

# OUTPUT FACT SHEET

## Strategies and action plans

Version 2

Project index number and acronym	CE1359 Centralparks
Output number and title	O.T1.1 Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	Ekopsychology Society PP4
Project website	<a href="https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Centralparks.html">https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Centralparks.html</a>
Delivery date	01.2021

### Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented), explaining its main objectives and transnational added value

Strategy addresses challenges related to preservation, protection, recovery/restoration/revitalization and sustainable use of species, natural and semi-natural habitats, and landscapes (both inside protected areas and their surroundings, e.g. buffer zones), ensuring ecological continuity and connectivity and strengthening the ecological network in the Carpathian region. Key objectives include building management capacities of public authorities for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Bucharest, 2008) to the Framework Carpathian Convention, enhancing partnerships between PA administrations and local community/municipality and regional authorities in the Carpathian region. 3 WPT1 Thematic Transnational Task Forces (TTTFs) allowed to pool and share knowledge and expertise from different countries, capitalize on information and experience exchange, enhance transnational cooperation, find solutions to challenges common for the region, harmonize approaches at the internat. level, and develop 3 mutually reinforcing outputs. TTTFs met in person once, later interacted solely online (also due to COVID-19, that made subsequent physical meetings impossible). Online meetings allowed team work in shared screen live mode. But, each TTTF tested different approach / team work mode. This TTTF involved 21 PPs' representatives & external experts from 7 countries (incl. UA volunteer), had 3 meetings (instead of 2 planned in AF), and prepared 3 subsequent drafts. Due to theme complexity and resulting slower work progress, PL experts prepared the 1<sup>st</sup> draft, subsequent drafts included comments and contributions by experts from all involved countries, and results of in-country consultations. Strategy was submitted for official endorsement by the Carpathian that took note of its presence and encouraged the Parties to use the CE1359 results (Decision COP6/9). Test implementation in HU and PL (Activity A.T1.4) is planned in RP5-RP6.

### NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

- 5 EU Member States (NUTS 2 / 2021): Czech Republic (CZ 06, CZ07, CZ08), Hungary (HU12, HU31), Poland (PL21, PL22, PL82), Romania (RO11, RO12, RO21, RO22, RO31, RO41), Republic of Slovakia (SK02, SK03, SK04)
- 1 EU candidate country (NUTS 3 / 2021): Republic of Serbia (RS221, RS223)
- 1 European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Eastern Partnership (EaP) country (ISO 3166-2): Ukraine (UA-21, UA-26, UA-46, UA-76)

### Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

Expected effects include enhanced conservation of biological and landscape diversity outside and inside PAs, improved ecological connectivity and coherence of ecological network, harmonization of approaches at the international level, increased capacities of public authorities, enhanced local support for conservation measures, and local stakeholders involvement in the implementation of the Protocol. Strategy shall improve capacities and provide guidance for nature and landscape conservation bodies and authorities preparing or updating PA management and/or conservation plans, and for local communities, municipal and regional authorities preparing or updating their relevant local or regional planning documents (related to environment protection, nature and landscape conservation, land-use, development). Expected official endorsement of the Strategy by the Carpathian Convention shall allow its uptake at the policy and institutional levels in all 7 countries, Parties to the Convention.

### Sustainability of the developed and/or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

Upon official endorsement, the Strategy shall be used by its target audience in the Carpathian region, once it becomes publicly available, it can inspire and encourage similar audiences, e.g. other mountain regions of Central Europe. Pilot implementation activities (similar to A.T1.4) can easily be replicated in other CE Programme area countries, and beyond. Despite its focus on local actions, the Strategy can serve as a pattern for developing strategies and action plans also at central and international levels. Development of this complex (but well-structured) Strategy turned out to be a time-consuming process, followed by quite intensive consultations, and resulting need to accommodate hundreds of incoming comments and suggestions, while physical meetings, allowing for more direct interactions and team work, were not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic. Reports on lessons learned from the test implementation of this Strategy (A.T1.4) should also be submitted to the Carpathian Convention.

### References to relevant deliverables and web-links If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The main relevant project deliverables are:

D.T1.1.1 (Thematic transnational task force (TTTF) formation and creation of common understanding for developing DT1.1.3)

D.T1.1.2 (Drafts and final meeting)

D.T1.1.3 (Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation)

as well as other (future) deliverables resulting from pilot implementation (Activity A.T1.4) in Hungary and Poland, planned in RP5 and RP6.

Upon the endorsement of the draft Strategy (D.T1.1.3) by the Carpathian Convention, it will become publicly available on the official website of the Carpathian Convention

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/>

and websites of some project partners (e.g. PP4 <https://ekopsychologia.pl/projekty/centralparks/>).