

17th CCIC

7-8 September 2026

Science for the Carpathians (S4C) members:

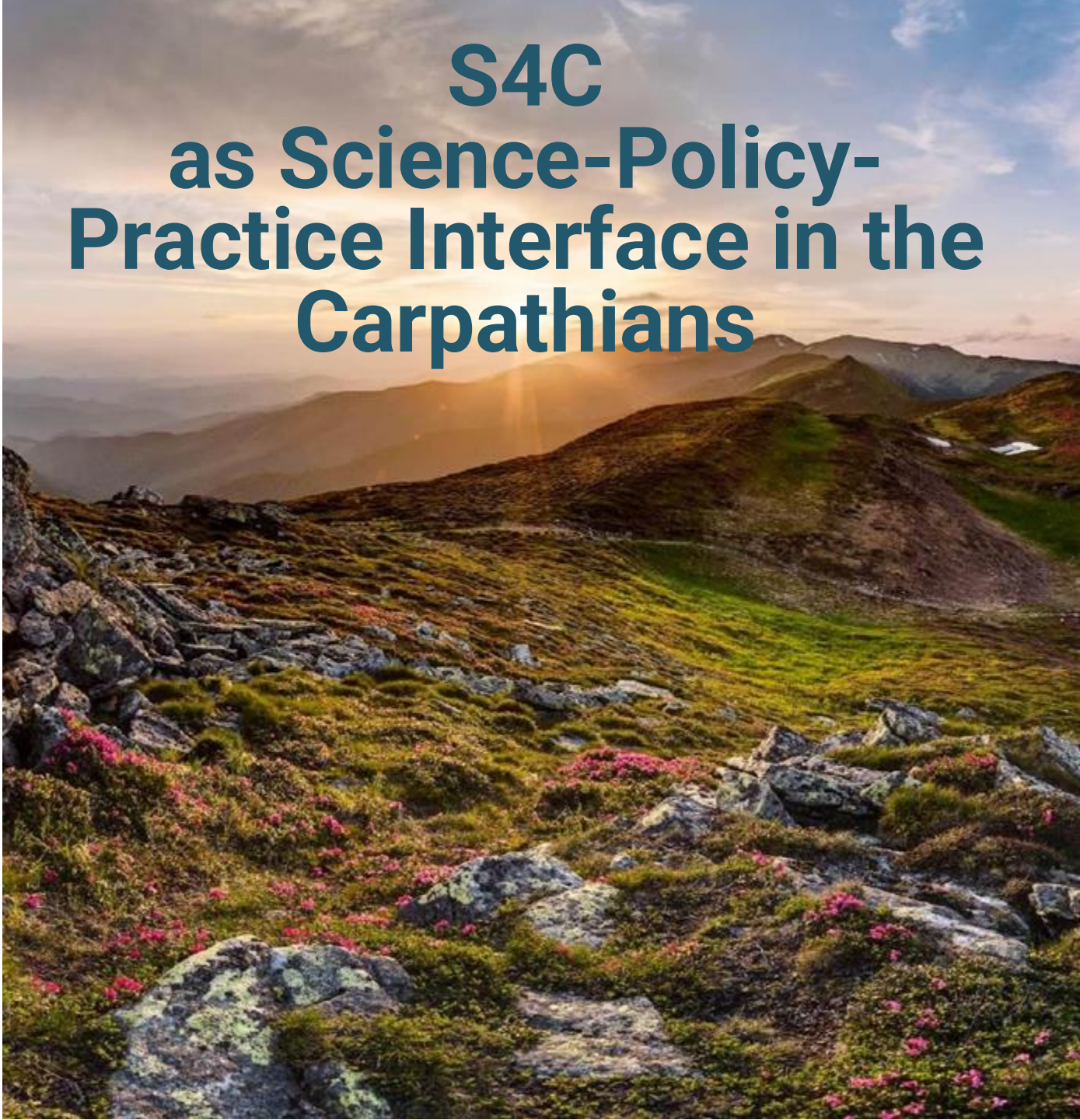
Jakub Csabay (Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia)

Mariana Melnykovich (Bern University of Applied Sciences, BFH-HAFL, Switzerland)

Joanna Zawiejska (University of the National Education Commission, Poland)

Tamara Mitrofanenko (Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Austria)

