

# OUTPUT FACT SHEET

## Strategies and action plans

Version 2

Project index number and acronym	CE1359 Centralparks
Output number and title	O.T1.2 Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural/cultural heritage of the Carpathians
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

The strategy addresses protection, sustainable use, raising awareness and appreciation of nature, landscape and cultural heritage, mitigating tourism pressure and impact on fragile mountain ecosystems and disparities in socio-economic development across the Carpathian region, ensuring viability and economic stability of the local tourist services. Key objectives include building management capacities of local public (state and self-govt.) authorities for the implementation of 2 relevant Protocols to the Carpathian Convention, reconciliation and linking the conservation of biological and landscape diversity to sustainable local socio-economic development, enhancing partnerships and raising the support of local communities for PA operations. 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, which made subsequent physical meetings impossible). Online meetings allowed team work in shared screen live mode. But, each TTTF tested a different approach/team work mode. This TTTF involved 20 PPs' representatives & external experts from 7 countries (incl. UA volunteer), had 5 meetings (instead of 2 planned in AF), and prepared 12 subsequent drafts, where all participants actively developed the strategy at all work stages, agreed with the scope, intervention logic, structure, contents, strategic and operations objectives, and suggested related recommended measures. The strategy was submitted for official endorsement by the Carpathian Convention, which took note of its presence (Dec. COP6/15) and encouraged the Parties to use the CE1359 results (Dec. COP6/9). Test implementation in PL and SK (A.T1.5) 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 strengthening local economies in the Carpathian region, reconciliation and integration of nature protection with local socio-economic development through the local sustainable tourism development, based on the natural, landscape and cultural heritage values inside and around protected areas, perceived as an important location factor; increased capacities of public authorities, strengthened local identity and a sense of the common responsibility for the shared region, and increased support of local communities for PA operations. The strategy shall improve capacities and provide guidance for public authorities preparing or updating PA visitor management plans, local or regional planning documents related to tourism development, natural and cultural heritage conservation, and land-use. 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, Strategy shall be used by its target audience in the Carpathian region, once it becomes publicly available, it can inspire and encourage similar audiences in other mountain regions of Central Europe. Pilot implementation activities (similar to A.T1.5), including the development of local strategies and action plans on the basis of this Strategy, 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. Although more in-person TTF meetings, allowing for direct interactions and team work, were not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic, this obstacle was overcome through more intensive online exchanges, and organizing many more meetings than originally planned. Reports on lessons learned from the test implementation of this Strategy (A.T1.5) 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.T1.2.1 (Thematic transnational task force (TTTF) formation and creation of common understanding for developing DT1.2.3)

D.T1.2.2 (Drafts and final meeting)

D.T1.2.3 (Strategy for local ST development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians) as well as other (future) deliverables resulting from pilot implementation (Activity A.T1.5) in Poland and the Slovak Republic, planned in RP5 and RP6.

Upon the endorsement of the draft Strategy (D.T1.2.3) 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/>).