



CSTP Poland/Carpathian Euroregion report

Rzeszów, 11th March 2026



Presentation structure:

❖ Euroregion 2026

❖ The main directions and fields of activity of the Euroregion 2026

❖ Presentation of the development prospects of the Carpathian Euroregion until 2030

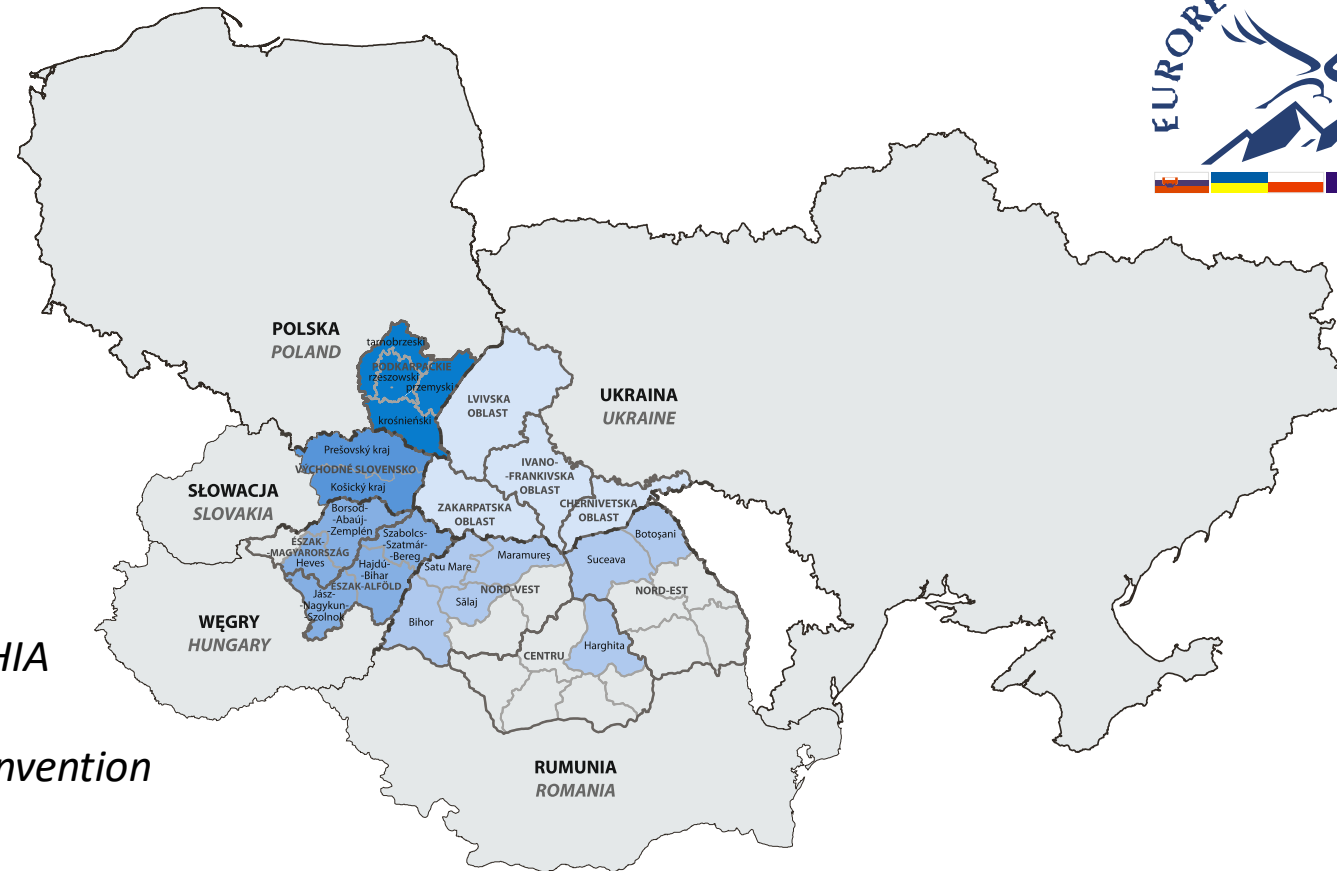


Carpathian Euroregion state of art 2026

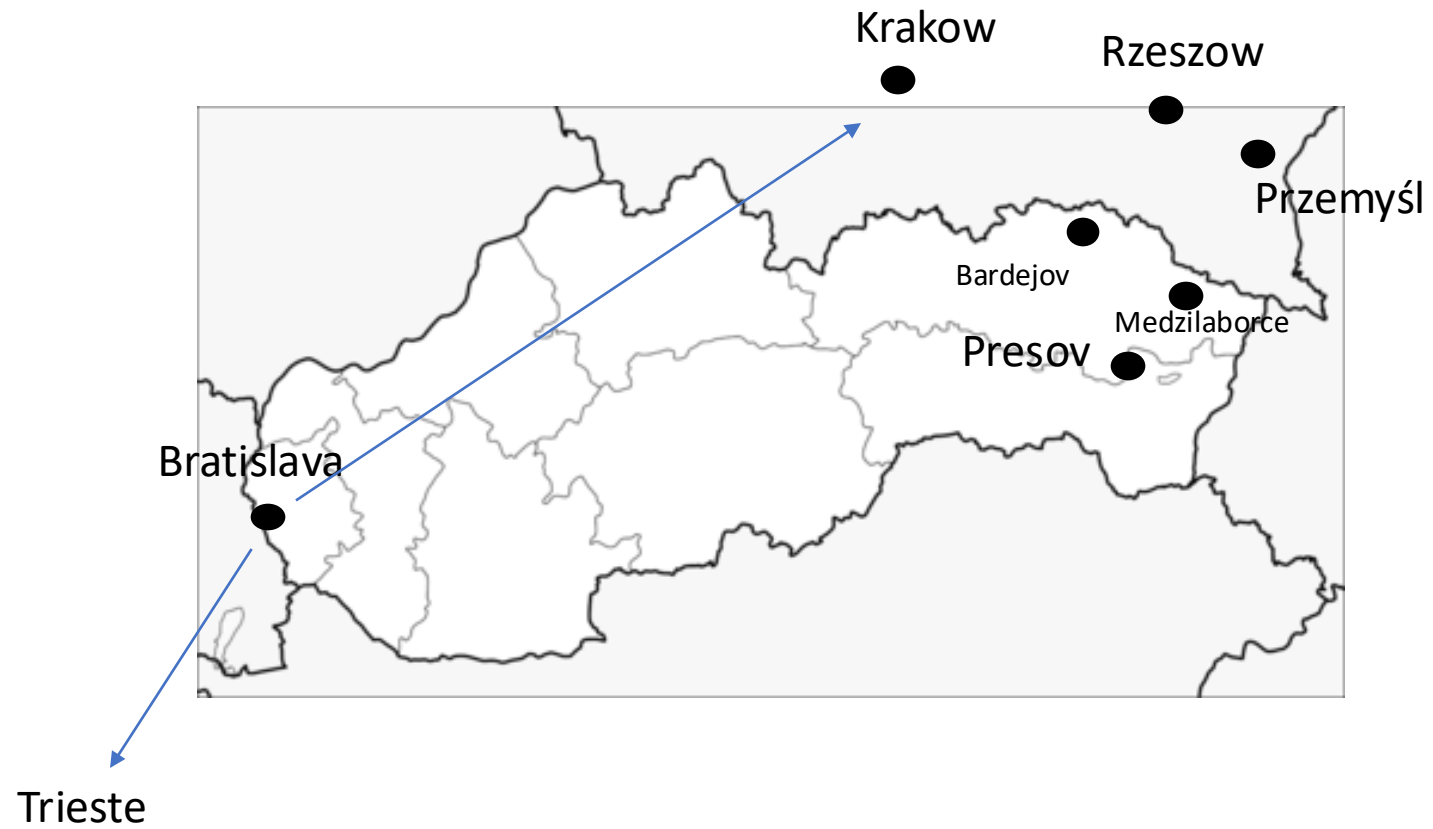
Mission:

**Building a common socio-economic space
in the Carpathians**

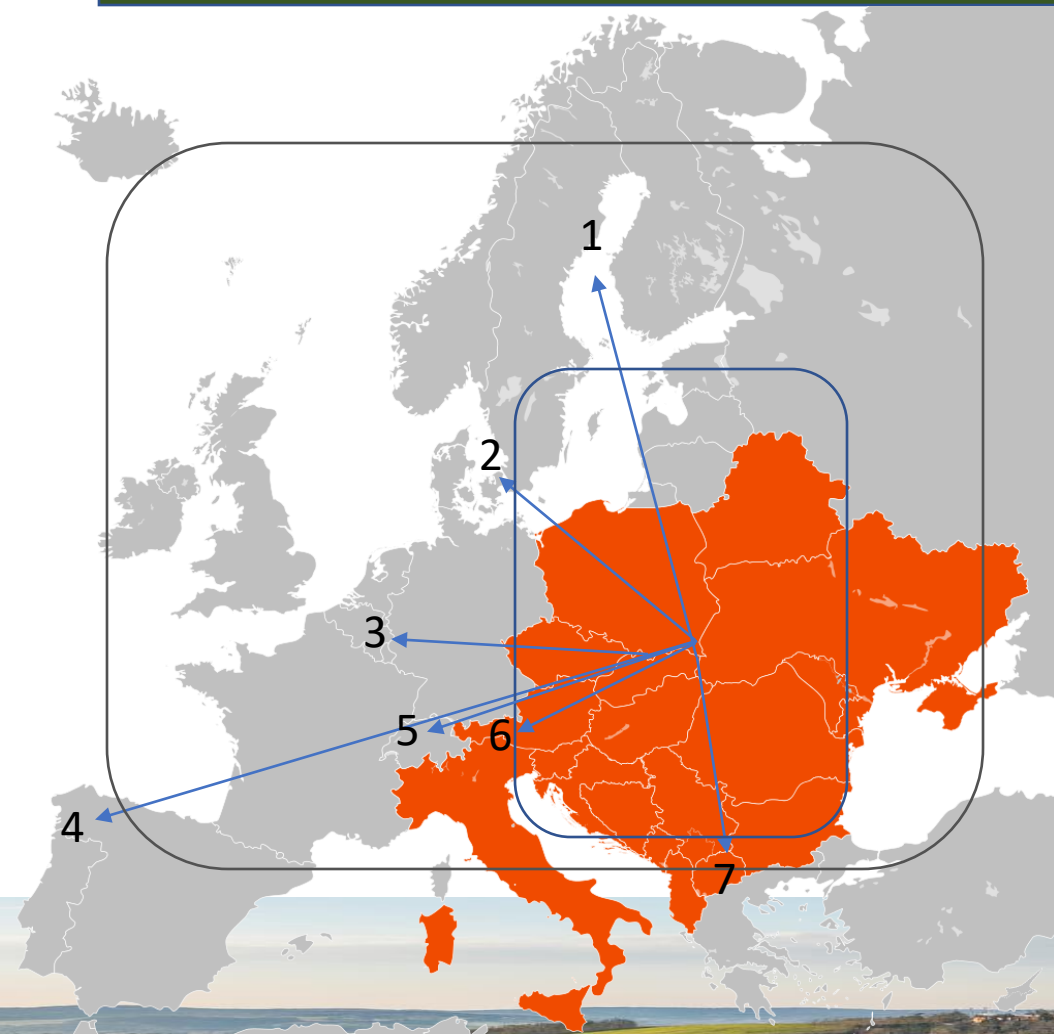
- *Established in 1993 in Debrecen*
- *The largest Euroregion in Europe*
- *Is a cross-border legal entity*
- *Has over 100 members*
- *Implements European Union programmes*
- *Implements the Carpathian Brand CARPATHIA*
- *Is a member of the AEBR*
- *Coordinates the CSTP of the Carpathian Convention*



Structure of PL – SK cooperation



European Partnership of the Carpathian Euroregion



The Carpathian Euroregion is the Polish Centre of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform



1. Poland – Carpathian Euroregion (CLB)
2. Slovakia – ZMOS (Public Entity – Association of Local Governments)
3. Romania – Brasov County (local authority 1 of 41)

The rest....?



