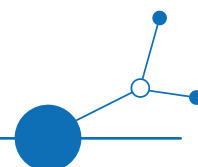


D.3.4.2 TARGETED MEETINGS WITH POLICYMAKERS



Final version
01 2026

From Pilot to Policy: Ensuring
Sustainability through
Governance Structures in
Central Europe. In dialogue
with the Carpathian and
Alpine Conventions

Vienna International Centre,
16.12.2025

eurac
research





D3.4.2 PRESENTATIONS IN EVENTS AT REGIONAL-NATIONAL-EU LEVEL

From Pilot to Policy: Ensuring Sustainability through Governance Structures in Central Europe. In dialogue with the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions

Name of the event	From Pilot to Policy: Ensuring Sustainability through Governance Structures in Central Europe. In dialogue with the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions		
Activity/Deliverable	D.3.4.2	Partner in charge	Eurac Research
Date	16.12.2025	Venue	Vienna
Short Summary	The workshop aimed at disseminating project results, receiving feedback on them and opening a dialogue with the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions. The session opened with a welcome and introduction by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (SCC), and was followed by a general introduction to the project by the Eurac team. Subsequently, project partners illustrated the work done to plan, implement and monitor pilot actions in WP2 (ISIG), as well as WP3 solutions - O3.1, O3.2, and O3.3 (Eurac, CIPRA, CF, AP, ZMOS and Brasov). A Q&A and an active session to collect feedback from the Conventions led by Eurac followed. Finally, the two Conventions engaged in an exchange about governance mechanisms, with contributions from the SCC and Alpine Convention expert Wolfer Mayrhofer.		

1. Participants

There were 18 participants on site and an average of around 5 participants online. Participants included 6 representatives from the SCC, one representative from the Alpine Convention, as well as one Alpine Convention expert, and one representative of the Interreg Central Europe Joint Secretariat.

For the names, refer to the attendance list in the Annex below.



2. Agenda

The workshop was held in the Vienna International Centre, CR2, Conference Building, 2nd floor. The first part of the workshop was moderated by Klaudia Kraus (SCC), whereas the second by Tamara Mitrofanenko (SCC).

The agenda was the following:

Time	Session	Speaker
9:30 - 9:50	Welcome and Introduction by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Klaudia Kuras and Harald Egerer, SCC
9:50 - 10:10	Introduction to the Central Mountains project Context, goals and expectations	Isidoro De Bortoli and Agnese Brigatti, Eurac
10:10 - 10:30	Participation in Action: Co-Creating Tools for Inclusive Governance	Laura Haberfeller, CIPRA
10:30 - 11:00	Changing Mindsets. New Models for Cross-Border Cooperation in Central Europe's Mountain Regions	Riccardo Laterza, ISIG
11:00 - 11:20	Coffee break	N/A
11:20 - 11:40	Co-Creating Governance Solutions for Central Europe's Mountain Regions	Isidoro De Bortoli, Eurac
11:40 - 12:00	Re-thinking the Future of Alpine Governance: Municipal Empowerment through the Pearls Network	Ardita Ferrari, Quesite S.r.l.
12:00 - 12:20	From Peaks to Partnerships. Strengthening Civil Society Cooperation in the Carpathians	Sandor Koles, Carpathian Foundation
12:20 - 12:40	Digital Connectivity for Cross-Border Destinations: Piloting a Platform for Sustainable Tourism in the PL-SK Region	Anton Marcinčin, ZMOS
12:40 - 13:00	Q&A	N/A
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	N/A
14:00 - 14:20	Working Together for Sustainable Tourism Development: The Cross-Border Working Teams of the CSTP	Sorina Boldeanu, Brasov County
14:20 - 14:50	Active Session: Evaluation of Central Mountains Results	N/A
14:50 - 15:50	Policy Dialogue: Connecting People, Policies, and Territories through Governance Mechanisms for a Common Future in the Alps and Carpathians	Representatives of the Alpine and Carpathian Convention
15:50 - 16:00	Q&A	N/A



3. Results

3.1 Topics tackled and links to deliverables/outputs

The workshop falls under D.3.4.2 “Targeted meetings with policymakers”, as it presented and disseminated project results to ensure long-term sustainability. The meeting included 8 presentations by project partners spanning from a general overview of the project logic and architecture, to the Joint Strategy, WP2 pilot actions planning, implementation and monitoring, and finally WP3 outputs. Contents and related deliverables were the following:

