

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE JUNE 13-14, 2019

Hotel Szent István - Eger, 12 Legányi Ferenc street, Hungary



Photo: Gábor Szinok



CARPATHIAN
CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM

TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS CIVIL SOCIETY ACROSS THE BORDERS IN THE CARPATHIANS



Background. The history of the Carpathian Civil Society Platform initiative started two years ago as an intensive dialogue with participating CSOs, working in bordering regions of five countries, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine, covering the territory of the Carpathian Mountain area. The main goal of the initiative is the creation of a cross-border network of CSOs.

The initiative reflects the challenges Europe is facing today, which are the weakening European solidarity and cohesive forces, and the erosion of democratic principles in many European countries. These challenges are even more powerful in Central Eastern Europe that has went through a complex process of democratic transition during the last three decades, but many symptoms, such as shrinking space of civil societies, show that the culture of participatory democracy is still fragile in these countries. Another challenge is the growing social and regional disparities within the countries, which preserves and further strengthens the formation of contiguous peripheries, especially in the border regions of the mountain area.

The conference in Eger on 13-14 June, 2019. The conference is the second gathering of the initiative, the so called Carpathian Civil Society Platform, with the aim to summarize the results of the two-year common work, to identify joint programs and projects amongst CSOs at inter-regional level, and to discuss the long-term vision to formalize and make the initiative sustainable as a social hub.

The Carpathian Civil Society Platform and Hub

Vision. The Carpathian Civil Society Platform and Hub is driven by a common vision to strengthen a lively, pluralistic, and rights-based civil society in the territory of the Carpathian Region.

Values. Shared by the Carpathian CSOs, social and regional solidarity, ensuring equal opportunities, social justice, social inclusion, and respect of the rich natural, cultural and ethnic diversity of the Carpathians are the core values for joint actions.

A cooperation instrument. The envisioned Platform and Hub is an instrument to realize this vision by offering a framework for cooperation between civil society organizations (CSOs) working primarily with grassroots and vulnerable communities in mountain areas of the Carpathians. By its nature, it can also contribute to the dissolvent of national and ethnic prejudices and can strengthen regional solidarity and cohesion through cooperation.

A network. The Platform and Hub is an inter-regional place-based network attached to the geographically, historically, culturally and sociologically contiguous territory of the Carpathians, which is the common ground for cooperation. Its main goal is to coordinate and synergize the individual and often isolated efforts of CSOs; to amplify the effect of their activity at local, sub-regional and inter-regional levels; to generate and disseminate innovative solutions for resolving socio-economic problems of communities.

The Platform and Hub can play a connecting role in linking the Carpathians with similar European initiatives and assist CSOs to learn European, especially mountain and border region experiences and practices, furthermore enable them to join other European networks and Hubs while promoting the Carpathians at a European level.

A place for innovation. The Platform and the Hub intends to free the innovative potential and energies of CSOs to reconfigure social practices, in response to social challenges, seeking to enhance outcomes on social wellbeing and necessarily including the engagement of civil society actors in a broad sense, such as local and regional governments, businesses, independent media, and academia.

CONFERENCE AGENDA



WEDNESDAY JUNE 12

- 18:00- Arrivals, registration
19:00 Networking dinner
20:30-21:30 Eger by night – sight-seeing walk in the center

THURSDAY JUNE 13

- 7:30-8:15 Early birds – morning walk to castle hill
- 09:00 – 09:20 **OFFICIAL OPENING**
René van Hell, Dutch Ambassador to Hungary
Sándor Köles, President of Carpathian Foundation-Hungary
- 09:20-11:00 **CIVIL SOCIETIES IN TURBULENT TIMES**
Iveta Radičová, PhD, Professor of Sociology, former Prime Minister of Slovakia
Marit E Jacobsen, Deputy Head of Secretariat, Norwegian Barents Cooperation
Harald Egerer, Head, UNEP Carpathian Convention
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30-11:45 Summary on the background and main achievements of the Carpathian Platform and the Hub by Sándor Köles
- 11:45-13:00 Collective experiences on the process – Panel discussion on the progress of the Carpathian Civil Society Platform
Slávka Mačáková – Director, ETP Slovakia
Maria Gajewska – Expert, Brama Karpat Foundation
Ruslan Zhylenko – Director, Carpathian Foundation Ukraine
Boglarika Bata – Director, Carpathian Foundation-Hungary
- 13:00- 14:30 *Lunch*
- 14:30-16:30 Thematic group discussions along inter-regional cross-cutting issues
Group 1 Bridges out of generational poverty
Group 2 All different – all equal. Social inclusion as a tool for equal opportunities and respect to identity
Group 3 Carpathian culture – the roots of existing together
Group 4 Power to the people – Citizen engagement through community development
Group 5 How to cope with shrinking civil space?
- 16:30-17:00 *Coffee break*
- 17:00-17:30 Plenary session: reports from the thematic group sessions
- 18:30 Wine tasting, networking dinner and cultural evening