Weaknesses:

1. **Legal imbalance** – different types and sectors of entities, different missions
2. **Incomplete structure** at the political, territorial and operational levels
3. **Lack of funding** and cooperation capabilities, dependence on external projects
4. **Ergo:** inability to continuously implement any serious CSTP activities with a real impact on changing the situation



CSTP – Recommendations/conclusions:

1. The CSTP does not implement the strategic objectives of the Carpathian Convention.
2. An integrated structure is needed, with stable sources of funding, procedures and a culture of cooperation.
3. A higher and more professional level of coordination and management can be achieved within a single organisation.

What next?





DECISION COP6/15 Proposed priorities until the end of 2023

1. Institution building

- Revitalization of the cooperation system within the CSTP.
- Professional, complete CSTP Cooperation System is needed, able to act autonomously and coordinate in real time rather than in project cycles.
- The task of reactivation of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, also falls under this thematic category.

2. Carpathian Tourism Observatory

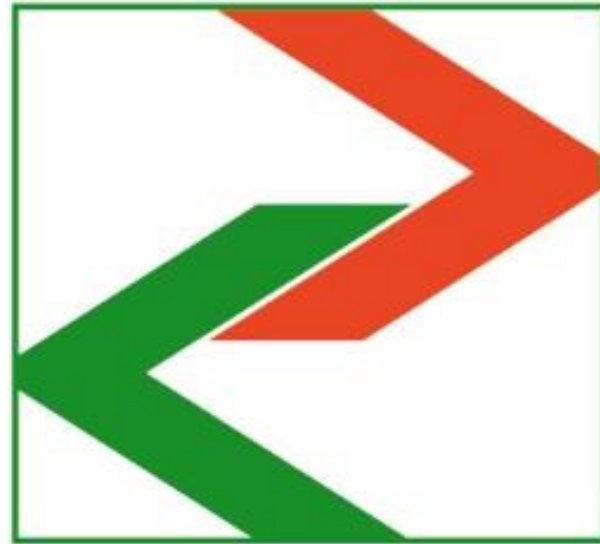
- Creation of the Carpathian Center and Information System for the tourism sector – professional institution managing information necessary for the coordination of sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians.
- It conducts services, analyses and manages information in terms of a sustainable tourism client (tourist), as well as an institutional customer.

3. Carpathian Nature and Culture

- Creation of a product offer based on the natural and cultural resources within the Carpathian Brand aimed at "premium" customers.
- On foreign markets and internal market (CC area) there are offers, packages of inbound tourism to the Carpathian Region based on cultural and natural resources together with functioning professional business structures responsible for their development with due consideration of principles of sustainable tourism development.

Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

**The Association of the Carpathian Euroregion is a member of
the Association of European Border Regions**



Carpathian Brand CARPATHIA

**The Carpathian Euroregion is implementing the CARPATHIA Brand Strategy
in partnership with the Canton of Valais**



Development of tourism through the CARPATHIA brand



- **EtnoCarpathia**
- **AgroCarpathia**

Development and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Polish-Slovak border area by developing the tourism products based on Carpathian natural and cultural resources

- **Carpathia Open**

Increasing the accessibility of people in tourism in the Carpathian region by development of an offer for people with different disabilities



- **A sustainable network of cooperation between museums and cultural centres on both sides of the border**
- **Development of the Carpathia Museum Pass strategy**
- **Consistent visual identification - inspired by the best European solutions**

Interreg



Współfinansowany przez
UNIĘ EUROPEJSKĄ

Polska – Słowacja



CARPATHIA
MUSEUM PASS



Carpathian Euroregion – operator of European Union programmes

The Carpathian Euroregion implements small project funds (SPF) within the European Union's Cross-Border Programmes

Interreg



Współfinansowany przez
UNIE EUROPEJSKĄ

Polska – Słowacja

Priority: Tourism

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

NEXT Poland – Ukraine

Priority: Cooperation



Central Mountains

Main purpose: Strengthening and improving governance models in the Alpine-Carpathian mountain areas of Central Europe

Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by
the European Union

Central Mountains

Activities:

- Testing renewed **transnational governance structures** in Alpine and Carpathian mountain areas: **Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform**
- Development and testing of **3 Cross-Border Functional Areas (CBFAs)** in the mountain areas of the Carpathians: *Low Beskid (PL-SK borderland), Kremenaros (PL-SK-UA borderland), Gemer (SK-HU borderland)*
- Toolboxes:
 - **Cross-border structures for cooperation:** *from strategy to planning and operation (how to plan and implement CBFAs in mountain regions)*
 - **Transnational structures for long-term cooperation in mountain areas** *(Concepts, methods, practical templates and guidelines based among others on CSTP)*