- **Introduction to the Central Mountains project & Context, goals and expectations** - General project presentation: project objectives, partnership, work packages; the Joint Strategy and project results, framing on the objectives of the workshop, presented by Isidoro de Bortoli and Agnese Brigatti (Eurac Research).
- **Participation in Action: Co-Creating Tools for Inclusive Governance** - O.3.1 and related deliverable D.3.2.1: “Alpine-Carpathian toolbox for active involvement of citizens and youth in decision-making processes”, presented by Laura Haberfellner (CIPRA).
- **Changing Mindsets. New Models for Cross-Border Cooperation in Central Europe’s Mountain Regions** - WP2 activities and monitoring, presented by Riccardo Laterza (ISIG).
- **Co-Creating Governance Solutions for Central Europe’s Mountain Regions** - O.3.2 and D.3.2.2 “Transnational Structures for long-term cooperation in mountain areas” general overview presented by Isidoro De Bortoli (Eurac Research).
- **Working Together for Sustainable Tourism Development: The Cross-Border Working Teams of the CSTEP** - 1/3 solutions of O.3.2 with specific reference to D.2.2.1 “Designing and testing a new Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform cooperation system” and D.3.2.2 “Transnational structures for long-term cooperation in mountain areas” presented by Sorina Boldeanu (Brasov County).
- **Re-thinking the Future of Alpine Governance: Municipal Empowerment through the Pearls Network** - 1/3 solutions of O.3.2 with specific reference to D.2.2.2 “Piloting a renewed governance structure of the Alpine Pearls EGTC” D.3.2.2 “Transnational structures for long-term cooperation in mountain areas” presented by Ardita Ferrari (QueSiTe in representation of Alpine Pearls EGTC).
- **From Peaks to Partnerships. Strengthening Civil Society Cooperation in the Carpathians** - 1/3 solutions of O.3.2 with specific reference to D.2.2.3 “Improved structure for cooperation of Civil Society Organisations from the Carpathian region” and D.3.2.2 “Transnational structures for long-term cooperation in mountain areas” presented by Sandor Koles (Carpathian Foundation).
- **Digital Connectivity for Cross-Border Destinations: Piloting a Platform for Sustainable Tourism in the PL-SK Region** - O.3.3 with specific reference to D.2.3.2 “CBFAs goes digital - developing mobile application for Cross-Border Functional Areas in Carpathians” and D.3.2.3 “Cross-Border Structures for cooperation: from strategy to planning and operation” presented by Anton Marcincin (ZMOS).
- **Q&A Session** - During the Q&A session, further details were asked by participants about some of the solutions; the Interreg Central Europe Joint Secretariat representative intervened thanking the organisers and underlining the importance of the topic of solution sustainability. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention underlined its support for the project and the importance of the alignment of project activities and convention objectives. Finally, the representative of the Alpine



Convention underlines the many different possible levels of application of project results and the usefulness of developed tools for Convention contracting parties.

- **Active session** - A live survey held through Mentimeter, aimed at collecting feedback from the conventions. Related deliverables are D.1.3.2 “Joint Strategy report” and D.3.2.4 “Final refinement of the Joint Strategy report”. Results will be included in D.3.2.4.
- **Policy Dialogue: Connecting People, Policies, and Territories through Governance Mechanisms for a Common Future in the Alps and Carpathians** - Discussion among SCC and Carpathian and Alpine Convention experts on governance mechanisms, linked to D.3.4.1 “Policy recommendations document”. The session started with a presentation by the SCC on the Carpathian Convention’s legal governance mechanism. The objective and structure of the 23 articles of the Convention were explored, as well as the Convention bodies, working groups and protocols. Subsequently, the exposition focused on compliance mechanisms, the role of the Conference of the Parties, Implementation Committee and Secretariat in compliance and the Carpathian Convention Progress Reports. Next, Alpine Convention expert Wolfger Mayrhofer outlined compliance mechanisms within the Alpine Convention, explaining the role of the Compliance Committee and observers. Subsequently, Dr. Mayrhofer illustrated concrete cases in which Convention stakeholders activated these mechanisms and a few critical issues in the compliance mechanism functioning, such as excess of material to process, lack of information and cooperation from Convention Parties. Finally, the Convention representatives and experts initiated an exchange on the Carpathian Convention compliance mechanism and how they can be improved. A report with policy recommendations on the topic, based on inputs by experts, observers and parties, is currently being prepared.

3.2 Expected effects and follow-up

The Central Mountains project focuses on enhancing cross-border and transnational governance in mountain areas across Central Europe. Two key actors in this governance landscape—the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention—have been consistently informed and consulted throughout the project. This meeting represented the culmination of these engagement efforts.

Members of both Conventions were personally invited by the organizing partner and actively participated in the discussions. Project partners delivered presentations highlighting the progress of Work Package 2 (WP2) and Work Package 3 (WP3). In addition to sharing updates, the meeting served as an opportunity to collect valuable feedback on project results from Convention members.

The project partnership continues to make a strong effort to involve both Conventions, using them as reference points for dissemination and feedback. Their input is instrumental in shaping the project’s strategic outcomes.

