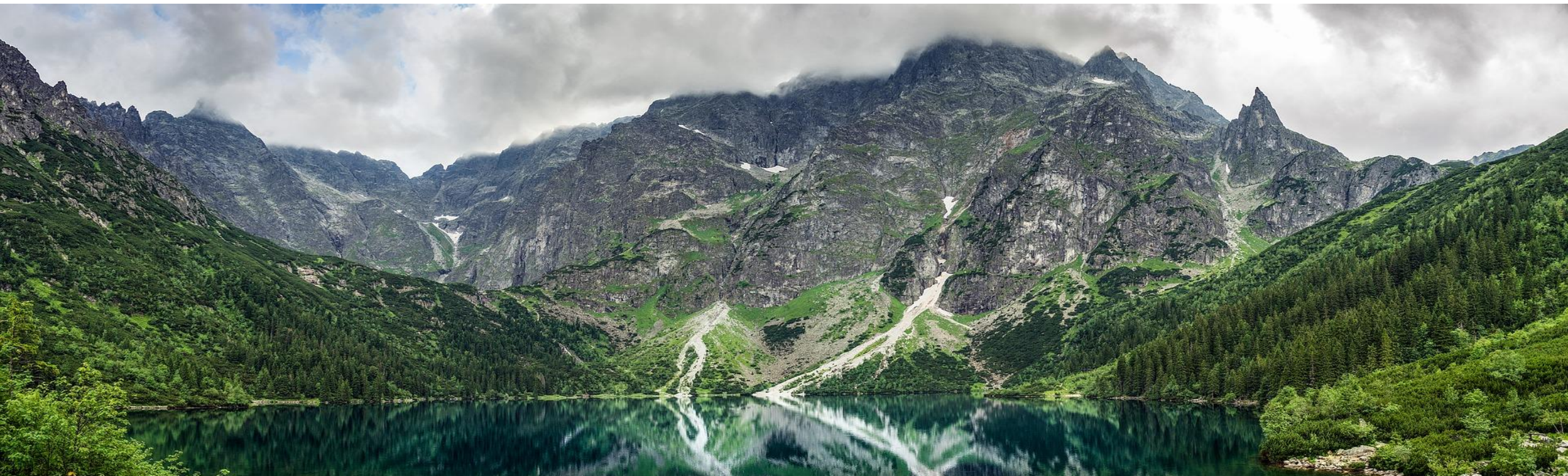




Updates and Outlook from the Carpathian ESD Expert Network

Tamara Mitrofanenko, Elena Fischer
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



CESDEN & SCC activities relevant for WG Biodiversity

- 2024 activities --> 2025 follow-up:
 - Student Conference on Conservation Science
 - Carpathian Day
 - Steps Forward Education Festival – New Approaches to ESD in the Carpathians and Beyond, Kosice, Slovakia, November 2024
- CESDEN meeting in January 2025: partner inputs
 - Youth engagement activities of European Wilderness Society
 - Project: Shifting Towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation
 - Project ProBioTIC
- SCC Project: Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, cultural heritage via education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian *Region*

Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) Europe

Balatonvilágos (Lake Balaton), Hungary

9th SCCS 2024 Europe:

- September 2024
- "Connecting Eastern and Western Europe in conservation biology"

10th SCCS 2025 Europe:

- 2 - 6 September 2025



Important dates

10th June: Abstract submission deadline
12th July: Registration deadline

SCCS 2024: Examples of relevant presentations

➤ Insufficient scientific evidence hinders large carnivore management in Romania

- **Andra - Claudia Neagu**, Laurentiu Rozylowicz
- University of Bucharest, Romania

"This research contributes to large carnivores' conservation in Romania by aiding protected areas administrators to identify conservation actions with proven effectiveness while considering local needs."

➤ Social-ecological integration of corncrake (*Crex crex*) conservation in a Transylvanian cultural landscape

- **Réka Szilágyi**, Zsolt Molnár
- ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary
- HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research

"We argue that understanding the local social-ecological context and knowledge system is the basis for ethical and effective conservation."