S4C as Science-Policy- Practice Interface in the Carpathians



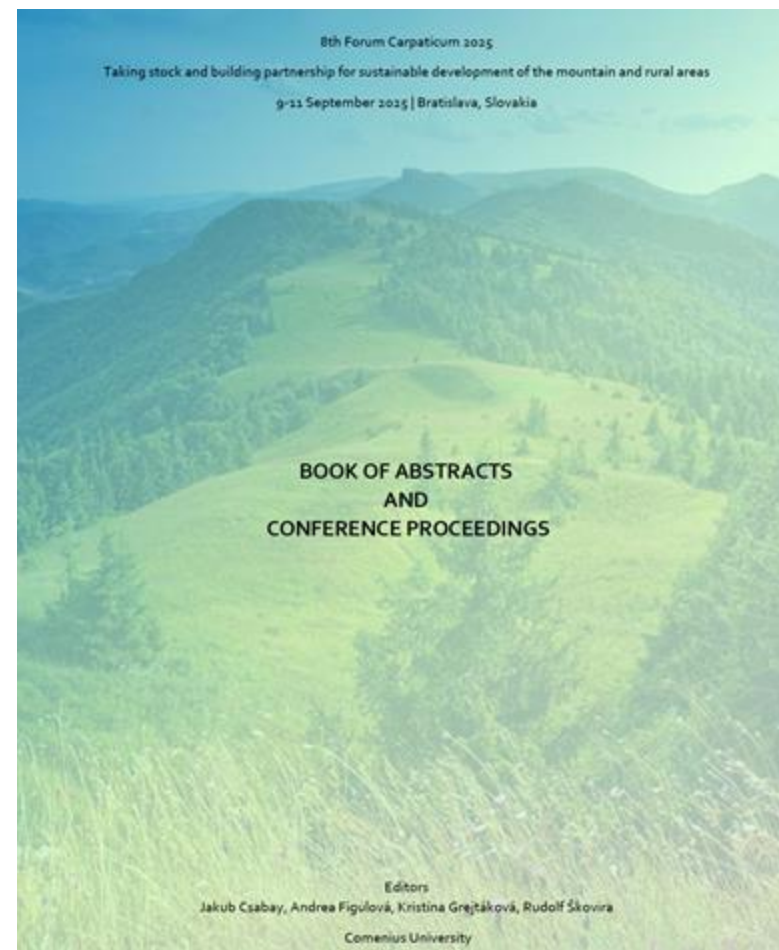


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Forum Carpaticum 2025

outputs





SCIENCE FOR THE CARPATHIANS

Executive Board Members



Bogdan Mihai

S4C Chair



Dariia Kholiavchuk

S4C Co-chair



Isidoro De Bortoli

Executive Board Member



Jakub Csabay

Executive Board Member



Jiří Jakubínský

Executive Board Member



William Keeton

Executive Board Member



Mariana Melnykovych

Executive Board Member



Tamara Mitrofanenko

Executive Board Member



Łukasz Musielok

Executive Board Member



Attila Varga

Executive Board Member



Joanna Zawiejska

Executive Board Member



S4C LinkedIn page launched

A dedicated LinkedIn page aimed to

- increase **visibility of S4C research**,
- **strengthen communication** and
- support wider **dissemination of project activities, publications** (incl. policy recommendations) and **science-policy-practice interface of S4C community**

Please follow us!



executed by:
Rudolf Škovira,
S4C SSC Member



Strengthening collaborations with EU networks and projects

S4C is expanding its contribution through scientific leadership, European mountain-area cooperation, and EU rural innovation partnerships

- a S4C board member elected to Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) Science Leadership Council to build better bridges between global mountain research and the Carpathians
- S4C is part of **A European forum for revitalisation of marginalised mountain areas** (MARGISTAR EU COST Action CA21125)
- S4C members are part of **HE RURACTIVE “Empowering rural communities to act for change”** project and implementing a pilot to set up a *Multi-actor rural innovation ecosystem in the Ukrainian Carpathians* (Synevir community, led by NGO FORZA)
- **S4C co-organised a session at the World Biodiversity Forum 2026**, bringing Carpathian perspectives into the global biodiversity dialogue in Davos, Switzerland in June 2026.
- Special Issue in *Mountain Research and Development (MRD) journal* is co-edited by S4C Board Member. **Special Issue on “Governance Pathways for Reviving Left-Behind Mountain Regions”**
- S4C joint research outputs: **a collaborative study is in press in MRD journal**, contributing perspectives to ongoing debates on governance and revitalisation pathways of the Carpathians mountain region.





New publication in *Mountain Research and Development (MRD)* by S4C community

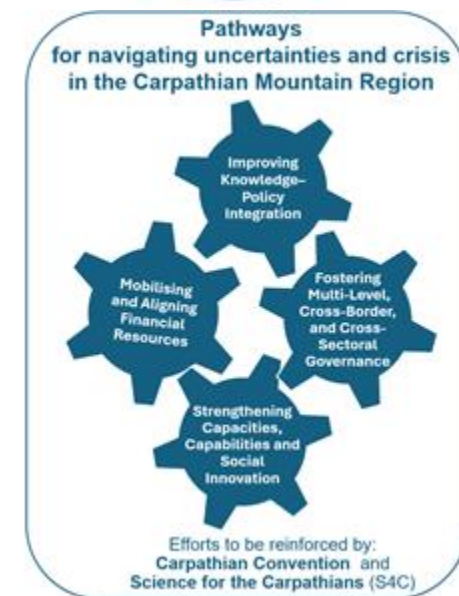
Navigating uncertainties for changing mountains in a time of polycrisis: Strengthening the Carpathian mountain agenda

by Melnykovich, M., Mitrofanenko, T., Nijnik, M., Brnkalakova, S., Csabay, J., De Bortoli, I., Kholiavchuk, D., Keeton, W.S., Kluvankova, T., Matei, E., Martino, S., Sarkki, S., Škovira, R., Soloviy, I., Waeber, P.O. and Zawiejska, J. in press (2026) in Mountain Research and Development journal

The paper suggests on how to advance the Carpathian mountain agenda by

addressing uncertainties and polycrisis the region is facing, especially connected to the impact of the Russian war against Ukraine on the entire region.