The importance of this meeting for the future of project results can be summarized under two main points:

1. Policy uptake and dissemination. Strengthening outreach among policymakers and supporting the elaboration of policy recommendations (currently in progress - Deliverable D.3.4.1).
2. Feedback for the Joint Strategy Refinement. Gathering insights to inform the final refinement of the Joint Strategy (Deliverable D.3.2.4).

Therefore, in general, the expected effects and follow-up of the session are:

- Enhanced policy uptake of project results.
- Improved visibility and dissemination of project results.
- Further cooperation with the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions.



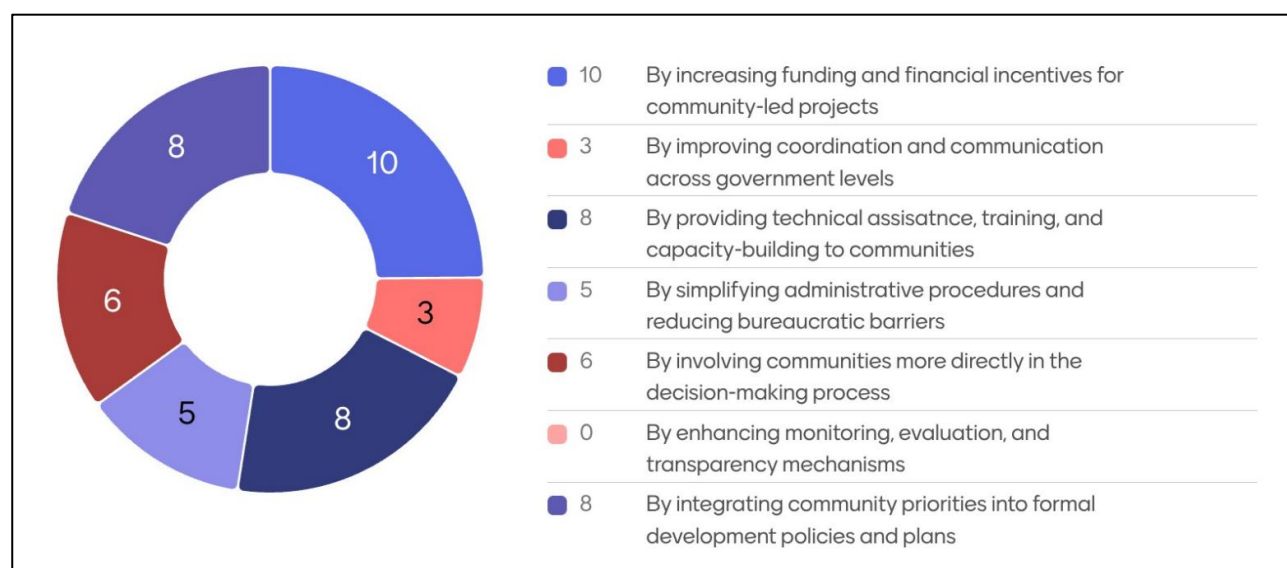
3.3 Live poll results

The workshop included an interactive session, aimed at collecting feedback on project outputs from the two Conventions. The session was carried out through Mentimeter. Participants answering questions were 14, including project partners as well.

3.3.1 How can authorities at the international level strengthen their support for community-driven sustainable development?

14 respondents with maximum 3 options. Results were the following:

Option	Answers
By increasing funding and financial incentives for community-led projects	10
By improving coordination and communication across government levels	3
By providing technical assistance, training, and capacity-building to communities	8
By simplifying administrative procedures and reducing bureaucratic barriers	5
By involving communities more directly in the decision-making process	6
By enhancing monitoring, evaluation, and transparency mechanisms	0
By integrating community priorities into formal development policies and plans	8



3.3.2 What is the biggest opportunity for Alpine-Carpathian cooperation? (One word)



14 respondents with an unlimited number of replies. Results were the following:

Option	Answers
Exchange	5
Interreg Europe	1
Learning	1
Overcome obstacles	1
Cooperation	1
Inspiration	2
Knowledge-sharing	1
Eurac	1
Communication	2
Youth	1
Same landscape	1
Empowering youth	1



