

# Draft Carpathian ESD roadmap 2030

## Pillar 1 – Strategic and conceptual foundations

### Activity 1 – Develop a Carpathian ESD White Paper

#### Objective:

To establish a shared strategic understanding of how international ESD priorities (e.g. UNECE Strategy for ESD, UNESCO ESD for 2030, EU recommendations, and other relevant frameworks) can be contextualized and implemented within the Carpathian region, and to develop a common language on ESD within the Carpathian ESD Expert Network (CESDEN).

#### Output:

A Carpathian ESD White Paper (≈10 pages) coordinated by CESDEN, presenting:

- An overview of key international ESD priorities and their alignment with Carpathian realities.
- A basic stakeholder map indicating who implements ESD strategies and how responsibilities are divided among institutions in Carpathian countries.
- A concise articulation of Education for Sustainable Development for the Carpathians – shared terminology, vision, and framing within CESDEN.
- Strategic recommendations identifying priority areas for coordination, and collaboration under the Carpathian Convention.

### Activity 2 – Develop a Unified Interpretive Strategy for the Carpathians (or for Carpathian ESD)

#### Objective:

To define a shared educational narrative for the Carpathians that translates the strategic findings of the White Paper into clear learning priorities and competencies.

The Interpretive Strategy will articulate the values, themes, and sustainability goals specific to the Carpathian region, providing a reference point for analysing curricula and identifying entry points for formal and non-formal education.

#### Output:

A Carpathian ESD Interpretive Strategy that:

- Defines key themes, values, and sustainability challenges of the Carpathian region relevant to ESD.
- Formulates learning objectives and core competencies that learners should develop to understand and contribute to sustainable development in the Carpathians.
- Establishes shared principles and terminology for communicating, teaching, and learning about the region's natural and cultural heritage, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Serves as a conceptual framework guiding future curriculum analysis, educational resource development, and outreach under the Carpathian Convention.

## Pillar 2 – Knowledge base on Carpathian educational systems

### Activity 3 – Strengthen the Knowledge Base on ESD and Carpathian Priorities in Formal Education

#### Objective:

To build a comprehensive understanding of how the key themes, values, and sustainability challenges of the Carpathian region (identified in Activity 2) are reflected in national curricula and teacher education systems, and to identify opportunities for better alignment and cooperation.

#### • Output:

A series of country-specific brief, and a regional synthesis paper that:

- Map how environmental education and ESD are embedded in primary and secondary school curricula across Carpathian countries.
- Identifies how Carpathian-specific topics (e.g. mountain ecosystems, traditional knowledge, sustainable tourism) are addressed and where gaps exist.
- Summarizes findings in country briefs and a regional synthesis highlighting good practices and trends.
- Provides recommendations for integrating Carpathian themes into existing national frameworks.

### Activity 4 – Enhance Understanding of Vocational and Lifelong Learning Systems in the Carpathian Countries

#### Objective:

To understand how vocational education and training (VET), and lifelong learning systems operate in the Carpathian countries and to identify entry points for integrating sustainability and Carpathian-specific priorities into skills development.

#### Output:

An analytical overview that:

- Maps the structure of vocational, requalification, and adult learning systems, including mechanisms for micro-credentials and continuing education.
- Identifies examples where green skills, sustainable tourism, circular economy, or traditional livelihoods are already addressed (or other key themes aligned with the Carpathian Convention, or themes that emerge from Activity 2).
- Compiles an inventory of good practices and provides recommendations for integrating Carpathian themes into VET and lifelong learning.

## Pillar 3 – Exchange, Capacity Building, and Visibility

### Activity 5 – Document and Showcase Carpathian ESD Good Practices

**Objective:**

To identify, document, and share exemplary Education for Sustainable Development initiatives that demonstrate how Carpathian values and sustainability goals are translated into practice across formal, non-formal, and community settings.

**Output:**

An ongoing collection and regular publication—hosted on the Carpathian Convention’s website—illustrating diverse educational approaches and good practices in:

- Project-based and service learning,
- Transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration,
- Vocational education addressing Carpathian priorities,
- Education as a tool for community and youth empowerment,
- Citizen-science and participatory learning initiatives.

### Activity 6 – Facilitate CESDEN Meetings and Knowledge Exchange

**Objective:**

To strengthen cooperation, knowledge sharing, and professional development among members of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network (CESDEN), as well as with key international fora.

**Output:**

A structured rhythm of exchange combining:

- Biannual online meetings to review progress of roadmap activities, exchange experience amongst each other, and with other regions, discuss emerging international priorities, etc.
- An annual face-to-face Carpathian ESD seminar, hosted by one of the member countries, focused on peer learning, collaboration building, and showcasing good practices.
- Support for the participation of CESDEN members in relevant ESD-related networking events, conferences, and exchanges—both within the Carpathian region and internationally—to promote knowledge transfer and strengthen partnerships. Special attention will be paid to exchange and transfer of Cypriot expertise and synergies with the UNECE ESD Steering Committee.

### Activity 7 – Support and Promote Annual Carpathian Day Celebrations

**Objective:**

To raise awareness of the Carpathians’ ecological and cultural value and foster a shared Carpathian identity through education, communication and celebration.

**Output:**

A coordinated regional celebration that:

- Promotes Carpathian Day as a joint awareness-raising effort across member states.
- Encourages partners to organize educational and public events under a shared regional theme (e.g. *Youth for the Carpathians*, *Education for Carpathian Sustainability*);
- Provides a shared communication toolkit and visibility materials for national and local organizers.

## **Pillar 4 – Enabling Conditions and Long-Term Sustainability**

### **Activity 8 – Enhance Enabling Conditions and Sustainability Mechanisms for Carpathian ESD Initiatives**

**Objective:**

To strengthen the long-term sustainability and cross-border cooperation of ESD initiatives through improved access to resources, innovative funding models, and the removal of institutional barriers.

**Output:**

A coordinated effort by CESDEN and the Carpathian Convention Secretariat that:

- Maps and communicates funding and cooperation opportunities relevant to ESD actors in the region.
- Explores social entrepreneurship and self-financing models, including mentoring and training through CESDEN.
- Conducts a light mapping of administrative and regulatory barriers hindering cross-border educational or ecotourism cooperation and facilitates dialogue to identify solutions.
- Produces practical outputs such as a compendium of funding sources, a guidance note on financial sustainability and social entrepreneurship, and a brief report summarizing institutional barriers and recommendations.