Carpathian Day

Carpathian Day

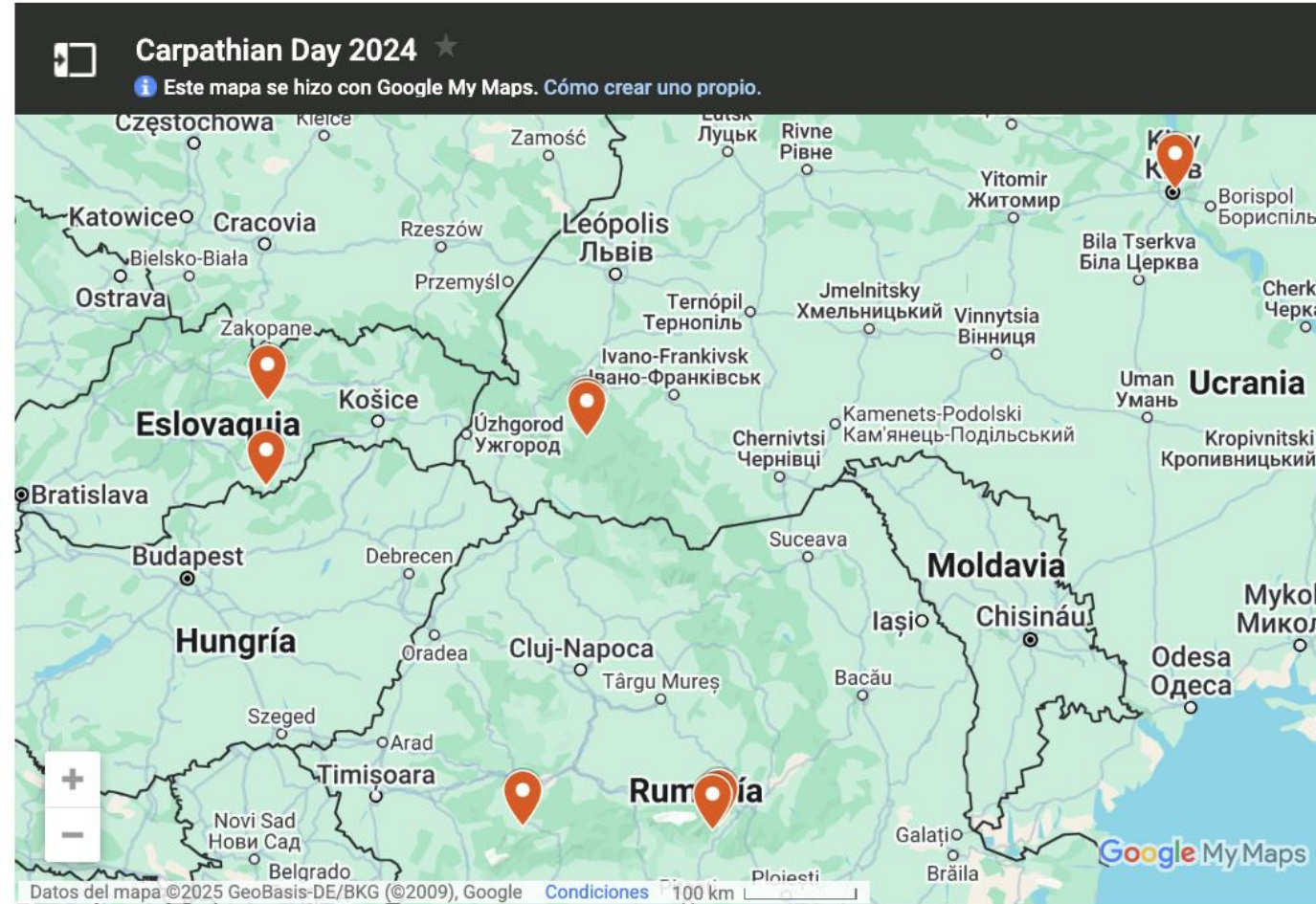
Celebrating our natural and cultural heritage

Carpathian Day is a yearly celebration that takes place on or around 26 September

Objectives:

- 1 Help cultivate a Carpathian identity
- 2 Raise environmental and cultural awareness of mountain landscapes
- 3 Inspire further protection and sustainable development of local communities

- Register Your Carpathian Day 2025 Event:
<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/topics/awareness-participation/carpathian-day/>



Carpathian Day 2025 events planned in **Slovak** protected areas

✓ The **Slovak Karst National Park** will organise “**Day of the Carpathians 2025**”, focus on the biodiversity of the Slovak Karst and cultural heritage

- a lecture and a film for primary and secondary school participants

✓ The **Tatra National Park** will organize the event "The Tatras are also part of the Carpathians" - information about the fact that the Tatras are part of the Carpathians.

