Start of negotiations for the draft text Protocol on Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure to the Carpathian Convention

From 18 to 19 October, the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure Meeting was held in Košice, Slovakia. The meeting was organized by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC - supported by UNEP Vienna) in strong collaboration with the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC) and its Vienna Office. The Working Group aims at supporting the parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of Articles 8 (sustainable transport and infrastructure) and 10 (industry and energy) of the Carpathian Convention. This meeting’s main purpose was to foster the development of the draft text Protocol on Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure to the Carpathian Convention. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for early 2013, with the view of further elaborating the draft text of the Protocol. It is envisaged to have the final draft text of the Protocol by the end of 2013 and present it to the COP4 of the Carpathian Convention (to be hosted in 2014 in the Czech Republic).

The Working Group benefitted from various available results, e.g. past and ongoing experiences and results throughout implemented projects such as “Access2Mountain” or the “Carpathian Project” (former CADSES Programme). One concrete outcome of this strategic project was the study (including recommendations) on the transport system in the Carpathians carried out under the lead of the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), which served as direct input to the meeting.

This event enjoyed the technical and financial support of the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe Programme project “Access2Mountain” and contributed to as well as benefitted from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Working Group meeting was held back to back with the “Access2Mountain” Midterm Conference organized by the Rzeszow Regional Development Agency together with the Environment Agency Austria, which took place at the same meeting venue from 16 to 18 October.

Background information on the “Access2Mountain“ project.

Objective of the Access2Mountain Project (funded under the ERDF Programme South East Europe), project duration 2011-2014:

The project “Access2Mountain“ aims to achieve durable, environmentally friendly tourism, as well as to ensure accessibility and connection to, between and in sensitive regions of the Alps and the Carpathians. It should benefit all (potential) users. With the long-term perspective of increasing sustainable tourist mobility, railway and multimodal connections will be improved and attractive offers created via pre-investment measures, pilot activities, and investments.

It is central to the project, to transfer experiences made and knowledge gained in the Alps to the Southeastern European region. In this regard, transnational cooperation in the field of sustainable regional development plays an important role. Touristic infrastructures are to be created or improved in a sustainable manner. This paves the way for achieving international environment aims and yield competitive advantage.

Throughout the collaboration with the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), UNEP Vienna – ISCC is directly involved in the project.

Further information: www.carpathianconvention.org and www.access2mountain.eu