



European policies support for a smarter approach in the Carpathians

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Carpathians

area: 190,000 km²

inhabited by about 68 million people

exceptional endogenous resources

area of geopolitical importance

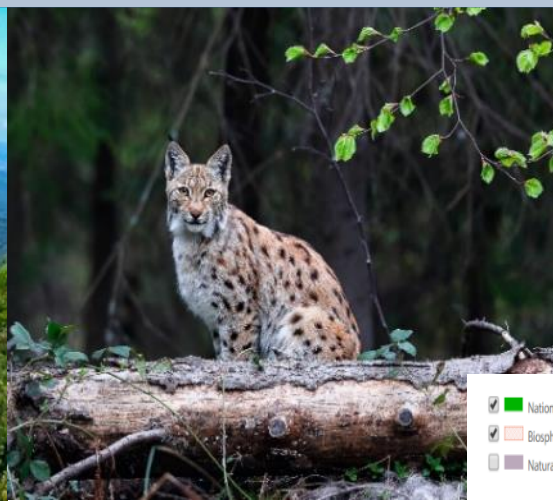
homogeneous mountain range with unique geographical conditions

a large area with similar environmental and landscape features with certain characteristics



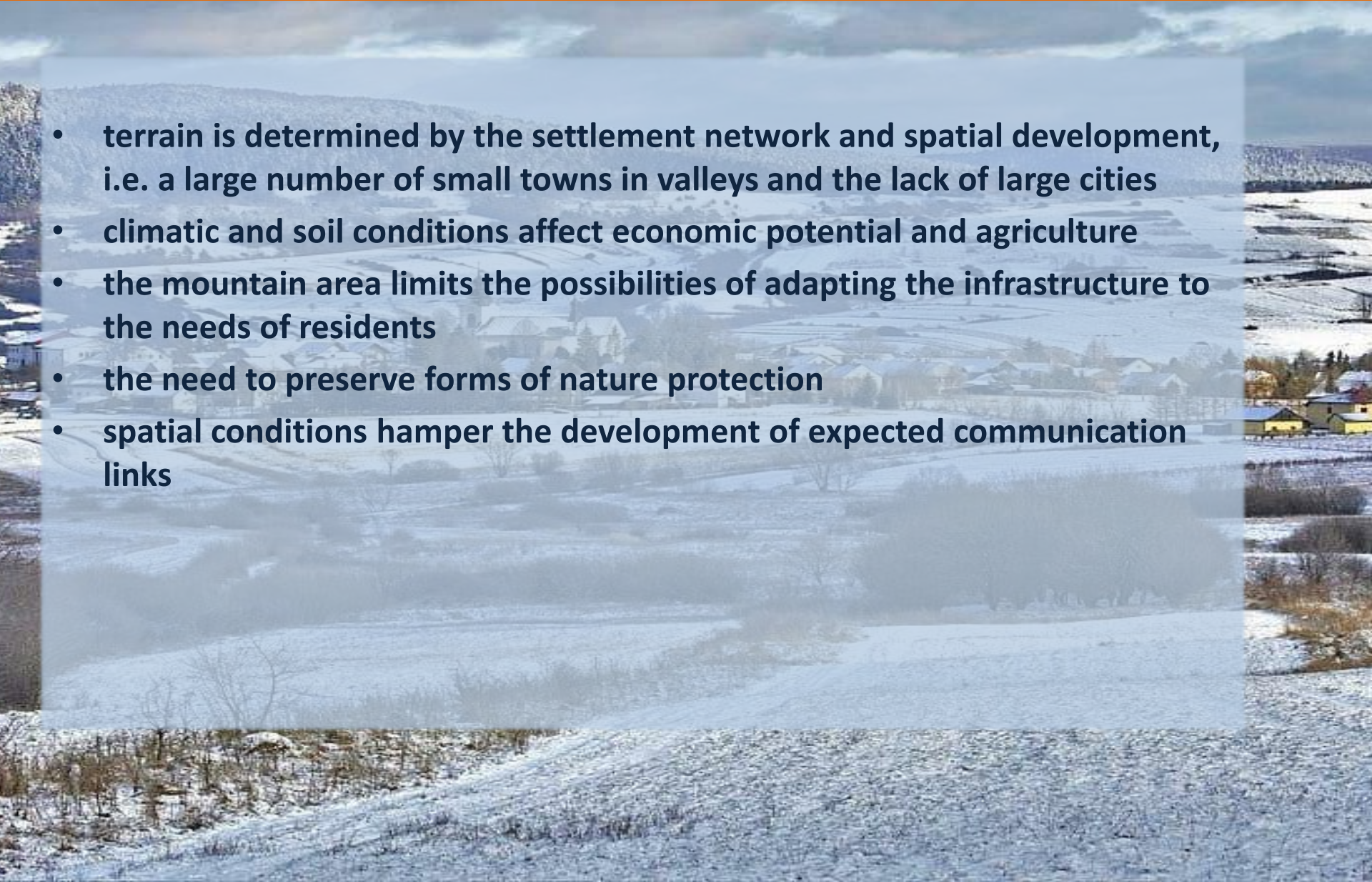
Biodiversity

- "Eastern Carpathians" International Biosphere Reserve
- 36 national parks - area 11,000 km²
- 51 landscape parks - 19,000 km²
- 200 other forms of protection
- one of the most important predator refuges
- an important center of endemism
- pan-European ecological corridor
- **only** 16% of the area outside forms of protection



