



Terms of Reference for the the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians

Guiding Principles

The strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians (from now on referred to as Tourism Strategy) is a voluntary document that aims to serve as a framework supporting the development of sustainable forms of tourism in the Carpathians. It is a strategic document with an overlying vision, guiding principles and a framework for action that will help to combine and effectively strengthen all efforts that strive towards a sustainable tourism future of the Carpathians.

Supporting sustainable tourism in the Carpathians means to provide for the conservation of nature, the economic prosperity of regions and the safeguarding of social structures and cultural assets throughout the Carpathian Mountains.

The Tourism Strategy strongly places its focus on trans-national cooperation in order to, firstly, cope with common challenges together and, secondly, to better use and conserve the natural and cultural treasures which exist across the borders and which make the Carpathians in their whole to one of the most unique mountainous regions in Europe.

Process of Tourism Strategy Development

The Tourism Strategy shall be developed in close cooperation among governmental experts, NGOs and other stakeholders. Therefore, the strategy development process 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
- Discussion and adoption of the structure of the Tourism Strategy
 - Discussion and adoption of the purpose of the strategy and the vision statement
- October 2007: 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism
- Elaboration of a draft of the entire Tourism Strategy
- January 2008: 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism
- Finalisation of the Tourism Strategy

The results of the meetings will serve as both, basis and input, to the chapters of the strategy. The Working Group will further develop the contents of the strategy in between the meetings. The final Tourism Strategy will be submitted to COP2.

Stakeholder Involvement

The Tourism Strategy is a document, which meets the demands of future sustainable tourism development in the Carpathian Countries. In order to achieve this goal the involvement of all relevant stakeholders is of vital importance. Therefore, the strategy shall be developed in cooperation with:

- (1) experts delegated by the parties from all Carpathian Countries
- (2) stakeholders from all relevant sectors related to tourism development (e.g. agriculture, nature protection, economy)
- (3) stakeholders from all levels (local, regional, national), and
- (4) stakeholders from all Carpathian countries,
- (5) International organisations working in the Carpathians

This interdisciplinary, cross-level and trans-national approach will help to ensure the broad acceptance and applicability of the Tourism Strategy in the Carpathians and will support cooperation in and success of sustainable tourism development in the Carpathian Countries.

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 first meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism.

The Parties are invited to organise public consultation process on national level and report about the results of the consultations at the working group meetings.

Relationship of the Tourism Strategy with the Draft Tourism Protocol

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

The Protocol will concern the actions in the field of sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians that need legal support of the governments. The Strategy however, will target not only governments, but also businesses and NGO community, will support good practices that exist and will find ways to scale and replicate them in other Carpathian countries.

Financial Matters

The participation in the working group meetings takes place on a voluntary basis. Therefore, expenses related to the participation in the working group meetings and expenses of working group experts delegated by the parties will be typically covered by the Governments of the respective countries.

The participation of a limited number of non-governmental organizations from the Carpathians in the working group on sustainable tourism that otherwise would not be able to attend the meetings of the working group may be supported by CEEWEB through the INTERREG III B CADSES Project '*Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in a transnational framework*'.