

“CARPATHIAN TOOL KIT” meeting

Trenčín, Slovakia, 28-30 January 2009

The second planning workshop for the support to environmental education network development and educator training within the framework of the Carpathian Convention will be held on 28-30 January 2009 in Trenčín, Slovakia and organized jointly by ENSI and UNEP.

The main goal of the workshop is to frame and discuss the concrete steps of the development of a Carpathian toolkit for environmental education which could be tested in Romania during the training tour decided upon at the first planning meeting in Bucharest in June 2008.

Following are the main objectives of the toolkit as agreed upon during the first planning meeting in Bucharest and

OBJECTIVES:

The tool kit should:

- be adjustable to the different ages of the students (grades V-VIII, or higher)
- could be adaptable to all the Carpathian countries
- increased awareness of the surrounding nature and culture, and raise environmental responsibility

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

(ideas already given and discussed in Bucharest, 17-19 June 2008)

<p>1. The structure of the toolkit should be based on the articles of the Carpathian Convention !!!</p>
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(for further reference, please, see <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/text.htm>)

The educational materials already presented and/or existing or those under preparation – can be distributed by topic. At this stage each organization/participant of the meeting in Poiana Brasov can fill into the category the educational material they have available. A common decision will be taken on which ones are appropriate and will be included in the kit.

- Article 4
Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- Article 5
Spatial planning
- Article 6
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
- Article 7
Sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Article 8
Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- Article 9
Sustainable tourism
- Article 10
Industry and energy
- Article 11
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

The most important objective of the tool kit is to provoke “critical thinking” by the students – e.g. by making them think of how to make their area of the Carpathians appealing to the visitors - what are the specific/important aspects of their area, both natural and cultural.

2. Creating a natural/cultural trail through the area of the Carpathians

E.g. a teacher encourages students to make a trail through their area, and the task is that this trail should lead through cultural and natural amenities of the local area:

- pointing out the important species of animals and plants (e.g. bears in Brasov, chestnuts in Maramures, etc),
- thinking of which transport can be used to get to/go through the trail,
- thinking of energy resources which the trail potentially provides (such as rivers, potential for wind energy),
- thinking of agricultural resources (agricultural traditions, soils, etc)
- thinking of cultural traditions and crafts
- potential threats to their area, which can damage its environment (such as increase of transportation, new construction, mining, etc)

all of these can be unique features which bring identity to the region, and can be attractive for tourism, which can in addition help generate income in the rural communities.

In addition, such a tool can be adapted to various disciplines:

- Biology,
- Ecology
- Geography (tracing the trail on the map)
- Physics (the energy tool kit)
- Crafts (local arts and crafts)
- Physical training (hiking through the trail)

The actual components of the teaching tool kit on the Carpathians will be the following:

- a set of maps (Carpathian protected areas/Romanian protected areas)
- some of the materials presented, which can fit under specific articles above
- some of the tools presented (such as the idea of the mountain models/some of the tools presented by Ion?)