Mountain specificity of the Carpathian area

- terrain is determined by the settlement network and spatial development, i.e. a large number of small towns in valleys and the lack of large cities
- climatic and soil conditions affect economic potential and agriculture
- the mountain area limits the possibilities of adapting the infrastructure to the needs of residents
- the need to preserve forms of nature protection
- spatial conditions hamper the development of expected communication links



Cooperation within the Carpathian community

- Bilateral meetings
- Multilateral meetings
- Exchange of experiences and good practices
- Neighborly meetings

- Agreements
- Letters of intent
- Declarations
- Implementation of joint projects
– Via Carpathia

- Debates
Conferences
Economic and cultural initiatives

- Civil society and NGOs
- Associations and local organizations
- Regional and local authorities
- Government authorities
- Member States

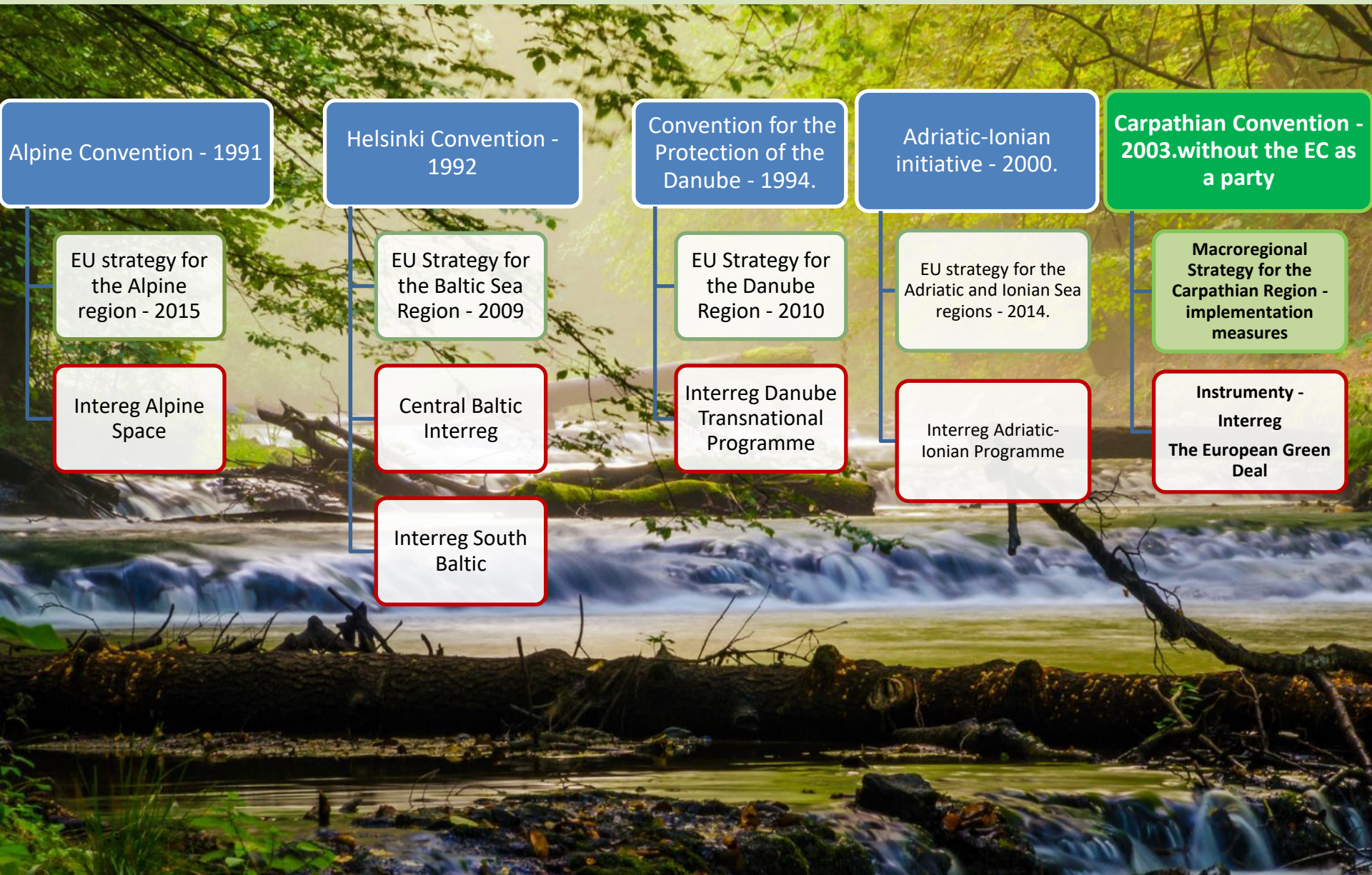
20 years of cooperation and strengthening the awareness of the Carpathian community

