the Carpathians **on a transboundary scale**, actors require effective science-policy interfaces capable of timely recognition and communication of early warnings as well as longer-term risks, backed by effective monitoring networks.
- **Better understanding cross-border connectivity and risks/opportunities** as well as strengthening cooperative action will be key **towards achieving national and international goals for climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.**

# The idea

The Secretariat prepared a discussion paper that

- aims to **provide background information** on examples for climate change platforms and networks, including their activities and organizational structure;
- puts forward a proposal for establishing a **Carpathian observation and early warning platform for climate change** for collecting, managing, sharing and disseminating information on climate change and its effects in the Carpathian region.

The platform shall:

- present a **viable arrangement governed by the Carpathian Convention** and supported by / included into dedicated European or global projects while enjoying strong national and regional ownership;
- provide **opportunities for networking, collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the accessing of funding avenues.**

# Goals of the proposed platform

Supporting the implementation of the Article 12bis on climate change, the creation of a **Carpathian observation and early warning platform for climate change** strives to:

- Exploring **common priority actions** to strengthen regional cooperation;
- Identifying possible **areas of synergy between national and sub-national approaches** to deliver more successful outcomes coping with climatic changes;
- Strengthening the networking of Parties to the Carpathian Convention through possibly **exploring new mechanisms of cooperation and sharing experiences**;
- **Supporting participatory and decision-making processes** to accelerate action for mutual concerns;
- Exploring further the policy, science and practice aspects that can **help promote innovative approaches**;
- **Joining forces on funding opportunities** and drawing the attention of donors towards the benefits of greater regional cooperation;
- **Promoting climate research** on both qualitative and quantitative levels and foster the application of its results.

# Possible set-up and roles

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The Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change could act as a **Steering Committee** for the platform, overseeing and steering all activities and setting priorities.

**Partners** of the platform should be **nominated by the national focal points**, considering the most relevant national institutions in each country working on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The **Science for the Carpathians Initiative (S4C)** could as an already established forum ensure scientific excellence.

# Selected examples for CC platforms/networks: Virtual Alpine Observatory 1/2

## VIRTUAL ALPINE OBSERVATORY

- established since 2012 the “Virtual Alpine Observatory” (VAO) has been operating as a **network of European High Altitude Research Stations**, including ten countries
- cross-border and interdisciplinary cooperation to **address scientific problems** (atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere/cryosphere systems, possible impact of environmental influences on health)

Participating observatories and institutions



www.vao.bayern.de



**Members:**

	
Austria	France
	
Germany	Italy
	
Slovenia	Switzerland

**Associated:**

	
Bulgaria	Czech Republic
	
Georgia	Norway

**Observers:**

	
Alpine Convention	European Space Agency

# Selected examples for CC platforms/networks: Virtual Alpine Observatory 2/2

## Organisation

- A **steering committee (VOA Board)**: composed of representatives of the respective institutions in the partner countries.
- A **VAO-Office**:
  - supporting the board and its annual meeting;
  - organizing the “VAO Symposiums“ to share know-how and experiences, also offering young talents a platform for networking and presenting themselves; next VAO Symposium in Bern/Switzerland from 4 to 6 February 2020;
  - representing a central contact point for scientists and stakeholders;
  - performing tasks mainly in the fields of public relations, lobbying, fundraising and administration.

**Weblink:** <https://www.vao.bayern.de/index.htm>

# Selected examples for CC platforms/networks: Pyrenees Observatory 1/2

## PYRENEES OBSERVATORY

- The Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory (OPCC) is a **cross border initiative of territorial cooperation** of the Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP), launched in 2010
- OPCC aims to **monitor and understand climate change** in the Pyrenees in order to help the territory adapt to its effects and be the **reference platform of knowledge on adaptation to climate change**



**Weblink:** <https://www.opcc-ctp.org/en/contenido/presentation-opcc>



# Selected examples for CC platforms/networks: Pyrenees Observatory 2/2

## Organisation

- **Technical committee:**  
Representatives of the 7 territories of the CTP with the function of **guiding and setting priorities.**
- **Coordination committee:**  
Partners of the project; **responsible for coordinating and carrying out the operational part of the project.**
- **Advisory committee:**  
Scientists and representatives of the relevant socioeconomic sectors in the Massif. Its purpose is to **ensure scientific rigour** and **provide strategic guidance** to the work of the OPCC.