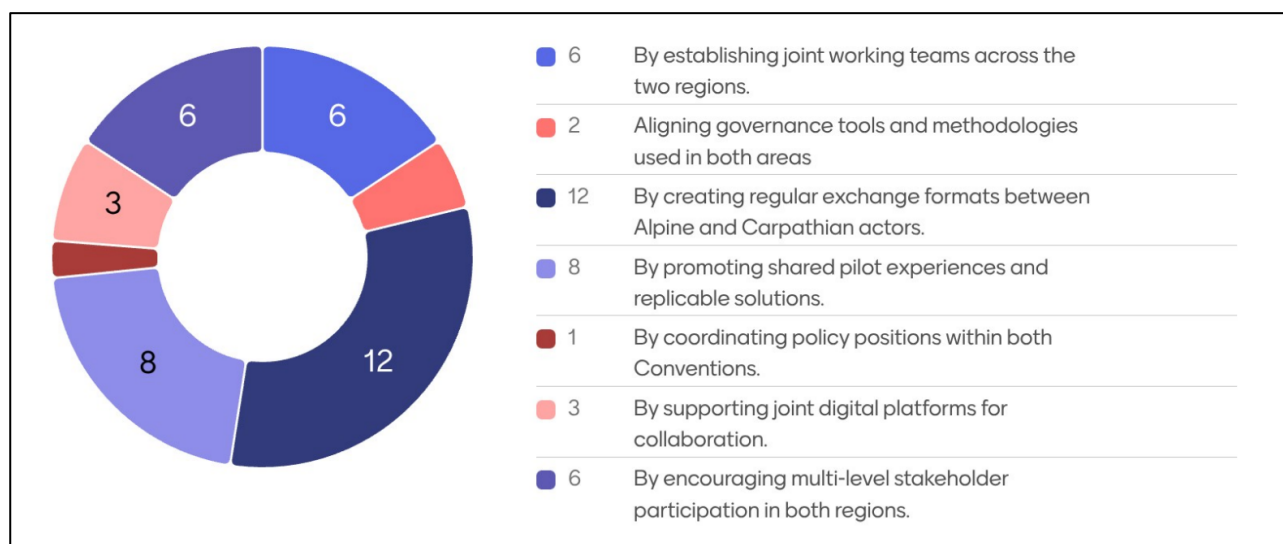
3.3.3 In what ways can cross-border mountain governance between the Alps and Carpathians be reinforced?

14 respondents with maximum 3 options. Results were the following:

Option	Answers
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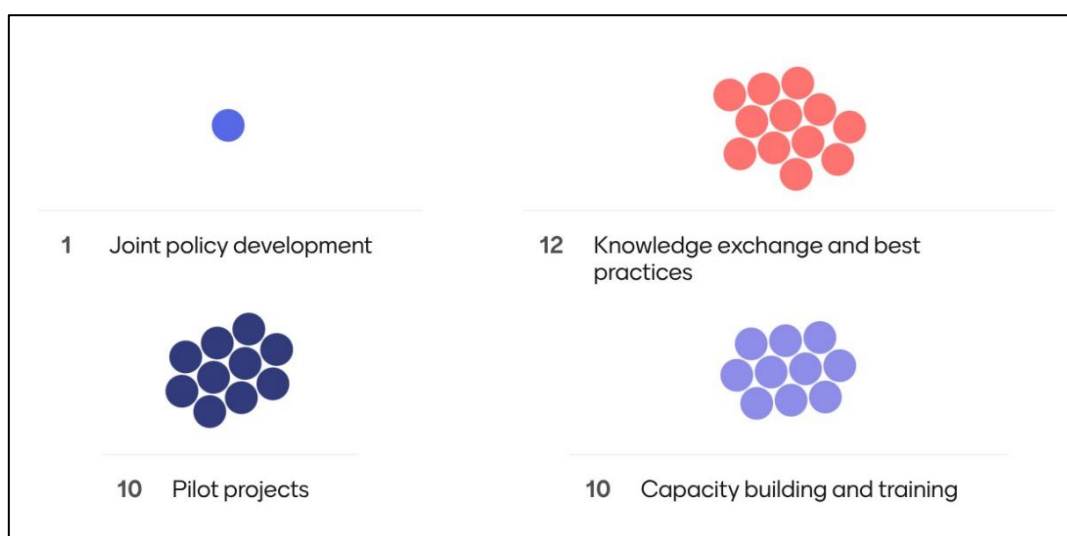


By establishing joint working teams across the two regions.	6
Aligning governance tools and methodologies used in both areas	2
By creating regular exchange formats between Alpine and Carpathian actors.	12
By promoting shared pilot experiences and replicable solutions.	8
By coordinating policy positions within both Conventions.	1
By supporting joint digital platforms for collaboration.	3
By encouraging multi-level stakeholder participation in both regions.	6



3.3.4 Which type of cooperation should be prioritized between Alpine and Carpathian regions?

14 respondents with maximum 3 options. Results were the following:



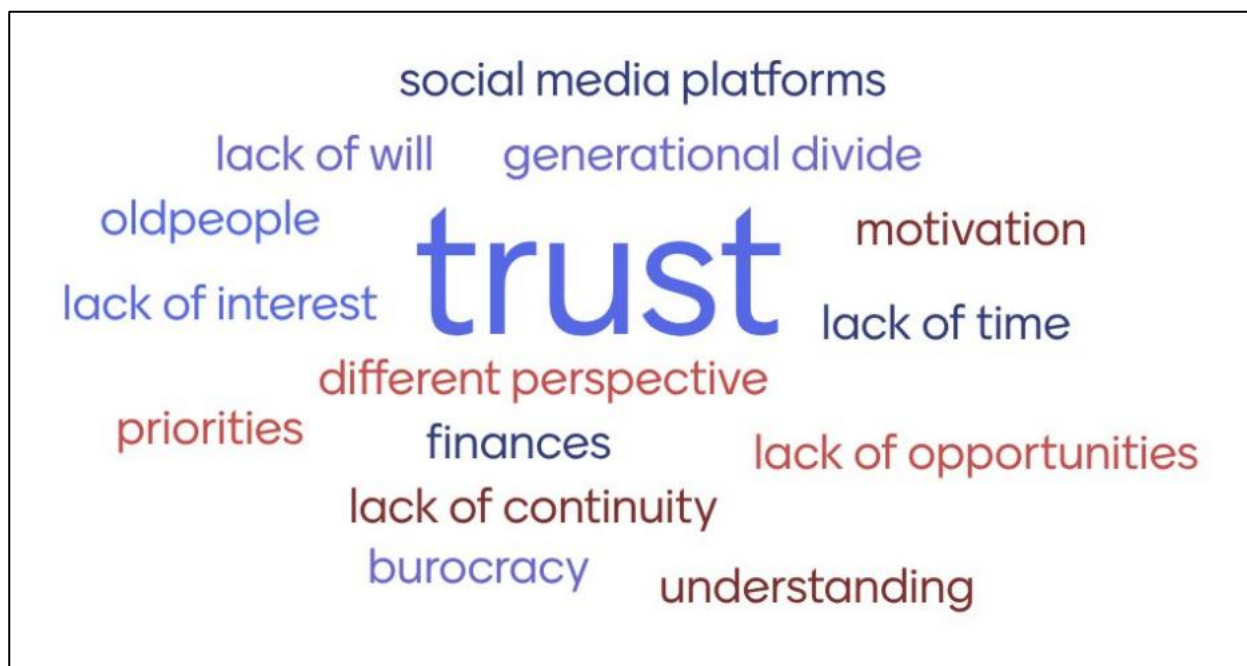


Option	Answers
Joint policy development	1
Knowledge exchange and best practices	12
Pilot projects	10
Capacity building and training	10

3.3.5 In one word, what is the biggest obstacle to involving young people?

14 respondents with an unlimited number of replies. Results were the following:

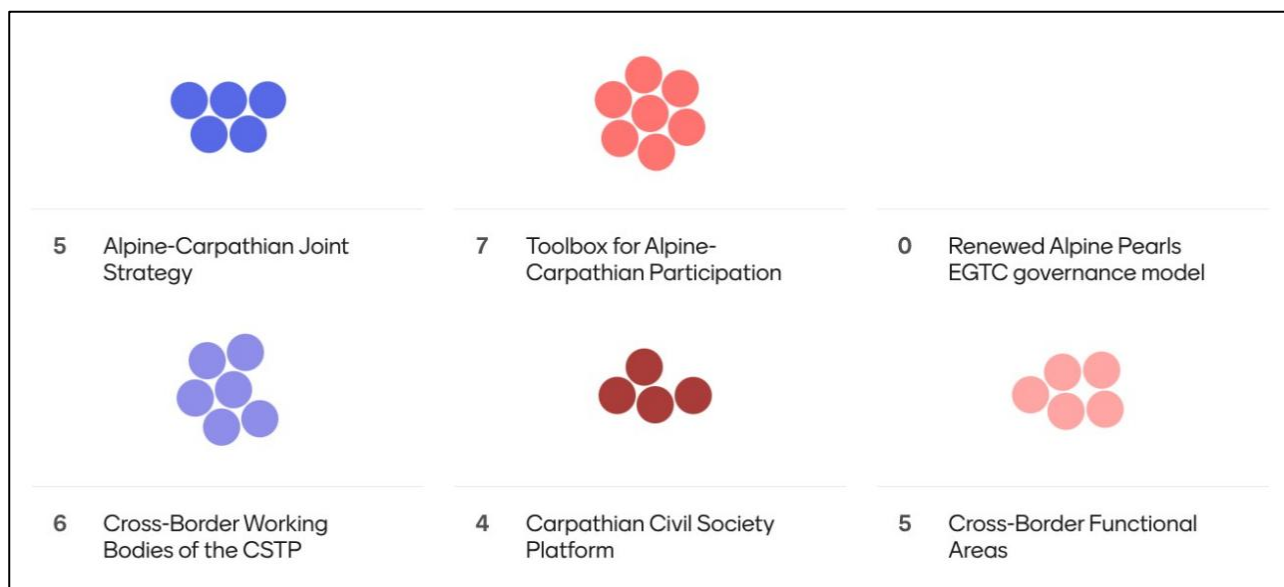
Option	Answers
Old people	1
Finances	1
Lack of will	1
Understanding	1
Generational divide	1
Priorities	1
Bureaucracy	1
Lack of interest	1
Trust	3
Lack of opportunities	1
Motivation	1
Social media platforms	1
Different perspective	1
Lack of continuity	1



