Memorandum of Cooperation

between
Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)
and
Carpathian Foundation - Hungary

Considering that the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the "Carpathian Convention") is a sub-regional treaty aimed at fostering the sustainable development and the protection of the Carpathian region, signed by seven Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine) in 2003 and entering into force in 2006, and **recognizing** that the Carpathian Convention constitutes the only multi-level governance mechanism encompassing the entire Carpathian region, providing a platform for comprehensive policies and cooperation to protect and sustainably develop the Carpathian mountain region.

Considering that the Carpathian Convention recognizes the importance of public participation and stakeholder involvement in decision-making related to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and that civil society organizations (CSOs) play a key role in promoting citizen engagement, facilitating dialogue among stakeholders, and strengthening cooperation across local, national and transboundary levels, thereby helping to bridge the gap between regional and international policy processes and local communities.

Recognizing that the objective of the Carpathian Convention is to enhance and facilitate cooperation among the Parties for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians for the benefit of present and future generations, and that CSOs make a significant contribution to achieving these objectives through activities supporting community development, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and cross-border cooperation, thereby maximizing the social, economic and environmental benefits for communities throughout the Carpathian region;

Considering that the Carpathian Foundation, established in 1993, is working in the border areas of five countries of the Carpathians, namely Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine, aiming to promote cross-border and interethnic cooperation and support the development of civil societies and civic participation in policy and decision-making in the Carpathian region.

Recognizing that the Carpathian Foundation has established the Carpathian Civil Society Platform, a network of civil society organizations from Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine to facilitate and support cooperation among civil society organizations across the Carpathians through the promotion of cross-border and cross-sector partnerships and strengthening of organizational capacities.

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary (hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories ") have reached the following understanding:

Section 1. Objective

The main objective of this cooperation is to enhance the capacity of countries in the Carpathian region to foster an active and engaged civil society, contributing to the sustainable development of local communities and the conservation and sustainable use if the Carpathians' exceptional nature, landscapes and cultural heritage.

Section 2. Scope of cooperation

With a view to attaining the above objective, the cooperation envisaged by this Memorandum of Cooperation may include collaboration within the framework of the work programs of the two Signatories on the following types of activities:

a) Identifying, documenting, and disseminating successful experience and best practices of CSOs initiatives;
b) Promoting exchange of data and information on the state of civil society in the Carpathians and related activities;
c) Mutually recommending experts upon request who could contribute to technical assistance for the activities undertaken. It is understood that the respective Signatories will keep the ultimate responsibility to select and appoint the experts;
d) Promoting networks of professional experts in fields related to civil society and community development;
e) Developing joint projects within the scope of their collaboration, mainly (but not restricted to) demonstrating best practice, testing innovations, and training human resources. Jointly identifying financial resources and execution modalities for the implementation of developed projects;
f) Assisting the Carpathian Convention in organizing conferences, seminars, training workshops, outreach and other extension services, and technical meetings on matters related to community-based development
g) Communicating the results of their joint work through joint press releases, via internet postings, joint publications in public, and general and professional media.

Both the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary will designate a focal point for the coordination of the communication with each other.

Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply a financial obligation by either Signatories to this Memorandum. Any financial questions will be regulated by separate letters of arrangements related to possible future projects or joint activities. It is recognized that for certain activities to be implemented fully, additional resources may be required. Signatories will endeavor to carry out joint fundraising for this purpose.

Section 3. Use of official logo

The Signatories will not use in any press release, memo, report, website, or other published disclosure related to this Memorandum of Cooperation any of the other Signatories' name and logo without prior written consent by the Signatory concerned.

Section 4. Disputes

Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Memorandum will be resolved by consultations between the Signatories, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

Section 5. Amendment

The Signatories may amend this Memorandum by mutual written consent, which will be appended to this Memorandum and become an integral part of it.

Section 6. Termination

This Memorandum of Cooperation may be terminated by the Signatories at a jointly approved time or by one Signatory giving three months' notice in writing to the other Participant.

This Memorandum of Cooperation represents the understanding reached between the Signatories upon its signature by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the Association of Towns and Communities in Slovakia.

Section 7. Final provisions

Nothing in this Memorandum of Cooperation will bind any of the Signatories, either jointly or severally

Signed in duplicate at [….] on […] in two original copies in English language.

Signatures

On behalf of the **Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention**	On behalf of the **Carpathian Foundation-Hungary**
Harald Egerer Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Sándor Köles Chair Carpathian Foundation
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