# Selected examples for CC platforms/networks: Climate Change Centre Austria 1/2

The **Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA)** is a network supported by Austria's most important institutions concerned with work on climate change.

- founded as a non-profit association in 2011 for promoting climate research and climate impact research and fostering collaboration in and among those fields.

## **Purpose and specific goals:**

- promote climate research and foster the application of its results
- promote junior scientists, support knowledge transfer, enhance climate research skills and capacities
- provide policymakers and society at large with scientifically sound advice on climate change assessment, climate policy design, and climate adaptation and mitigation measures
- organize and hold scientific conferences and workshops (such as the Austrian Climate Day)

The CCCA currently has 21 full members and four sponsoring members.

**Weblink:** <https://ccca.ac.at/en/homepage>



# Selected examples for CC platforms/networks: Climate Change Centre Austria 2/2

## Organisation:

### CCCA Management Board

- elected by the General Assembly of CCCA members
- steers the activities of the network and provides guidance to the operational units.

### CCCA operational units

- CCCA-Coordination Office:
  - supports all CCCA-bodies in administrative and content-related matters
  - responsible for Annual Austrian Climate Convention („Austrian Climate Day“), CCCA working groups
- CCCA-Service Centre:
  - functions as neutral knowledge broker within the network
  - facilitates the dissemination of information and coordinates this process
- CCCA-Data Centre:
  - provides central national archive for relevant climate data and information

# Potential funding opportunities – EU 1/2

- EU Regional Development and Cohesion Policy beyond 2020: EC proposes a New Framework with five investment priorities, including a **Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change**
- The June 2019 European Council adopted the **EU's Strategic Agenda 2019-2024**, focusing on **four main priority areas**:
  1. Protecting citizens and freedoms
  2. Developing a strong and vibrant economic base
  - 3. Building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe**
  4. Promoting European interests and values on the global stage.
- Early 2020 the EU shall adopt it's **2050 long-term strategy**
- EU Strategy For The Danube Region (**EUSDR**) is currently revising its **Action Plan**

EU Member States and the European Council in the forthcoming months to **reiterate the importance of transboundary collaboration on climate change concerns** and with this **secure sufficient funding sources within the next MFF budget lines.**

# Potential funding opportunities – EU 2/2

HORIZON 2020 FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (H2020) CALL: **TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STRATEGY** (ID: LC-CLA-23-2020)

## Scope:

- coordinate and support mountain regions research in Europe and develop a comprehensive **European Mountain Research Strategy** building on existing European activities.
- **support the development of services** necessary for the adaption to climate change and the improvement and extension of observations, in particular in-situ ones, for the monitoring of the mountain regions.

