

Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region”,
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Carpathian Strategy related documents

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Summary

- Carpathian Convention
- VASICA
- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area
- Draft working document on proposed Priority Areas and related actions/ projects for a possible Carpathian Strategy
- Next Steps



The Carpathian Convention

- 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
- Countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine



VASICA – Visions and Strategies for the Carpathian Area

- VASICA: 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



EU Strategies for the Baltic Sea and for the Danube Regions

Objectives:

- Synergies and coordination between policies and initiatives
- Strengthening of cooperation between stakeholders acting in the two Regions
- Promotion of priority actions and projects



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- Adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2009
- European Transnational Cooperation Programme for the Baltic Sea Region
- Eight countries: Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and **Poland**



Relevance for the Carpathian Region

- Poland is the only Carpathian country not included in the EUSDR and plays an important role both in the Baltic Strategy and the Carpathian Convention
- Several actions and project examples included in the EUSBSR can be an inspiration for actions and project examples to be included in the Carpathian Strategy

Example:

- Priority Area Culture “Developing and promoting the common culture and cultural identity”
- Actions: Joint promotion and presentation of BSR culture and cultural heritage, Cooperation on cultural heritage



EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- Adopted in 2010 by the European Commission and officially endorsed by the European Council in June 2011
- EU Financial Programme 2014 – 2020: European Transnational Cooperation for the Danube Region
- 8 EU countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, **Czech Republic**, **Slovak Republic**, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania) and 6 non-EU countries (Croatia, **Serbia**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, **Ukraine** and Moldova)



Relevance for the Carpathian Region

- Most of the Carpathian countries and a relevant part of the Carpathian Area are within the scope of application of the EUSDR
- The EUSDR includes in its Action Plan actions and project examples that are also relevant for the Carpathian Area



Examples

Pillar A: Connecting the Danube Region

- **Priority Area 2 “To encourage more sustainable energy”**: Leading role of the Carpathian Convention in promoting sharing of best practices on using biomass for energy purposes



Examples

Pillar B “Protection of the Environment of the Danube Region”

- **Priority Area 5 “To manage environmental risks”**: Importance of considering also the Carpathian basin within the research initiatives aimed at anticipating regional and local impacts of climate change
- **Priority Area 6 “Protecting the biodiversity, the landscapes and the quality of air and soil”**: Leading role in Action 6.9 “To prepare and implement transnational spatial planning and development policies for functional geographical areas (river basins, mountain ranges etc.)”. *Example of project*: “To implement the VASICA - Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian area”



Examples

- Several Priority Areas and related actions/project examples included in the **Pillar C “Building prosperity in the Danube Region”**, dealing with research, education, information technologies and competitiveness, and the **Pillar D “Strengthening the Danube Region”**, dealing with institutional capacity and cooperation and security, are relevant also for the Carpathian Region

Examples of actions:

- To strengthen cooperation among universities and research facilities
- To improve business support to strengthen the capacities of SMEs for cooperation and trade
- To enhance performance of education systems through closer cooperation of education institutions, systems and policies



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



Examples

Agriculture

- Action: To promote mountain quality products
- Projects: Promote the establishment of a label for Carpathian quality agricultural products

Transport

- Action: Development of multimodal transport systems
- Projects: Promote projects aimed at transferring transport of goods from road to rail in the Carpathian Area



Draft working document on proposed Priority Areas and related actions/ projects for a possible Carpathian Strategy

- Structure based on the EUSDR and EUSBSR
- First selection of Priority Areas and actions/projects related to topics relevant for the Carpathian Region not included in the EUSDR based mainly on the Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area
- **Main objective:** Document for discussion for identification of the structure and of the relevant Priority Areas and actions/projects to be included in a possible future Carpathian Strategy



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Pillar A: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CARPATHIAN REGION

Priority Area 1: To Promote Sustainable Forest Management

Priority Area 2: To Improve Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Pillar B: CONNECTING THE CARPATHIANS AND PROMOTING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Priority Area 1: To Preserve the Cultural Heritage

Priority Area 2: To Promote Sustainable Tourism

Priority Area 3: To Improve Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure and Accessibility



Next Steps: important issues to be considered

- Implementation of the EUSBSR and EUSDR
- Other relevant EU macro regional strategies processes: e.g. the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region
- EP Resolution of 23 May 2013
 - ✓ P.7: Importance of aligning the content of the strategy for the Alps with the Alpine Convention
 - ✓ P. 17: “the new ‘macro-regional’ cooperation framework must ensure that the natural handicaps of peripheral regions, such as high mountain areas, are converted into assets and opportunities, and that the sustainable development of these regions is stimulated”



Next Steps: an Opinion of the CoR?

Opinion of the CoR to the European Commission
underlining the importance and the need of a Carpathian
Strategy integrating the EUSDR?



Thank you for your attention

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