- an installed information poster, where a map of the entire Carpathian arc will be depicted with the distinctive Tatras mountain range.

✓ The **Veľká Fatra National Park** will organize the Carpathian Forest event in Veľká Fatra. The event will include excursions to the natural history museum and field trips

- September 2025, open to the public

✓ The **National Slingshot of the Low Tatras** will focus on the natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathian region.

- intended for elementary school students.

✓ The **Pieniny National Park** will organize the event "Pieniny as they don't like it."

- organized in September and will be intended for elementary school children.

Steps Forward Education Festival

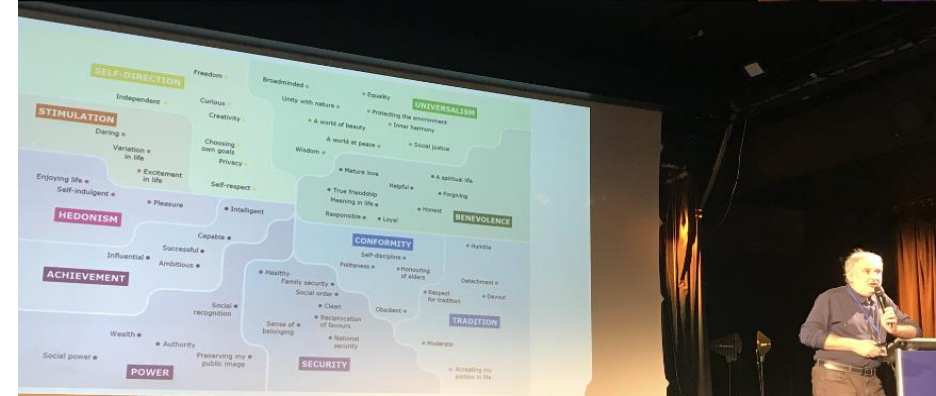
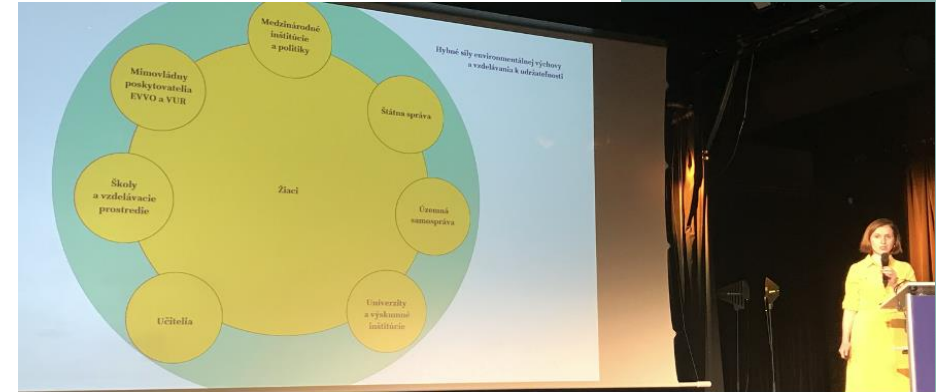
New Approaches to ESD

in the Carpathians and Beyond

November 2024, Kosice, Slovakia

Cross-sectoral references to links between education and:

- Biodiversity (e.g. co-existence with large carnivores),
- Pastoralism,
- Tourism,
- Landscape interpretation



