



Carpathian ESD Expert Network Meeting

Brief 2024 update, Youth Engagement, Outlook for 2025

online | 30 January 2025



AGENDA

1. Key activities from 2024

- Steps Forward Education Festival – New Approaches to ESD in the Carpathians and Beyond, Kosice, Slovakia, November 2024 *(Sharing impressions)*
- UNECE Forum for ESD and Youth *(Tamara Mitrofanenko)*

2. Engaging youth and young researchers in the Carpathian region

- Carpathian Convention hopes of engaging youth *(Tamara Mitrofanenko)*
- Youth engagement activities of European Wilderness Society *(Iryna Shchoka)*
- Project Shifting Towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation *(Valeriy Mykhaylenko)*
- Project ProBioTIC *(Senan Gardiner)*

3. Outlook for 2025 – Carpathian ESD and related Activities

- Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, cultural heritage via education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region *(Tamara Mitrofanenko and Elena Fischer)*
- Updates from the Hungarian Association of Environmental Enterprises *(Gary Hanko)*
- Updates from the Science for the Carpathians *(Joanna Zawiejska)*

1. Key activities from 2024



Steps Forward Education Festival – New Approaches to ESD in the Carpathians and Beyond

SHARING IMPRESSIONS

- **Links between the Slovak organizations working in environmental education with experts from other Carpathian countries**
 - Czech Republic
 - Hungary
 - Poland
 - Romania
 - Ukraine
- **Cross-sectoral references to links between education and:**
 - Pastoralism,
 - Biodiversity (e.g. co-existence with large carnivores),
 - Tourism,
 - Landscape interpretation,
 - Cultural heritage,
 - Engagement of marginalized groups
- **Active support from international experts**
 - Cyprus - Chair of UNECE SC ESD sharing inputs from the international Fran
 - Eurac Research



UNECE Forum on ESD

Empowering youth for Sustainable Futures: Entrepreneurship Education and Youth Engagement



<https://esdforumcyprus2024.com>

- **Promoted Carpathian youth, ESD and Entrepreneurship experts by supporting participation of:**
 - The Slovak Youth delegate (to the UNECE)
 - 2 nominated PhD students and teachers from Poland,
 - An Entrepreneurship education expert from Poland and
 - a Carpathian Convention expert and PhD student from Ukraine.
- **Insights from the World Café "Amplifying youth voices for ESD"
- focus on Multilateral Partnerships:**
 - Engage with NGOs and other partners to strengthen youth involvement
 - Consider which connections with our partners might be useful for youth
 - Use social media and technology to engage youth (especially from remote areas)



2. Engaging youth and young researchers in the Carpathian region



Carpathian Convention hopes for engaging youth

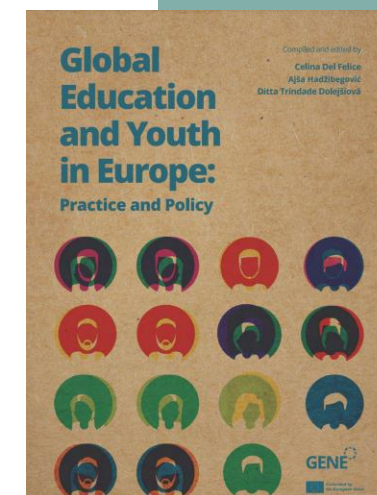
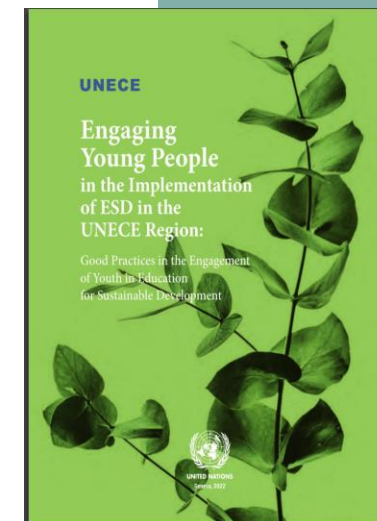
BUILDING ON CONVENTION DOCUMENTS:

- **Carpathian Convention 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7)** "Invites the Parties to **explore the possibility of establishing "Carpathian Convention Youth Focal Point"** in order to increase the engagement of young people in this process": DECISION COP7/19.4

BUILDING ON ESD AND SCIENCE FOR THE CARPATHIANS (S4C) EVENTS:

- Exploring options for collaborating with the **UNECE Youth Delegates and Youth processes**
 - Czech Republic, Slovakia
 - *German youth delegates expressed interest in collaborating with Carpathian Youth representatives*
- Presenting at several **events for young scientists**
 - Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS)
- Engaging young scientists in Carpathian Convention processes
 - Facilitating collaboration between **Leuphana University, Centre for Ecological Research (HU)** and **Jagiellonian University (PL)** – (ProBioTIC Project)
- **Carpathian Day** Events as occasions to involve youth
 - Discussions about **"marginalized" youth** and ways to engage them (Forum Carpaticum 2025?)