Paper also **suggests pathways towards more resilient Carpathians and urgent research questions that needs to be addressed with strong collaboration with policy and practice.**





updating S4C Research Agenda 2030



Updates to S4C Research Agenda

- All chapters updated
- New chapters added:
 - Carpathian **Pastoralism**
 - Addressing **Vulnerability**
 - **Mapping** the Carpathians
 - **Legal** dimensions of governance
 - Green recovery for **Ukraine**
 - **Cross-cutting priorities** for implementing S4C RA



Chapter of the S4C RA on Green recovery for Ukraine

Research priorities that support green recovery:

- 1. Assess cumulative pressures to avoid new vulnerabilities** (monitor impacts of displacement, business relocation and infrastructure pressure in Ukrainian Carpathians, assess combined environmental, social and territorial impacts, use **EIA/SEA, monitoring and rapid scientific advice** in reconstruction decisions (including tourism and energy projects))
- 2. Make recovery biodiversity- and climate-sensitive** (restore ecosystems and protect ecological connectivity, promote *close-to-nature* and *“close-to-people”* forestry, integrate biodiversity, climate adaptation and disaster-risk preparedness into reconstruction / recovery projects / programs)
- 3. Strengthen municipalities’ capacities** (support project preparation, feasibility studies and access to finance, develop municipality–university partnerships, twinning and peer learning, treat **capacity building as part of recovery projects**)
- 4. Applied research to support resilient local economies and communities** (support circular bioeconomy, local value creation and sustainable energy solutions, invest in social innovation, local partnerships and multi-actor-led projects, ensure meaningful participation of local communities, youth, women and displaced people)
- 5. Strengthen cross-border science–policy–practice cooperation** (coordinate recovery across Carpathian countries and shared ecosystems, link with S4C expertise, use the Carpathians as a regional learning space for testing and scaling resilient recovery pathways)



SCIENCE FOR THE CARPATHIANS

Chapter on Cross-cutting priorities for implementing S4C RA

4 priorities are mutually reinforcing the implementation of S4C RA:

- 1. Strengthen the use of science in policy and practice:** connect researchers with Convention Working Groups and public authorities; provide regular policy briefs and scientific input for strategies, plans and decisions.
- 2. Coordinated actions across borders and sectors:** align policies on biodiversity, forests, water, agriculture, tourism, transport and energy; strengthen cooperation in shared river basins, ecological corridors and protected areas; link Carpathian Convention commitments with national and local planning.
- 3. Long-term financing and access to funds:** align EU, national and regional funding with Carpathian priorities; secure stable funding for monitoring, research infrastructure and cross-border cooperation; expand seed funding and support joint transboundary projects and investment pipelines.
- 4. Strengthen capacity of institutions and people:** invest in training, staff exchanges and professional networks; support less-resourced institutions; build communities of practice linking science, policy and local actors; enable local communities to participate in priority-setting and implementation.

Knowledge must inform decisions -> Governance must enable coordinated action ->
Financing must support long-term implementation -> Institutions and people must have capacity to act



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Science for the Carpathians

Forum Carpathicum 2027

September 2027 (dates TBC)
Sinaia, Romania

S4C SSC Members leading organization:



Bogdan Mihai

University of Bucharest,

Department of Geomorphology-Pedology-Geomatics,
Bucharest, Romania



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RESDI-Comenius University-UNEP collaboration on vulnerable groups and the potential for effective utilisation of Aarhus mechanisms

- EUKI Project, Empowering Roma in the EU Green Deal
- MoU Signed in September 2025 at Forum Carpaticum
- Recommendation presented in 16th CCIC in December 2025
- Ongoing discussion with OSCE in June and July 2026 regarding plans to establish an Aarhus Centre for Roma and other vulnerable groups in the Carpathian region
- Local impact, including 100+ households getting access to electricity and water through local pilot actions; 2 social enterprises established



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Science for the Carpathians

Forum Carpathicum 2025 Follow up

Collaboration with **Spirala** and **Eurac Research** in the framework of the project “**Green Industrial Recovery through Municipality-based Development in Ukraine**”, implemented by UNIDO in collaboration with UNEP, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Green Projects for Municipalities: From Idea to Funding

Košice, Slovakia | 17–18 September 2026

The two-day networking and capacity-building event will be focused on **project writing, sustainable project management, and green municipal cooperation.**



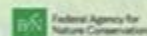
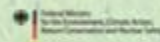
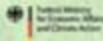
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Discussions on further developing collaborations

- International Visegrad Fund
- United Nations Information Service