Existing forms of cooperation

- Carpathian Euroregion
- Carpathian Convention
- Carpathians Interregional Group in the Committee of Regions
- Economic Forum with a thematic panel
- Forum of Carpathian Communes
- Local Development Forum
- Carpathian Days of Neighborhood
- Interreg and European Neighborhood Instrument Programs



Initiatives and tools for European macro-regions working for the Carpathian Convention



Coordination of development

- ➔ **The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) should support regions and territories that are facing handicaps**
- ➔ **The European Parliament stresses the need to use ERDF support to develop projects such as smart villages, creating new opportunities such as decentralized services, energy solutions as well as technologies and digital innovations**
- ➔ **Cohesion policy must better recognize the need for investments aimed at integrating mountain areas into policies**
- ➔ **European territorial cooperation programs such as cross-border and trans-European projects as well as macro-regional strategies play an important role here as tools to strengthen the cohesion of the European Union**

EU macroregional strategies

Macro-Regions:

Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic, Danube



There are currently four EU macroregional strategies:

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR; 2009),
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR; 2010),
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR; 2014)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP; 2016).

Such initiatives are taken to create new strategies for the area of the Carpathians, the Atlantic, the Iberian Peninsula and the Mediterranean Sea.

Most EU Member States are included in the macroregional strategy agenda and some EU countries are involved in several strategies.

Macro-regional strategies



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION



Participating States

Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland

Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia
Romania, Moldova, Serbia
Ukraine

Priority Areas

1. Economic growth and innovation.
2. Mobility and connectivity.
3. Environment and energy.
4. Management, including institutional potential

1. Competitive Carpathians.
2. Green Carpathians.
3. Coherent Carpathians.
4. Strengthening cooperation and spatial development.



Postulates of the Carpathian Strategy

Strategic Objectives:

- ✓ **Competitive Carpathians** – *Development of clean industries, Sustainable development of tourism, Increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, Development of the macro-regional innovation ecosystem.*
- ✓ **Green Carpathians** – *Protection and rational management of natural resources, Diversification of energy sources, Water reservoir, Management of environmental risk and natural hazards*
- ✓ **Coherent Karpaty** – *Increasing the transport accessibility of the Carpathians, Increasing the digital accessibility of the Carpathians, Development of the e-service system*

Opinion of the COTER Committee

- adopted at the plenary session of the European Committee of the Regions in December 2019,
- Own-initiative opinion of the COTER commission (Committee for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget) Macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region, the rapporteur of which was Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region.
- It is the first official EU document that mentions the Carpathian Strategy by name.
- macro-regional strategies improve the complementarity of various policies and programs, set and implemented at various levels of management,
- combining jointly defined potentials and coordinating activities is an important added value at European level,
- the unique resources of the Carpathians create a great opportunity for joint activities for more dynamic, sustainable and balanced socio-economic development



European Committee
of the Regions

COTER-VI/057

137th plenary session, 4-5 December 2019

OPINION

Macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

- underlines that macro-regional Strategies improve the complementarity of various political strategies and programmes that are designated and implemented at different levels of governance. This pooling of jointly defined potential and coordination of actions is a significant added value at the European level;
- highlights the unique resources of the Carpathians, such as the natural wealth, unique multicultural heritage, human resources and common identity of mountain communities, all of which provide a great opportunity to work together towards more dynamic, sustainable and balanced socio-economic development in the area;
- considers that placing the Carpathian issue at the centre of a strategic document would highlight the problems of this area and make it possible to exploit the currently dormant and unique potential of the whole macro-region by focusing actions on the most important horizontal problems and challenges;
- reiterates and confirms the approval expressed many times of the initiative to develop a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region and sees it as a well-developed initiative undertaken at all levels of government;
- calls on the European Commission to support the initiative to create a macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region as a further macro-regional strategy and the second one to address a European region with mountainous characteristics;
- considers that the macro-regional strategy instrument enables more effective use to be made of available financial resources as part of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective, by creating a viable system for co-financing and implementing actions supporting the regions of Carpathian countries.

Summing Up

- The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is the inspiration for the creation of another macro-regional strategy for Europe's second mountain range.
- The Alpine Strategy is a reference for the Carpathian Strategy, as one of the challenges is the protection of natural resources and protected areas, and the axis is the mountain range.
- In our activities, we want to use the good practices and experiences of the Alpine Strategy.
- The macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region will be complementary to existing initiatives, such as the Carpathian Convention or the Carpathian Euroregion.
- The Carpathian strategy will enable the preservation of the macroregion's valuable natural resources.
- The unique natural heritage will make it possible to strengthen the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Carpathian macroregion, including increasing the level and quality of life of the inhabitants of the Carpathian region.



Thank you for your attention