



Draft Terms of Reference for the Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention

Purpose

The Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention is a legally binding document, which shall set the legal frame for the parties to the Convention.

Process of Tourism Protocol Development

The Tourism Protocol shall be developed in close cooperation between experts, NGOs and other stakeholders. Therefore, the negotiation process towards the development of the protocol will take place through open-ended meetings.

The meetings will be scheduled as follows (concrete dates will be set in due time):

April 2007: 1st Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism
October 2007: 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism
January 2008: 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism

The results of the meetings will serve as both, basis and input, to the chapters of the Tourism Protocol. The Working Group on sustainable tourism will further develop the contents of the protocol in between the meetings. The final draft of the Tourism Protocol will be submitted to COP2.

Stakeholder Involvement

The Tourism Protocol is a document, which defines the legal framework conditions for future tourism development in the Carpathians.

Therefore, the protocol shall be primarily elaborated by governmental representatives of the parties to the Convention, but also comments from stakeholders from all other relevant sectors and levels shall be taken into consideration.

An interdisciplinary, cross-level and trans-national approach will help to ensure the acceptance and applicability of the Tourism Protocol all over the Carpathians.

A public consultation process will be initiated to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders, including international and non-governmental organizations and initiatives, as well as indigenous peoples, local communities and the private sector. The electronic consultation process with the stakeholders will be started after the second meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism.

Relation to the Tourism Strategy

The implementation of the Tourism Protocol will be backed up by the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians, which is being elaborated in parallel by the Working Group on sustainable tourism.