Report on the STWG meeting
17-19 September 2010, Poland

17th of September

The participants of the meeting introduced themselves and received welcome from the Director of the Pieniny National Park in the headquarters office where the meeting was held. There was also an introduction to the history and background of the NP.

The group discussed selected problems of National Tourism Development Strategies:

- There has been a new strategy lunched on tourism in Romania.
- The strategy in Hungary was prepaid for the period of 2005 – 2013.
- There are three levels for strategies in Bulgaria: governmental level, local authority level and spatial level. The short term business objectives are withdrawn as priorities for these documents.
- In Serbia the ministry of tourism has develop in 2004 the strategy which focused only on rural tourism and short term business objectives are underlined. The review and adaptation to the EU regulations and standards are in process.

Result of the discussion: The STWG decided to collect further the information on National Tourism Development Strategies in member countries and their sustainability aspects.

Highlights on sustainability in context of CEEweb policy:

- **Poland**
  There is a variety in understanding of sustainability term. The most common understanding of sustainable development in politics refers to that each of the parts of the country should be equally developed. The financial crisis do not favours the development of sustainable development ideas because in macro economy it results often in stimulating consumption.

- **Romania**
  There is growing population and growing economy. The smaller population would mean smaller economy as well. The carrying capacity of the environment in European countries is reaching limits. Nature conservation and sustainability are for the wellbeing of humanity, and we have to make people understand it.

- **Bulgaria**
  The growing population in other continents not only in Asia but also in Africa and South-America will be migrating to other parts of the world. There is a need for the appropriate policy for this issue.
There were **PRESENTATIONS** on several fields of work in sustainable tourism development:

1. **The Green Valley Association** presented their activities in Maramures Mountains which focus on nature conservation and implementing ecotourism and sustainability in tourism by projects, trainings and summer camps. The GVA edited together with UNESCO Pro Natura-IUCN a book about best practices around the world and also a book about biodiversity of Maramures as well as the wetland of Maramures. There were also two projects conducted on ecotourism in Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania. They have 30 individual members and other volunteers contributing to the work of the organization.

2. **The Carpathian Convention** is in the continuous interest of STWG. The country members of CC: Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, and Serbia will adopt the protocol by COP3 in May, 2011. Next meeting of the CC STWG will be in 2011. Unfortunately there is little interest in implementation on national level.

   **Result of the discussion:** As soon as the Protocol and Strategy is adopted, STWG can monitor the implementation and also involve other NGOs in action.

3. **Volunteerism in National Parks**

   STWG discussed the similarities of volunteerism (which was initiated mostly in USA) within Central East Europe. There are several volunteerism actions across CEE:

   - **Serbia:** YRS organize international voluntary camps in protected areas (not in NPs). PAs authorities offer accommodation and food. In change YRS interact with the community. Managers of PAs can present themselves for locals showing that PAs is beneficial for local communities.
     - Cooperation with National Voluntary Service
     - Two Ramsar sites cleared by volunteers
     - Workshops on designing awareness raising materials for sustainable tourism destination

   **Result of the discussion:** Members of the STWG could create programs for volunteerism and promote it at national level.

   There is a proposal for STWG to contribute to organize camps in Maramures and promoting the idea in other STWG countries through:

   - Marking tourist trails needed in Ukraine or Romania
     - skills can shared through training
     - experience can be shared and way ahead discussed in the framework of summer camps
   - Promotion of ST in Natura 2000 sites
   - Influencing local politicians through these type of activities
     - Involve them in the process
     - Show them how the local area can benefit from these activities
     - Thus local politicians can influence at regional level
   - Creation of an own website and advertise it also on the CEEweb website

   - **Poland:** Volunteerism is developed from the university and academic environment. The volunteers:
     - Gather the needed data on tourism
     - Extend the database on tourism

   - **Ukraine:** Hungarian volunteers build routes in protected areas.
• **Latvia:** NPs have volunteers who:
  - Rebuild natural trails
  - Collect waste
  - LFN: students with biological and agricultural background are volunteers and collect information about farms, e.g.: list of plants from the farms which can be used as herbs, and help farmers to advertising.
  - LFN: employ a volunteer from Mexico

4. There was a brainstorming on over 90 environmental, social and economic **INDICATORS** for **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM** developed by EU DG Enterprise Tourism Sustainability Group.

