



Minutes - Carpathian Strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning

held in Vienna, on 26 – 27 May 2008
United Nations Environment Programme Vienna –
Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Participants: Please see attachment „List of Participants“

May 26, 2008

Duration: 14:00-18:30 h

Additional remark:

All presentations mentioned hereinafter can be downloaded under
<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/framework/26.05.2008.htm>

Workshop:

- Welcome and presentation by Harald Egerer, UNEP Vienna ISCC
- Introduction round
- Introduction to the workshop goals, presentation by Maciej Borsa, RTI Polska
Mr. Borsa underlines the importance of this Working Group, as it serves – together with others – to make the Carpathian Convention more operational. The goal of this workshop is to achieve common understanding, formulate common goals based on documents and identify respectively confirm possible fields of transnational cooperation.
- Presentation of the Carpathian Project outcomes by Doris Wiederwald, ÖAR Regionalberatung, UNEP-ISCC-consultant
- Presentation of the draft „Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area (VASICA)“ - by Ivan Illes, Hungarian Academy of Science
- Discussion round:
Mr. Stojkov asks for the meaning of the term inner and outer market lines. Mr. Gál explains that, until after the 2nd World War, a chain of small market towns was operational for the trade of agricultural products. With centralisation processes these small markets disappeared and the small towns lost their significance for that. After the political changes in the 90ies some functions could be revived, but not all. Mr. Kyselka adds, that with the

Walachian economisaton and the new economy old economic patterns disappeared, typical for the Carpathian Space are land-use and settlement, thermal spas and water.

Mr. Arbter asks for the embedding of this Working Group in political processes and on the background of having a „Carpathian Space“.

Mr. Egerer and Mr. Borsa outline the political structure of the Carpathian Convention and that this Workshop forms the start of the Spatial Planning Working Group. On the question on the background of the „Carpathian Space“ they explain, that seven countries decided to form this Space in the Framework Convention. The task of this Workshop and the subsequent Working Group is on how to achieve these political goals. It is further outlined that the start of the Carpathian Convention was on biological issues, but there are very many specificities similar to the Alpine Space: Transport, agriculture, forestry, rural development, etc. The First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Partners had 150 stakeholder from different sectors and levels, a cooperation with the Alpine Space is formally agreed. The Carpathian Countries can together make them more heard on EU-level, as a lot of funding still goes to urban areas and „old member-states“.

- Presentation of the discussion topics: „Transnational Spatial Issues of the Carpathian Region“ by Maciej Borsa.
- Borsa raises the question on the structure of a transnational document and proposes to keep it simple and clear and define less goals than in national documents, namely: „Conservation and Restoration of Natural and Cultural Resources“, „Internal Cohesion“ and „External Cohesion“.

The strategic questions are:

- How to protect the unique Carpathian heritage?
- How to make the Carpathian Region internally coherent, how to create its transnational identity?
- How to achieve external coherence of the Carpathian Region?

The maps in workshop meeting room and in VASICA were prepared mainly by Urbanproiect Bucharest.

- Mr. Stojkov explains that unfortunately Serbia could not take part in the INTERREG IIIB-Project „Carpathian Project“ but that now the Serbian part shall be added.
- Mrs. Vilimaite asks for the difference between the VASICA and Mr. Borsa’s discussion paper. Mr. Borsa replies, that they should be treated as parallel proposals, as it is not decided yet if it possible to politically decide on the 200-pages-paper VASICA which will be further extended with examples of pilot actions. What is missing are the maps. VASICA is collecting inputs and this Workshop is one first step for it. The next Conference of Parties (COP2), taking place from 17th to 19th of June 2008 will get VASICA for information but not for approval. The mandate shall be to start the work on the Carpathian Space. Another important part for the work on the Carpathian Space are the follow-up projects that are coordinated by UNEP-ISCC in the frame of the follow-up-platform.

Mr. Illes adds, that some comments to VASICA were already received and that these will be integrated in the document together with the Workshop comments.

- Discussion on the 3 maps displayed in the workshop room
Mr. Hrdina: Lines in polycentric development shall be more connected within Slovak Republic. As well a differentiation on what is developed and on what

should be developed shall be made. Also on the Czech-Polish-Slovak border there are more activities now than indicated in the map, e.g. in Zilina, a lot of subcontractors now come from Southern Poland and Northern Bohemia. The Silesian cluster has nearly 8 million inhabitants now.

The map of the transport networks shall indicate some additional connections, e.g. the road from Timisoara to the Hungarian border.

Mr. Borsa agrees, that some corrections to the maps are of course needed, but not too detailed ones as they should be valid for the whole Carpathian Space.

Mr. Dittrich asks if these maps are a vision or a status quo?

Mr. Borsa defines them as a mixture of the status quo and wishful thinking. But there is not such a great difference.

Mr. Illes indicates, that the motorway network is indicated as it was 6 years ago.