Looking forward to inputs and ideas of how to fit the puzzle pieces together!



Updates and inputs from partners

- **Youth engagement activities of European Wilderness Society**
(Iryna Shchoka)
- **Project Shifting Towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation**
(Valeriy Mykhaylenko)
- **Project ProBioTIC: Promoting Biodiversity through Transdisciplinary Learning Interventions in the Carpathians**
(Senan Gardiner)

3. Outlook for 2025 – Carpathian ESD and related Activities



PROJECT:



Federal Agency for
Nature Conservation



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, cultural heritage via education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region

1

Better **institutional alignment** within and between the Carpathian Convention and other international frameworks for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

2

Support the inscription process of Carpathian pastoral-related practices to the **UNESCO ICH List**

3

Strengthened **transnational multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary cooperation and knowledge exchange** in the Carpathians for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

4

Strengthened **awareness, education and training resources** for linking biodiversity and pastoralism in the Carpathians

Better institutional alignment within and between the Carpathian Convention and other international frameworks for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Integrate **recommendations on pastoralism, ESD and biodiversity** into Working Group meetings, CCIC meetings, COP8, and other Convention mechanisms
- Facilitate the integration and dissemination of project results into **COP8 decisions, CCIC meetings** and respective recommendations and **WG meetings**
- Represent the Carpathian Convention in the **UNECE Steering Committee on ESD**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- CC WG on Forestry (TBC April 2025)
- CC WG on Biodiversity (TBC May 2025)
- UNECE SC ESD Meeting in Geneva (May 2025)
- **3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar** (TBC June 2025)
 - Linked with Protected Area Managers' Seminar
 - Exploring links with Pastoralism and Biodiversity

Support the inscription process of Carpathian pastoral-related practices to the UNESCO ICH List

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Contribute to transhumance safeguarding plans, necessary for the UNESCO ICH List expanded file on Transhumance, and their follow-up activities in the Carpathian region
 - Join and invite experts to respective meetings and events
 - Consider potential of project activities to contribute to safeguarding measures

Strengthened transnational multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary cooperation and knowledge exchange in the Carpathians for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Strengthen collaboration between Carpathian Convention Working Groups (WGs) and with **IYRP 2026 Working Groups**
- Inter-and **transdisciplinary scientific exchange** within the S4C & ESD networks
 - **Create a regional group of academic, practice and policy experts** working at the intersection of pastoralism, biodiversity and ESD
- Create **scientific recommendations and science-policy-practice briefs**
- Establish or strengthen communication with relevant organizations
- Provide Carpathian contributions to the “**knowledge-sharing platform**” and the **European network of pastoral schools** and training centres of the LIFE ShepForBio project

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Forum Carpaticum
 - 9-11 Sept. 2025
 - Bratislava, Slovakia
 - Pastoralism & Edu & BD Session
 - Abstracts deadline: **20 March**
- International Mountain Conference
 - 14-18 Sept. 2025
 - Innsbruck, Austria
 - Pastoralism & Edu Session
 - Transhumance Session
 - Abstracts deadline: **20 Feb**
- Multifunctional Farming Conference
 - 16-18 Sept. 2025
 - Rzeszow, Poland
 - Several relevant topics
 - Abstracts deadline: **30 June**
 - Registration before

Strengthened awareness, education and training resources for linking biodiversity and pastoralism in the Carpathians

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Support **Carpathian Day activities**, with a focus on raising awareness of Carpathian pastoralism in celebration of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026
 - Develop and translate Carpathian Day materials into Carpathian national languages
- Create a stock-take of existing **informational resources** for Carpathian herders, conservation managers and educators linking pastoralism and biodiversity and **existing shepherd/herder schools in the Carpathian countries**
- Create an initial overview of public school and university **curricula and how pastoralism and traditional ecological knowledge is portrayed** in the Carpathian region
 - Utilise the ESD expert network to provide recommendations to the formal and informal educational materials related to pastoralism
- Support formal **training events or workshops** for Carpathian herders and **identify materials to be translated into Carpathian national languages** and support this process

Updates and inputs from partners

- Updates from the Hungarian Association of Environmental Enterprises
(*Gary Hanko*)
- Updates from the Science for the Carpathians
(*Joanna Zawiejska*)

Any other questions?

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