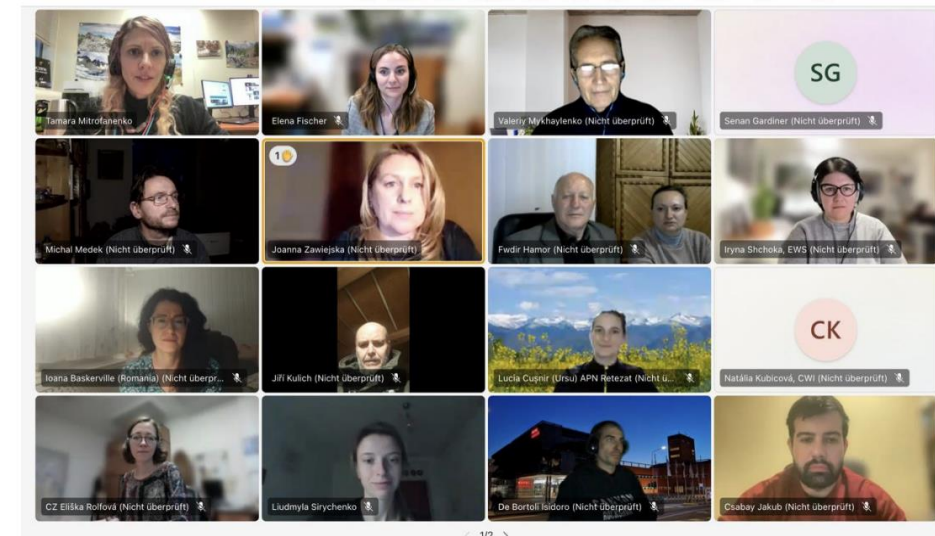
CESDEN meeting January 2025 - Partner Inputs

- 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*)



Carpathian ESD Expert Network (CESDEN) Meeting Brief 2024 Update, Youth Engagement, Outlook for 2025

30 January 2025 | Online



Moderators: Tamara Mitrofanenko and Elena Fischer (UNEP - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention)

➤ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org>
Meetings → Related Groups and Initiatives

Project:

Shifting Towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation

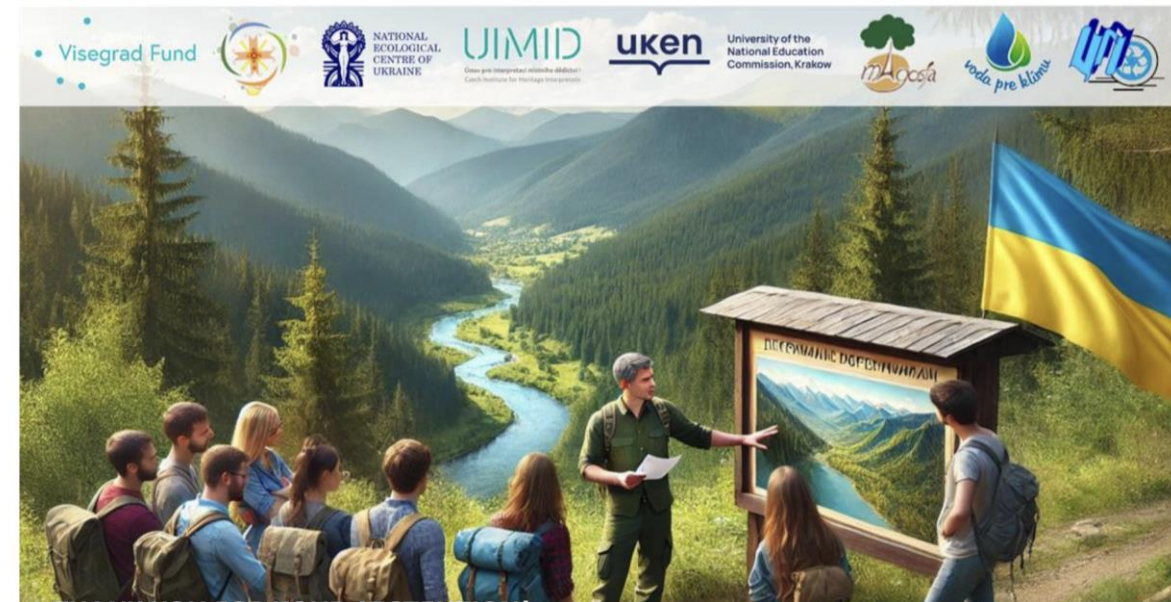


Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation



Carpathian School

May 1-4, 2025, Kosiv, Ukraine

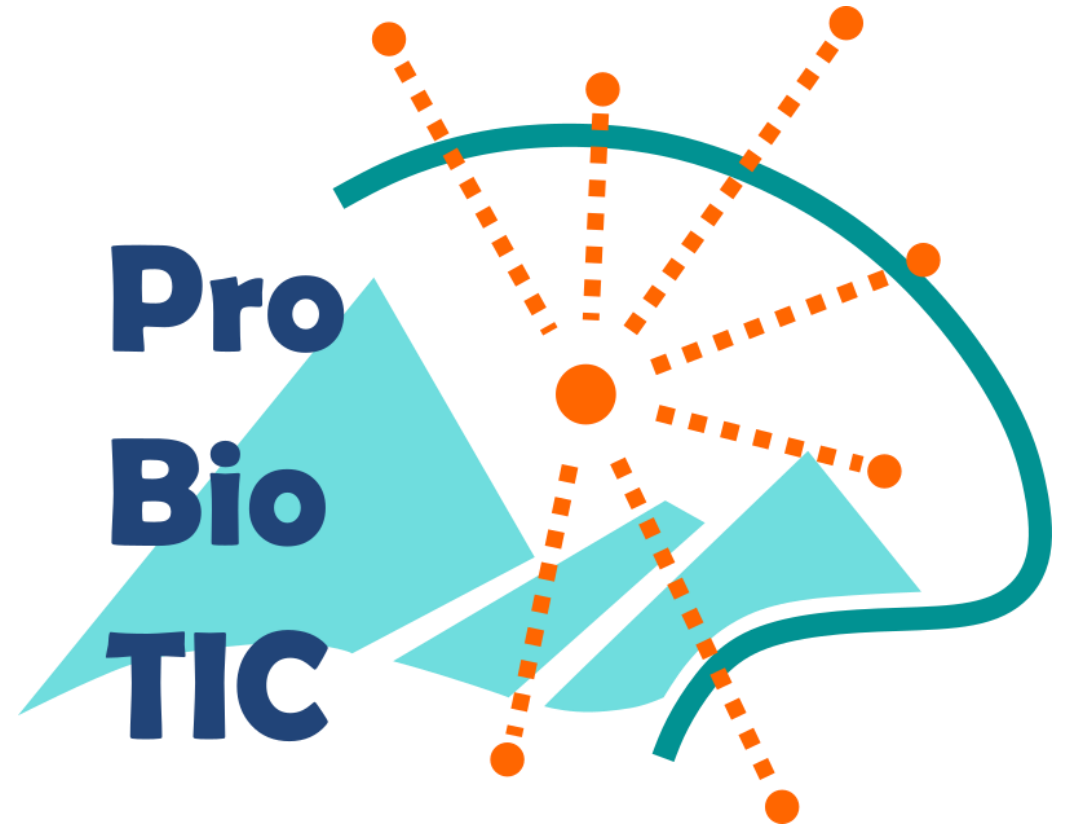


Project:

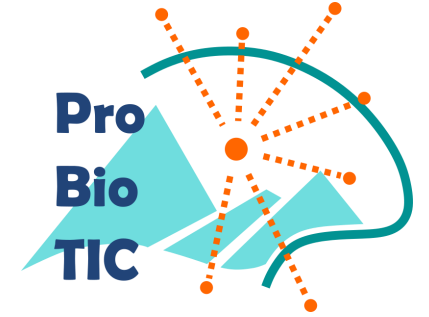
**Promoting
Biodiversity through
Transdisciplinary Learning
Interventions in the Carpathians**

Relevant Objectives

- Train young scientists in integrated approaches to promote biodiversity
 - with a broader inter- and transdisciplinary perspective,
 - by including key stakeholders from government, science, local businesses and civil society.



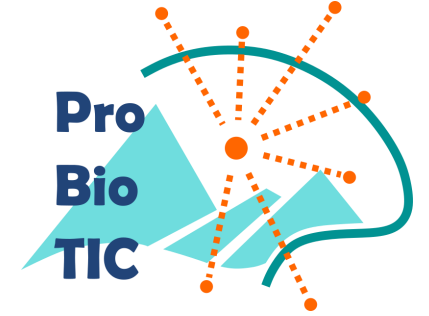
ProBioTIC



- **WP 1:** Bringing together **early-career biodiversity experts** from the region to network and develop their expertise on using ESD interventions to promote biodiversity during two Summer Schools in 2024 and 2025
- **WP2:** Teaching **university students** from LUL and JU HESRC during a one- semester module about the Carpathian Region, the Convention and its key actors
- **WP 3:** Developing policy briefs and engaging in dialogue with **stakeholders** from selected Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention and **policy makers** involved in relevant areas from Carpathian countries.