Mr. Stojkov explains the contradiction that nearly only North-South lines are indicated in the transport map. The ideas of Planet Cense-project in terms of defining the action areas in terms of west-east connections shall be taken up.

Mr. Kyselka adds that the maps show the development until lately. Some areas of „tourism danger“, endangered peripheric regions and old industrial regions with environmental and social problems shall be further identified.

Mr. Egerer proposes to add the Centrope-Region as well.

Mr. Borsa adds that it shall be outlined what areas are „sleeping in development“, which regions are emerging. Mr. Gal underlines that it shall be indicated that what development is internal and historic and which one is based on FDI (Foreign Direct Investment). Additionally he suggests that Tatabanya to Budapest might be a new development axis, apart from the first from Vienna to Budapest. As well currently Romanian cities grow faster than Hungarian ones and they attract Hungarian workers – thus daily commuting is taking place there.

Mrs. Vilimaite points out the sustainable development principle, that shall be considered.

Mr. Teres misses issues of rural development and especially sustainable agriculture in the maps. Mr. Illes replies, that this issue is mentioned in the background documents.

Mr. Church refers to the transport system study carried out by EURAC in the frame of the Carpathian Project and the recommendations given therein. Especially he underlines the importance to indicate which transport routes can be environmentally sensitive and that accessibility is not only relevant to tourism areas but also to major cities.

- Presentation by Mr. Stojkov on the situation in Serbia

He points out the strong out-migration of Eastern Serbia, especially since the end of the 20th century. Further he points out the low accessibility of this region without trains or airport and only weak roads and accordingly low level of tourism as well as the small number of settlements with the main centre only having 50.000 inhabitants. As well he mentions concerns on the way the national park there is managed, on the border management and that, due to the average high age of population, the lack of interest in development.

Mrs. Vilimaite counters, that people there are still creative, but what they need are fora and guidance. Maps have the problem that they simplify on big scale and cannot take into consideration local solutions.

Mr. Borsa invites to indicate in the maps on what shall be changed or added in the maps in terms of tourism.

May 27, 2008

Duration: 09:15-12:30 h

Workshop:

- Mr. Borsa concludes on the first day and introduces in the session of this morning.
- Discussion of the „Progress report on the implementation of Article 5 – Spatial planning of the Carpathians“
Mr. Egerer informs, that at the Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, held on 2-4 April 2008 in Sibiu, it was decided that the Spatial Planning Working Group will further go on. At the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP2) VASICA shall be welcomed. Additionally the follow-up-platform will further be the engine of project development in the Carpathians.
Mr. Illes proposes to explain the nature of the VASICA-document and of the Carpathian Project more clearly in this report. If spatial planning in the different countries is decentralised, the regions shall be invited to the next working group meeting.
Mr. Egerer explains that Ukraine will propose at COP2 a Conference of the Regions.
Mrs. Vilimaite adds for point 2 under „possible actions“ that results of the Tourism Working Group are not considered yet and shall be integrated to ensure proper follow-up and activities in the Working Group.
Mr. Borsa proposes to indicate in the report as Carpathian Project outputs the following order: VASICA, then KEO, the sector analyses, the Carpathian Atlas and the pilot actions – and at the end the follow-up platform.
- Mr. Church informs that EURAC produces a handbook on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention which is not part of the Carpathian project but still very relevant because related activities are implemented e.g. a series of training initiatives (note from the minute taker: *the publication „Handbook on the Carpathian Convention“ produced by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and EURAC is distributed to participants*).
- Discussion of VASICA and the political document:
Mr. Borsa proposes to add – in cooperation with Mrs. Wiederwald - the conclusions of other project activities to VASICA, once they are available.
As well the political document could be shortened to 15 pages.
Mr. Stojkov explains that Vision and Strategies have to put in context: Serbia and the Ukraine are not even yet candidate countries for accession to the European Union. This kind of administrative and political threats shall be mentioned there. Also he proposes to stronger underline the issue of raising awareness, information and education. Additionally he requires that Serbia has to be added in the data and maps.
Mr. Illes replies that future work should be put in another document and working programmes and that the KEO working process was rather different and that the scenarios mentioned therein are not sufficient.
Mr. Egerer counters that KEO provides an extensive Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Carpathian Space and this should be integrated into

VASICA. Also more emphasis on opportunities shall be shown such as conservation economy, the Carpathians' assets and capital. As local development is not considered enough this point shall be shown in the final synthesis work.

The discussion on maps is summarized by Mr. Borsa that VASICA should be kept and maps shall be used for discussion in the Working Groups.

Mr. Zhigun also proposes to leave the maps as for them political agreement is needed, which is currently difficult to achieve in Ukraine.

Mr. Borsa asks especially Ukraine for support in new information, e.g. on emerging issues in Ukraine.

Mr. Kyselka and Mr. Stojkov point out that maps of status and maps of vision have to be differentiated.