3.3.6 Which of the following project outputs do you consider most relevant for your Convention's objectives?

14 respondents with maximum 2 options. Results were the following:

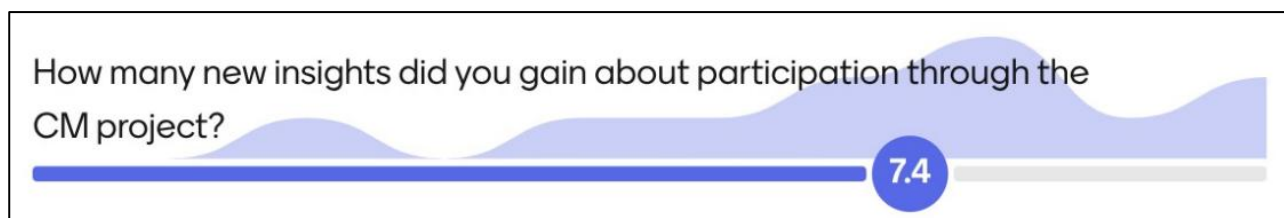
Option	N answers
Alpine-Carpathian Joint Strategy	5
Toolbox for Alpine-Carpathian Participation	7
Renewed Alpine Pearls EGTC governance model	0
Cross-Border Working Bodies of the CSTP	6
Carpathian Civil Society Platform	4
Cross-Border Functional Areas	5



3.3.7 How many new insights did you gain about participation through the CM project?

13 respondents. The average result was 7,36, with the following distribution:

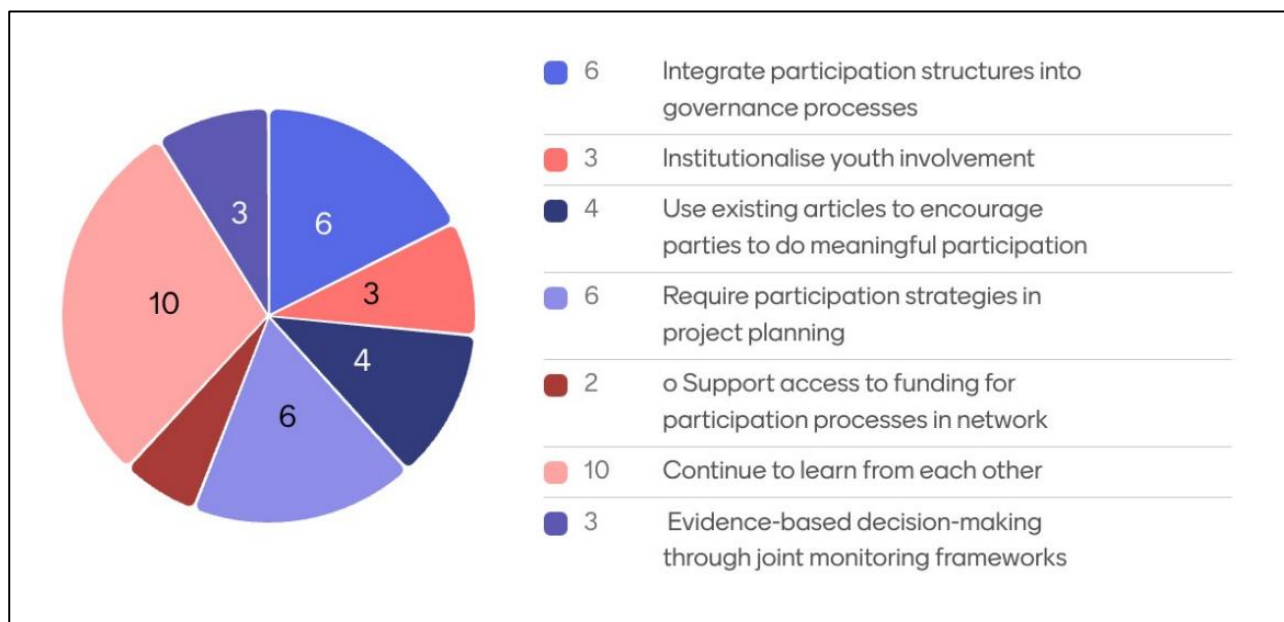
Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
N ans.	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	3	1	2



3.3.7 Which of the following policy recommendations is easiest for you to implement?

14 respondents with maximum 3 options. Results were the following:

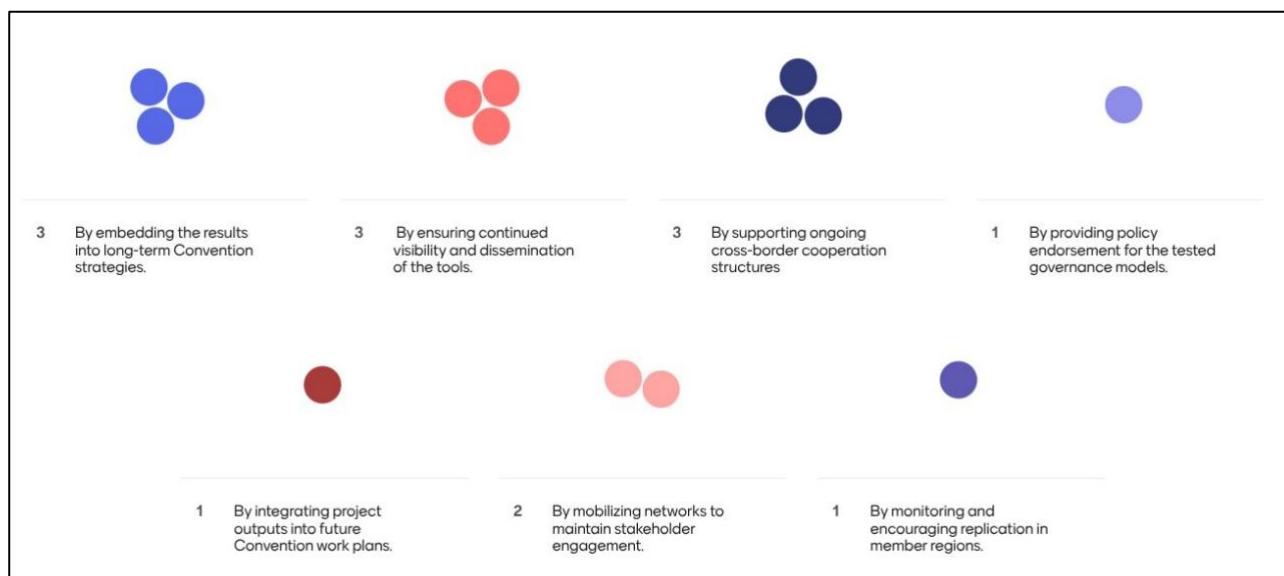
Option	N answers
Integrate participation structures into governance processes	6
Institutionalise youth involvement	3
Use existing articles to encourage parties to do meaningful participation	4
Require participation strategies in project planning	6
Support access to funding for participation processes in network	2
Continue to learn from each other	10
Evidence-based decision-making through joint monitoring frameworks	3



3.3.8 How can the Conventions assist the sustainability of project results?

14 respondents with maximum 1 option. Results were the following:

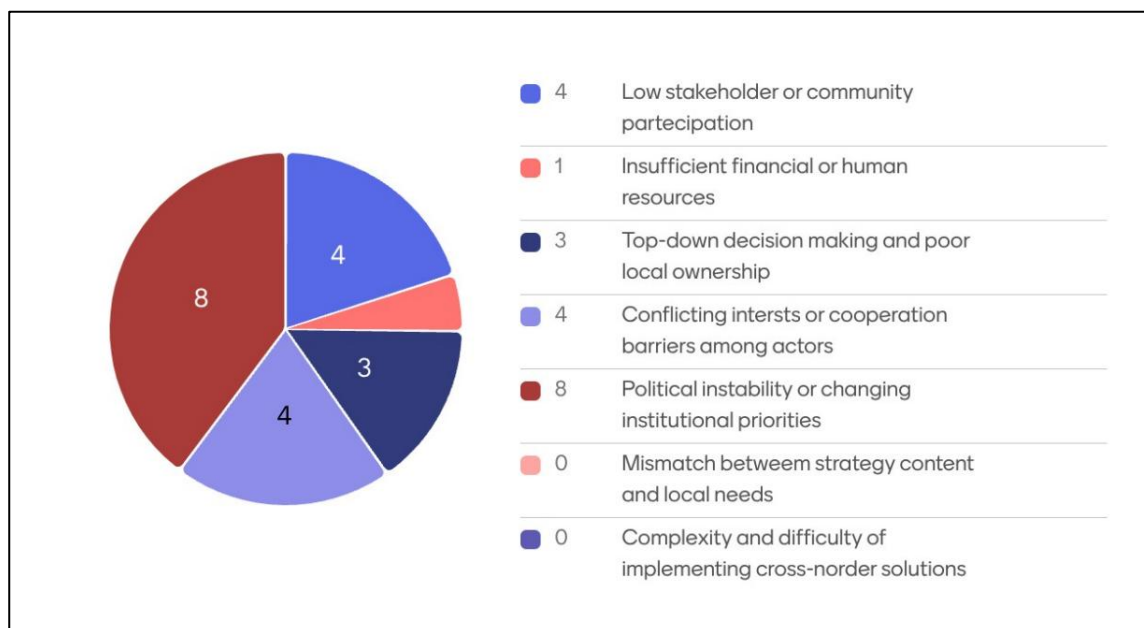
Option	N answers
By embedding the results into long-term Convention strategies.	3
By ensuring continued visibility and dissemination of the tools.	3
By supporting ongoing cross-border cooperation structures	3
By providing policy endorsement for the tested governance models.	1
By integrating project outputs into future Convention work plans.	1
By mobilizing networks to maintain stakeholder engagement.	2
By monitoring and encouraging replication in member regions.	1



