Memorandum of Cooperation

between

Roma Environmental Sustainability & Development Initiative - RESDI

and

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Slovakia

and

Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

Recalling that the Carpathian Convention, which was adopted and signed by the seven Parties (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine) and entered into force in January 2006, unites parties with a shared vision of ensuring the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

Acknowledging the 20th anniversary of the Convention's enforcement in 2026;

Noting the relevant Decisions of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP7) (DECISION COP7/8, Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks, particularly paras. 1, 2, 3 and 8), expressing that the COP7:

> 1. Welcomes the continuous efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen science – policy – practice interface in order to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention [...] and requests further actions by the Secretariat in this respect.
>
> 2. Welcomes stronger involvement of the Science for the Carpathians Network (S4C) in the implementation of the Convention[...] and requests the Secretariat to pursue closer collaboration with the S4C.
>
> 3. Welcomes the outcomes of [...], the 7th Forum Carpaticum "Carpathian Futures – Critical Transitions", held on 25-29 September 2023, Kraków, Poland [organized by Jagiellonian University] [...], invites the S4C to further support the Carpathian Convention with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise[...].
>
> 8. Encourages further collaboration with the S4C on strengthening the Carpathian Convention`s networks, coordination and collaboration within and between them and requests the Secretariat to support this process.

Acknowledging that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2024 to 2033 as the "International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD);"

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Slovakia (hereinafter "Comenius University"), established as a public university located in Bratislava, Mlynske luhy 4, 821 05, Slovakia, duly represented by its legal representative, dean prof. JUDr. PhDr. Lucia Mokrá, PhD.,

and

Roma Environmental Sustainability & Development Initiative - RESDI (hereinafter "RESDI"), established as non-governmental organization, located in Jesenná 36, 082 52 Dulova Ves, represented by Mgr. Viktor Teru, statutory representative,

and

Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter "Convention Secretariat"), hosted by the UNEP Vienna Programme Office located in Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, A 1400 Austria Vienna, Austria. Duly represented by the Head of the Office, Mr. Harald Egerer,

hereinafter referred to as the "Signatories," mutually agree to establish a working relationship to promote friendship, cultural, and educational ties and to encourage exchange of ideas and information between the Signatories. The collaboration will be carried out on a basis of equality and mutual advantage, taking into account current possibilities.

1. OBJECTIVE

This Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) expresses the Signatories' intent to facilitate a progressively closer working relationship between **RESDI, Comenius University,** and **the Convention Secretariat** through:

- collaboration on the organization of Forum Carpaticum 2025, promotion and integration of its results into the Carpathian Convention programme of work, as appropriate;
- development of co-operation activities in the field of regional scientific collaboration, science-policy-practice interface, transdisciplinary research, education for sustainable development that are relevant for the Carpathian region and to strengthen close collaboration in the framework of activities of the Science for the Carpathians Network;
- development of joint projects of mutual interest;
- development of scientific and policy publications, publication of scientific papers and textbooks, resulting from co-operative projects;
- organisation and promotion of conferences, seminars, symposia, working group meetings and (international) courses of mutual interest to the parties;
- collaboration on strengthening the engagement of students and young researchers in the Carpathian Convention - related activities;
- advocacy and strategic support in establishing an Aarhus Centre and Platform for Roma Communities in the Carpathian region.

2. ACTIVITIES, ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACTS

2.1 All activities taking place under this MoC must conform to the policies and procedures in place at each institution.

2.2 Nothing in this MoC shall create or imply a financial obligation by either Signatory. Financial arrangements related to the activities will be regulated in separate written implementation agreements.

2.3 Each Signatory shall designate a person to serve as a liaison for implementing this MoC.

For **RESDI**, the contact person will be Mgr. Viktor Teru, statutory representative, Jesenná 36, 082 52 Dulova Ves, Slovakia, teru@resdi.org,

For the **Comenius University**, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, the implementation is entrusted to the Institute of European Studies and International Relations, Mlynske luhy 4, 821 05 Bratislava, Slovakia, jakub.csabay@fses.uniba.sk.

For the **Convention Secretariat**, the contact person will be Klaudia Kuraś, Wagramerstrasse 5, 1400, Vienna, Austria, +43-1-26060-5620, klaudia.kuras@un.org.

2.4 The Signatories agree jointly:

a. to collaborate on the organization of Forum Carpaticum 2025, promotion and integration of its results into the Carpathian Convention programme of work
b. to identify and implement, if possible, relevant activities for cooperation, including in the framework of the Science for the Carpathians network, including but not limited to:
    - development of joint projects of mutual interest;
    - development of scientific and policy publications, publication of scientific papers and textbooks, resulting from co-operative projects;
    - organization of conferences, seminars, symposia, working group meetings and (international) courses of mutual interest to the Signatories;
c. to promote exchange of data and information relevant for science-policy-practice interface in areas relevant to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
d. to promote participation of scientific experts in Carpathian Convention activities;
e. to strengthen the engagement of students and young researchers in the Carpathian Convention activities;
f. to advocate for the establishment of an Aarhus Centre and Platform for Roma Communities in the Carpathian region.

3. USE OF LOGO

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

4. AMENDMENT

The provisions of this MoC may be fully or partially modified in writing, with the mutual consent of the Signatories.

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 It is anticipated that any intellectual property currently owned by either Signatory will remain the property of such Signatory.

5.2 All intellectual property developed individually by a Signatory in the course of the collaboration shall be the property of the developing Signatory. All intellectual property developed jointly by the Signatories in the course of the collaboration will be negotiated between the Signatories in order to

establish their respective rights. If the Signatories do not reach an agreement on the ownership rights of the intellectual property developed jointly, the intellectual property will be jointly owned by the Signatories, with an equitable distribution of the costs related thereto.

5.3 Nothing in this MoC shall be construed as a transfer of rights and/or licenses to any intellectual property of either Signatory. None of the information that may be sent or exchanged by the respective Signatories shall constitute a representation, guarantee, assurance or inducement by either Signatory to the other with respect to the infringement of trademarks, patents, copyrights or any right of privacy, or other rights of third parties.

6. DURATION AND TERMINATION

6.1 Either Signatory may terminate this MoC with six (6) months prior written notice to the other Signatory.

6.2 The termination of the duration of this MoC, unless otherwise agreed, will not affect the conclusion or extinguish the rights and obligations arising from any of the specific works and/or projects that may have been formalized during its term.

6.3 This MoC becomes effective upon completion of signatures. It is valid for an initial period of five (5) years from the date of signature, which will be extended automatically and successively for the same period of time, provided that neither Signatory is interested in its termination.

7. FINAL PROVISIONS

Nothing in this MoC will bind any of the Signatories either jointly or severally.

In witness whereof, the Signatories, each acting through its duly authorized representative, have signed this MoC in three (3) original copies in English, out of each contracting party is entitled for one (1) original.

By **RESDI**	By **Comenius University, FSES**	By the **Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention**
Mgr. Viktor Teru Statutory of RESDI	Prof. JUDr. PhDr. Lucia Mokrá, PhD. Dean of FSES CU	Mr. Harald Egerer Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
Date: 10/09/25 Place: Bratislava	Date: 10/09/25 Place: BA	Date: 10.9.25 Place: Bratislava