## **Participating in the call** could:

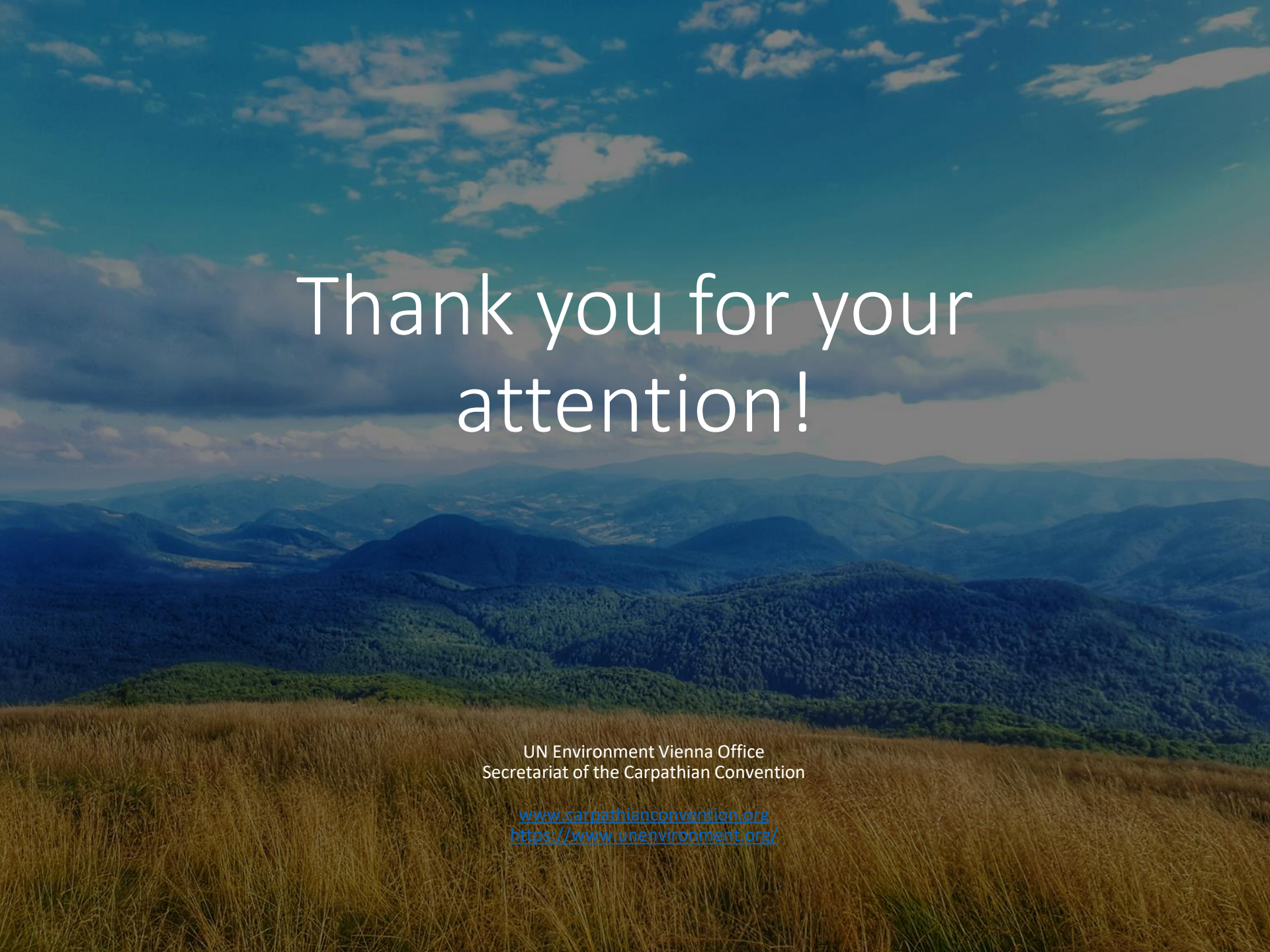
- embed collaboration on DRR and climate change in the Carpathians into a European Mountain Research Agenda;
- secure necessary funding for setting up a suitable structure for the platform.

Planned opening date: 12 November 2019

**Deadline for submission: 13 February 2020**

# Discussion

- General feedback on the idea of establishing a platform
- Specific reflections on purpose and goals (and feasibility)
- Which elements of the platform examples are most relevant to further consider?  
Do you know of any other good examples?
- Reflections on funding opportunities, in particular the H2020 call
- Next steps



Thank you for your  
attention!

UN Environment Vienna Office  
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

[www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)  
<https://www.unenvironment.org/>