



## **16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee**

2-3 December 2025, Belgrade, Serbia

Meeting Venue: Hotel ZiJin (former Falkensteiner Hotel)

Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 10k, Belgrade, Serbia

## **Updates from the Carpathian Wetland Initiative**



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## Priorities 2025



- Integration of wetlands and their services and benefits into the work of the Carpathian Convention, its Protocols, bodies, thematic WGs, CNPA, implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
- Projects on ecological connectivity in the Carpathians; cooperation in designation of new RSs in the region + within network of RSs managers; networking with other partners and EUSDR PA6
- Sharing ideas and experience on restoration planning, NbSs, cooperation in project development; „sponges“ projects in the region in cooperation with Wetlands International (Latorica, Tisa SK-U-A, Orava river, Wetlands of Orava Basin SK-PL).
- Trainings, capacity building activities
- Cooperation with European Coalition of RRI, Danube Wild Islands RRI, with other partners
- Operation and governance – development of the new CWI Strategy 2025-2030 , review ToR; fundraising/fees



## Achievements 2025



### New CWI Chair Elected

- Adriana Kušíková (Slovak Ministry of the Environment) has stepped down from her position as CWI Chair due to internal changes in her agenda.
- Libuše Vlasáková (Czech Ministry of the Environment) was nominated and unanimously approved by the CWI Board via electronic vote (October 2025).
- Ms. Vlasáková brings extensive experience in wetland conservation and strong engagement in Ramsar Convention processes, ensuring strong leadership continuity.
- A brief online meeting will be arranged soon to officially welcome the new chair and discuss the next steps for CWI activities ( development of the new CWI Strategy until 2030 ).



## Achievements 2025



### CWI at Ramsar COP 15 (RRI Side Event)

- The Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) actively participated in the RRI Side Event and contributed to its organization and the RRI Stand costs.
- RRI Role: The event underscored RRIs as the essential link between the global Ramsar Convention structure and effective regional delivery, addressing shared threats, culture, and wetland types across continents.
- The side event celebrated RRIs' collective impact by showcasing successful case studies and approaches that directly deliver the Convention's core objectives: preventing wetland loss, restoration, and wise use.
- Discussions focused on proposals for the future of RRIs, specifically exploring replicable activities, how to support less active initiatives, and the potential need for establishing new regional tools.



## Achievements 2025



### International training course on river and wetland restoration

- Contribution to capacity-building workshops aimed at wetland site managers across the region - organising regular annual courses.
- International training course on river and wetland restoration organized by the Czech Ministry of the Environment within the Carpathian Wetland Initiative.
- Held 29 Sept – 3 Oct 2025 in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic (the sixth edition).
- Organized with the Elbe River Basin Authority; second course in this cooperation
- Focus on restoration of streams, rivers, oxbow lakes, alluvial pools, fishponds, and alluvial meadows in East Bohemia.
- Covered restoration goals, project planning and design, implemented measures, and monitoring & evaluation.
- Emphasized the need for effective public communication and improved cross-sector cooperation (nature conservation, water management, agriculture, forestry, private landowners, stakeholders)
- Participants from: Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine and Serbia (various environmental, academic conservation institutions).



## CARPATHIAN LIFE SNaP project



### WP 3 - Water retention management

Activity: Regular annual training courses aimed at improving the technical capacity of wetland managers across the Carpathian region in restoration, sustainable management, nature-based solutions and transboundary cooperation

- Focus: wetland and river restoration, climate change adaptation, biodiversity in Ramsar/Natura 2000 sites.
- Outputs: short online guidance notes with key lessons
- Builds skills for peatland restoration, floodplain reconnection and natural water retention
- Aligned with Ramsar Convention, Carpathian Convention and major EU policies
- Linked to other LIFE/Interreg projects and international wetland networks (DANUBEPARKS Association-RRI Danube WILDisland, Wetlands International).
- Follow-up: site projects, joint monitoring, best practice materials

Activity: Implement the CWI by supporting pilot sites, facilitate regional coordination, and develop policy tools and action plans for wetland sustainable use and conservation.

•**SNC SR & CWI: associated partners only** ☹





Thank you for your attention