3.3.10 How can the Carpathian and Alpine Convention practically facilitate further uptake of the solutions?

14 respondents with maximum 3 options. Results were the following:

Option	Answers
By integrating the solutions into Convention working groups	8
By promoting the pilot models through official guidelines	6
By providing platforms for regular transnational coordination	7
By offering technical support for replication and upscaling	3
By facilitating cross-border stakeholder matchmaking	4
By endorsing the governance mechanisms in Convention recommendations	5
Aligning the solutions with broader regional policy frameworks	3



3.4 Preliminary analysis of results

Results of the active session can be summarised in the following points:

- Funding and financial assistance, as well as technical assistance, training, and capacity-building to communities, are, according to participants, the main instruments with which international institutions can enhance community-led sustainable development.
- Exchange, inspiration and communication were deemed the most important opportunities for Alps-Carpathian cooperation. According to participants, cross-border mountain governance between Alps and Carpathians can be reinforced mainly by creating regular exchange formats between Alpine and Carpathian actors, but also by promoting shared pilot experiences and replicable solutions. In line with this, participants preferred knowledge exchange and best practices as the best type of cooperation prioritise between the two areas. Pilot projects and capacity building and training followed.
- The two most important project outputs for the Conventions are the Toolbox for Alpine-Carpathian Participation, followed by the Cross-Border Working Teams of the CSTP and Cross-Border Functional Areas. The most important tools with which Conventions can assist the sustainability of results are: embedding results into long-term strategy, ensuring visibility and dissemination of the tools, supporting ongoing cross-border cooperation structures. The Conventions can further facilitate solution uptake by integrating them into Convention working groups, followed by providing platform for regular transnational coordination and promoting the pilot models through official guidelines.



4. Annexes

4.1 Attendance list

From Pilot to Policy: Ensuring Sustainability through Governance Structures in Central Europe. In dialogue with the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions.

1Vienna International Centre, Conference Room CR2, 2nd floor | 16.12.2025, 09:30 - 16:00

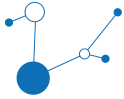
N	Last name	First name	E-mail address	Affiliation	Signature
1	Mayrhofer	Wolfgang	wolfgang.mayrhofer@chello.at	ex officio member	W. Mayrhofer
2	Mrazova	Michaela		State Nature Conservancy SR	
3	Morelle	Nathalie	nathalie.morelle@alpconv.org	Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention	
4	Šimoňáková	Zlatica	zlatica.simonakova@enviro.gov.sk	Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic	
5	Vichi	Gregorio	vichi@interreg-central.eu	Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE JS	
6	Koles	Sandor	Sandor Koles	Carpathian Foundation	Sandor Koles
7	Ferrari	Ardita	ardita.ferrari@quesite.it	Quesite	Ardita Ferrari
8	Marcičin	Anton	anton.marcičin@zros.sk	ZMOS	
9	Haberfellner	Laura	laura.haberfellner@cipra.org	CIPRA International Lab GmbH	
10	Meyer	Hildegard	hmeyer@wwf-CEE.org	WWF-CEE	
11	De Bortoli	Isidoro	ISIDORO.DEBORTOLI@EURAC.EDU	Eurac Research	

N	Last name	First name	E-mail address	Affiliation	Signature
12	Brigatti	Agnese		Eurac Research	
13	Laterza	Riccardo		ISIG	
14	Egerer	Harald		UNEP/SCC	
15	Kuras	Klaudia		UNEP/SCC	
16	Musco	Eleonora		Eurac Research/SCC	
17	Fischer	Elena		UNEP/SCC	
18	Mitrofanenko	Tamara		UNEP/SCC	
19	Sirychenko	Liudmyla		UNEP/SCC	
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4.2 Photos





4.3 List of presentations

All presentations were collected in one file uploaded to the [project's Google Drive folder](#) under Project activities > WP3 Solutions > A3.4 Mobilizing policymakers > D.3.4.2 Targeted meetings with policymakers > Workshop with AC&CC_16122025_Wien > Presentations.