Main purpose: To create a multi-dimensional and cross-territorial governance model for activation of the World War I heritage to foster sustainable socio-economic development of remote territories of Central Europe

Activities:

- **Mapping and identification** of World War I heritage sites, creation of an online database
- Design of an innovative and **transnational governance model for socio-economic activation** of WWI heritage and a strategy for its implementation
- **Piloting the governance model in the PL-SK borderland**
- System cooperation of museum connected by heritage trails - managed by Euroregion (at the operational level 3 entities –Gorlice Town (Małopolska Region), Przemyśl Fortress Association (Podkarpackie Region), Poloniny National Park and museums in Stakcin/Nizna Polianka (Slovakia))
- Proposal of WW1 heritage trails based on Carpathia Brand
- Action plan for transnational WWI heritage governance in Central Europe



Knowledge-based Carpathian Euroregion – Scientific Council

**The Carpathian Euroregion has a scientific base – the Scientific Council
of the Carpathian Euroregion in Krakow**



UNIWERSYTET ROLNICZY
im. Hugona Kołłątaja w Krakowie



Politechnika Krakowska
im. Tadeusza Kościuszki



Carpathia Scientific Cooperation Net (since 2026)

- **Creating a lasting, cross-border system of scientific and institutional cooperation for the development of the Carpathians**
- **Development of a model for cooperation between science and practice, Testing the system in two Cross-Border Functional Areas (CBFAs): Beskid Niski (Low Beskid) and Kremenaros**
- **The project will create a sustainable, cross-border cooperation system and a professional science-research-development platform**



Together for the Future - Two Mountains Alliance

Since 2018, the Carpathian Euroregion has been developing friendly and professional relations with partners from Henan Province (China)

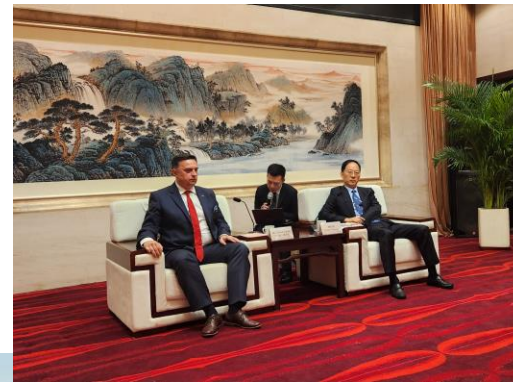


Alliance of two mountains: Carpathians - Songshan

Goal: building friendly relations and developing cooperation between the Carpathians and the Songshan Mountains, Central Europe and Central China



Signing agreements with partners from Henan Province 2024



Signing agreement with Henan Province in september 2025



Alliance of Two Mountains - Fields of cooperation

- **Tourism, management of major territorial brands**
- **Economic cooperation, trade, investments**
- **Scientific cooperation, student exchange**
- **Agriculture and ecology**
- **Culture**



Cross-border Functional Areas of the Carpathian Euroregion



The main directions and fields of activity of the Euroregion 2026

- Implementation of EU Cross-Border Programmes
- Implementation of Development Projects
- Transition to a 5-Year Development Cycle
- Expansion of the Organizational Structure and Partnership Network
- Development of New Formats and Models of Territorial Cooperation
- Establishment of Cross-Border Functional Areas
- Building Global Development Links – Henan Province
- Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform of the Carpathian Convention



Development directions of the Carpathian Euroregion until 2030

(Five-year plan)

- Stronger Euroregion – Expanding the membership base and organizational structure
- Improved Territorial Management – Cross-Border Functional Areas
- Commercialization – Bringing Businesses into the Game
- Knowledge-Based Euroregion – Increasing the role of the Carpathian Euroregion's Scientific Council
- Global Euroregion – The Carpathians enter Global Markets
- European Dimension – Programmes after the 2021-2027 perspective
- Carpathian Convention - The Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP)





Thank you for attention!
Dawid Lasek