Mr. Borsa adds that the results of the transport study by EURAC shall be integrated when further working on the transport map.

Mrs. Vilimaite raises the issue of asking stakeholders on the paper of Mr. Borsa.

Mr. Borsa explains that the background paper is no official document, parts of it are for VASICA, others are for a Working Paper for the need of the Carpathian Convention and the Working Groups. He warns to over-estimate the importance of a transnational strategy. A common understanding shall be achieved of the Carpathian Space, indicating what one could do and not what one should do. Maps and strategies only integrate how actions are related to the space.

Mr. Sambura indicates VASICA as the major output of the project. How to proceed with it will be up to the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Illes adds, that even the ESDP was only accepted as a guideline and was not adopted by the nations.

Mrs. Rainer Cerovska proposes to add space for further thoughts of stakeholders in the documents.

Mr. Borsa agrees that it is of course a strategic process and that in the next step stakeholders have to be integrated. But in a first step the product itself has to be discussed. After the welcoming of the document by COP2 in the Working Groups it has to be elaborated how some parts can be implemented, as for example transport in connection with environmental issues.

These documents as basis will be useful for 8-10 years, depending on the development processes.

o Discussion of the item „Correction to Texts“:

Mr. Borsa concludes for VASICA or the „Political Summary“:

- Points on rural areas and agriculture will be added. Ukraine and Mrs. Vilimaite are asked to send inputs.
- The transport issue has to be overworked, this concerns the summary and the map. Mr. Illes and Mr. Borsa will integrate the new points in the study and the background paper. It has to be considered there whether data stems from the ministries of transport or from the environmental ministries. Also the revision of TEN-corridors is currently taking place on EU-level.
- Points on the Serbian Carpathians will be put in the documents.
- Polycentrism as a tool for enhancing growth and reducing man-made-pressure on the environment will be integrated in the study. The map will be further developed accordingly.

Mrs. Vilimaite suggests to mention train connections more strongly in the document.

The proposal of Mr. Kyselka, that historical connection shall be underlined for reviving them is replied by Mr. Borsa that Poland lacks in several parts of the country these connections as they were not part of the 19th century Austrian monarchy. Furthermore the EU has other needs to be considered.

Mr. Egerer explains the focus of the Carpathian Convention on sustainable modes of transport on different levels and at the same time prevent at best possible adverse impacts to the environment. This focus will be part of follow-up-projects.

Mr. Church supports this focus on basis of the results of the Working Group on Transport.

Mr. Borsa adds that not too many small roads shall be constructed, maybe one corridor could be split in several ones.

- Mr. Borsa asks the participants to send their comments until the 4th of June 2008.
- Mr. Illes agrees to try to synthesize the issue of possibilities for qualitative development based on resources as proposed by Mr. Egerer. But he points out, that agriculture cannot go together with that.
- Further discussion on maps:

Mrs. Rainer Cerovska adds that the whole Carpathians are a large area with natural assets and not only in Romania. This should be indicated better in the maps, e.g. with showing areas with specific assets.

Mrs. Damian adds that there are several gaps in the maps and reminds that data collection was very hard also in the KEO-working process. Also it has to be indicated which data refers to the whole of Romania and what date only relates to the Carpathian area of Romania.

Mr. Egerer proposes to integrate more the results of the Tourism Working Group and to take maps also from Geoportal and KEO.

Mr. Gembiak suggests that in terms of competitiveness the maps shall also show the outward connections, e.g. to the Baltic States, and reminds that the Pan-European Corridors are reviewed until 2010. He points out that the connection of the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean are very important and that Poland leads the initiative to build the „S 19“.
- Mr. Borsa asks the project participants to draw in the maps their proposals or to make it electronically later.
- To the question of Mr. Gembiak Mr. Egerer explains, that from the beginning of the Carpathian Convention process the environmental ministries and the ministries for foreign affairs were involved and also gave feedback to the ministerial declaration for COP2. Now the process is getting broader to other ministries.
- Discussion on the future of the Working Group on Spatial Planning:

Mr. Borsa asks Mrs. Wollansky if Lower Austria could contribute with Spatial Planning. She replies that, if a contribution is provided, it will be also on behalf of Vienna and Burgenland.

Mr. Egerer points out that this Working Group is a new exercise and open for creativity. (note from the minute taker: *The draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group is distributed to participants*). Mr. Egerer underlines, that it is great that Lower Austria could participate in this informal workshop and that next time maybe also Vienna and Burgenland want to join.

In a next meeting the Working Group will also have to decide how it constitutes itself. After the COP2, in autumn, work will be starting and a next

Working Group shall take place that also considers the follow-up platform. A future strategic workshop could also be bigger as now there are a lot of different follow-up ideas and the challenge is to pick a few and make them happen – also with stronger involvement of the regional authorities. Mrs. Vilimaite proposes to start the next meeting with the results from other Working Groups as this Working Group is a cross-sectoral one.