ProBioTIC



WP2: Teaching university students from LUL and JU HESRC during a one- semester module about the Carpathian Region, the Convention and its key actors

Transdisciplinary Module at Leuphana University (links between Biodiversity Conservation and sustainable consumption)

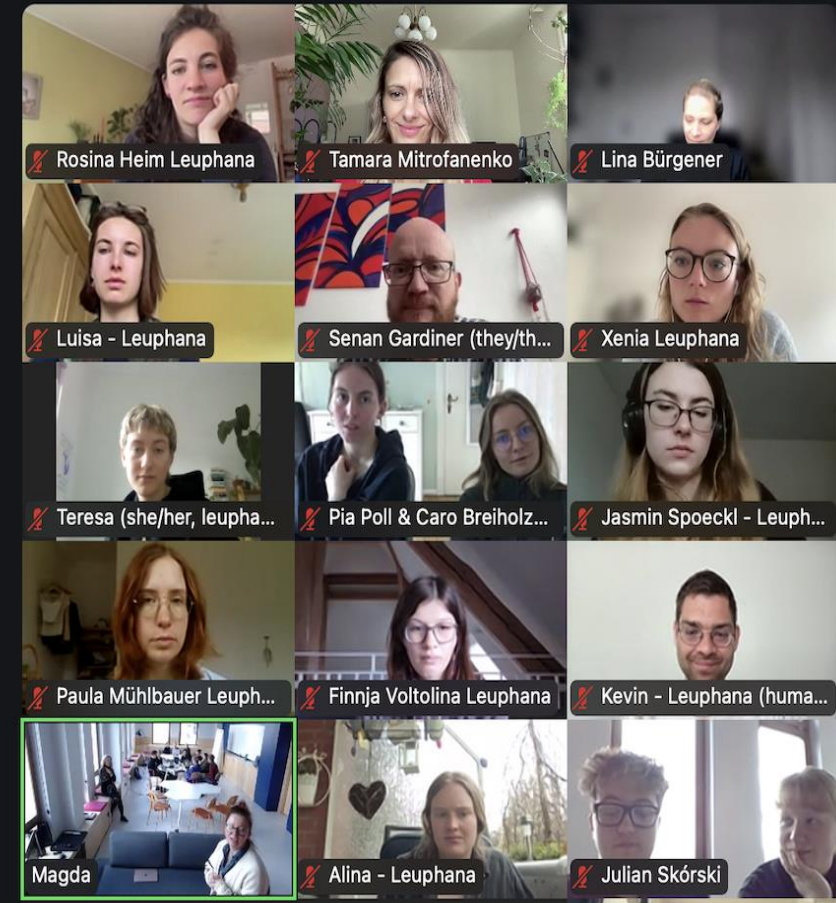
+

Course at JU:
"The Carpathians: Navigating Challenges in Sustainability and Biodiversity"

organizers and coordinators

- Dr hab. Agnieszka Wypych, prof. UJ
- Dr hab. Małgorzata Luc, prof. UJ
- Dr Małgorzata Pietrzak, prof. UJ
- Dr Magdalena Kubal-Czerwińska

with a team
of 13 students from 7 countries



SCC 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:

- UNECE SC ESD Meeting in Geneva (May 2025)
- **3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar** (TBC)
 - 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

RESULTS TO-DATE:

- Multinational extension of the Transhumance file submitted to UNESCO in March 2025
 - **Coordinated by:** Romania
 - **Participating CC Parties:** Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine
- Recommendation to submit a joint Carpathian Pastoralism file to the UNESCO ICH Convention List **Register of Good Safeguarding Practices**
 - **Next Step:** identifying the coordinating party

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
- International Mountain Conference
 - 14-18 Sept. 2025
 - Innsbruck, Austria
 - Pastoralism & Edu Session
- Multifunctional Farming Conference
 - 16-18 Sept. 2025
 - Rzeszow, Poland
 - Several relevant topics

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

Thank you!

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Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

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www.unep.org

