Memorandum of Cooperation

between
Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
and
Špirála, Slovakia

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 increasing environmental awareness and improving access of the public to information on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and promoting related education curricula and programmes.

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 actors and institutions engaged in educational efforts make a significant contribution to achieving these objectives throughout the Carpathian region.

Recognizing the importance of fostering environmental awareness, improving public access to information, promoting education and capacity-building on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and the sustainable development of the Carpathian region.

Noting the relevant Decisions of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (CC COP7) (DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention, particularly para 2), *welcoming the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors: official nominated Governmental experts, NGO practitioners, teachers and academic experts, thus facilitating cross-thematic linkages, expanding and strengthening Convention networks, and communication within the Convention and awareness-raising about the Convention.*

Recognizing the support received from the Republic of Cyprus for the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and its activities, facilitated by the Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD since 2023, aimed at strengthening coordination between the Carpathian ESD Network, Carpathian Convention Parties and the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD and considering that Špirála - the Slovak Network of Environmental Education Providers has been designated as the implementing organization for this support.

Noting that Špirála is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in June 2001 as an association of organizations engaged in environmental education, which 1) provides advisory and consultancy activities in the field of environmental education and in the field of management of non-governmental non-profit organizations, 2) organizes educational events, seminars and excursions, 3) develops publications, 4) develops and implements projects to support environmental education and actively participates in the preparation of relevant legislative norms related to the subject of the association's activities.

Recognizing the contribution of Špirála to the development of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and to the coordination of its activities and, in particular and **considering** the draft Carpathian ESD Roadmap, developed by Špirála with the aim to translate the evidence-based policy recommendations into a coherent set of actionable measures to advance ESD in the Carpathian region.

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

Section 1. Objective

The main objective of this cooperation is to strengthen education and awareness raising, implementation of education as a tool for achieving sustainable development in the Carpathian region, through close collaboration on coordinating activities of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network.

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) Collaboration on coordinating activities of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network;
b) Finalization and implementation of the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Roadmap;
c) Implementation of the support received from the Republic of Cyprus for the Carpathian ESD Expert Network;
d) Development of publications, as relevant for the Carpathian ESD Expert Network;
e) Development of joint projects of mutual interest;
f) Organisation of conferences, seminars, symposia, working group meetings and trainings of mutual interest to the parties, including but not limited to the Carpathian ESD Seminars;
g) Collaboration on representing the Carpathian ESD Expert Network in the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD, UNESCO ESD-Net and other international and regional ESD-related networks and frameworks;

h) Strengthening participation of youth and early career experts in Carpathian Convention activities.

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

Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply a financial obligation by either Signatory 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 logos

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 Špirála.

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 Špirála**

Harald Egerer
Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

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Mgr. Richard Medal
Statutory representative of
Špirála

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