• **LFN** has developed 100 bad examples and 100 good examples of tourism

**EU DG Enterprise Tourism Sustainability Group**

Some good points among the indicators:
- Development control
- Tourism supply chain: min. 25% of the supplies must come from the local enterprises
- Under water saving actions: cautious use of natural resources
- Measuring good sustainable management plans
- Lower the impact of transport

**Result of the work:** CEEweb recommendations on the EU TSG indicators were elaborated. Small working groups developed recommendations for modifying the list of indicators. After discussing them in the plenary a joint CEEweb STWG recommendation list was finalized. This list will be circulated among participant for double checking, after which it will be channelled into the discussion of the EU TSG through the CEEweb representative.

18th of September

The **CURRENT SITUATION of STWG** was presented with the background of its history. The STWG was established in 2002. The group is led by a coordinator (responsible for functioning and securing funds) and the chairman (responsible for the meetings). So far the group was coordinated from CEEweb office along with ETE (Ecological Tourism in Europe) from Germany. At the moment Ivan Svetozarevic from Young Researchers of Serbia holds the chairman position of the group. The group needs new coordinator to be elected at AM 2010 in order to flow of information, search possible project opportunities and coordinate successful projects.
There were ideas for the marketing of STWG developed. For example: participation in Tourism Fairs in the coming 2-3 years in order to:

- arrange a stand and announce possible project proposals after describing a clear target group for STWG,
- compile innovative communication materials: video showing the values of nature and its added value for sustainable tourism,
- organize special room dedicated for tourism and environment,
- offer STWG members to disseminate their materials,
- improve networking with tour operators and other partners and
- increase innovation and proactively within the group.

STWG expressed an interest in participating in Seminars on Mountain Tourism in Poland which are organized every second year with 30 participants from all around the world.

STWG compiled a list with FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for the group:

I The International Visegrad Fund
For: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia
www.visegradfund.org/grants.html
The financial contribution of the Fund cannot exceed 50% of total project costs including the in-kind contribution of the applicant, or in-kind contributions of other subjects.

Standard Grants
Annual budget: €5,001 and more
Max. time frame: 12 months
Deadlines: 15 March 2011
Aim: youth exchange (volunteerism), cross-border cooperation or promotion of tourism (indicators)

Visegrad Strategic Program
4. Youth and Sports Exchanges
Annual budget: €300,000
Max. time frame: 12–36 months
Deadline: 15 February 2011
Aim: programs for volunteerism and promotion it at national level

II Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe
For: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
www.ceetrust.org

B) Cross-Border Initiatives (ongoing)
A maximum grant amount has been set for up to 25,000 USD.
Deadline: throughout the year
Aim: CEE regional advocacy, watchdog and public policy initiatives/networks, CEE regional initiatives linking civil society actors with policy makers and public authorities (local, regional, national and EU levels)

III INTERREG IVC
For: all EU countries
www.interreg4c.net
Priority 1: Innovation and the knowledge economy
Priority 2: Environment and the risk prevention
It is very likely that a third call for proposals will be organized.
Aim: cooperation or promotion of tourism (indicators)

IV CEI (Central European Initiative)
For: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic,
Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia,
Ukraine
www.ceinet.org

Cooperation Activities
1 February for implementation from July to December and by 1 September for implementation
from January to June
Aim: the form of seminars, workshops, short training courses or other kind of meetings, the
STWG meetings in 2011

Know-How Exchange Programme
The CEI finances up to 50% of the total project cost and not more than €40.000 per project.
Aim: promotion of rural and environmentally sensitive tourism (an economic background)

V DOEN Foundation
www.doen.nl
Deadline: throughout the year, but at least 4 months before the project starts
Aim: new economy (sustainability in tourism sector)

VI Program LIFE+
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm
Deadline: September 2011
Aim: promotion of tourism indicators, Iron Curtain Trail
For example: T.A.S.M.A.C. - Tourism Accessibility in Small Attractive Cities (LIFE09 ENV/IT/000146)
One of the expected results: The definition of indicators for monitoring noise pollution and air
quality that will be used by the local authorities in the pilot areas

VII European Economic Area Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein Grants
http://www.eeagrandts.org/
http://forum.fmo.07.no/
Aim: advocacy, watchdog and monitoring activities, awareness raising activities, network and
coalition building

VIII European Fund for Regional Development
At national level
## Annex 1

### Participants of the meeting

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