CONFERENCE AGENDA



FRIDAY JUNE 14

- 9:00 – 10:30 Joint projects of the thematic groups – common project planning
- 10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:00-11:30 Plenary session: reports from the thematic group sessions
- 11:30-12:30 Towards the sustainability of the Platform and inter-regional HUB
- Strategy, structure, organization, business model and long term cooperation of the Carpathian Civil Society Platform – Sándor Köles
- Virtual HUB – Márta Rakusz and Tibor Csathó
- 12:30-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 – 15:00 Co-creation of the Platform and the Hub - participants' input - groupwork
1. Functions (roles and services)
2. Organizational form and structure
3. Virtual Hub
4. Sustainability of the Platform and Hub
- 15:00-15:30 Reports from the working groups
- 15:30-16:00 Joint declaration of the platform, conclusions, summary – Sándor Köles
- 16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break, departures*

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Acknowledgements

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Government of the Netherlands



Robert Bosch
Stiftung



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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



RENÉ VAN HELL

Ambassador for The Netherlands in Hungary

René van Hell was born in Amsterdam and obtained his degree in Economics at the University of Amsterdam. Since he started his career in international relations in 1990, he has worked for the European Parliament, the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU in Brussels, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Embassy of the Netherlands to the United States in Washington. From 2011 to 2017 he was the Director of the International Enterprise Department, first in the Ministry of Economics and later within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Van Hell is serving as the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Hungary since October 2017.



IVETA RADIČOVÁ

Professor of Sociology, former Prime Minister of Slovakia

Iveta Radičová is professor of sociology at Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts and Dean of Media Faculty Paneuropean University in Bratislava. Prior to the positions as Slovakia's Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, she was a member of the Slovak National Parliament and served as Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family. In 1992, she founded the non-profit Social Policy Analysis Centre, which she led until being appointed director of the Institute of Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Science in 2005. She received professor in sociology from Comenius University in Bratislava.



MARIT EGHOLM JACOBSEN

Deputy Head of Secretariat, Norwegian Barents Cooperation

Education: Master of Laws, University of Oslo, Russian language and history studies at Finnmark University College. Worked in the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and four years in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consulate General of Norway in Murmansk, Russia). Responsible for projects in the fields of civil society, NGO cooperation and higher education in the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.



HARALD EGERER

Head of UN Environment Vienna Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Mr. Harald Egerer is the Head of the UN Environment Vienna Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and acts as the Secretary of the Carpathian Convention on behalf of the UN Environment. Born on 5 June 1968 in Vienna/Austria, Mr. Egerer graduated in Law at the University of Vienna. After studies of international relations and environmental law and sciences, Mr. Egerer worked as an environmental reporter for the Austrian Press Agency. In 1996, Mr. Egerer joined UN Environment with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention). With UN Environment's European Office as of 2001, Mr. Egerer specialized on environmental cooperation in the European region and supported the seven Carpathian countries in the development of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. Since the year 2004, Mr. Egerer has been heading the UN Environment Vienna Office – SSC and represents UN Environment as an environmental focal point for the international Mountain Partnership.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



SÁNDOR KÖLES

President of Carpathian Foundation-Hungary

Mr. Köles had been working with the Carpathian Foundation since its creation in 1995; first as Country Director for Hungary and, between 1997-2005, as the Executive Director of the Carpathian Foundation International. Since 2005, Mr. Köles is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary. He has over 25 years of experience in community development, cross-border cooperation and conflict resolution within Central and Eastern Europe. Previously, he had been the Director of the Department of Training and Community Development at the Hungarian Institute for Culture. In 1989, Mr. Köles founded the Village Development Association in order to animate local communities in developing their own local institutions. Mr. Köles had been the Vice-President of the European Council for Villages and Small Towns (ECOVAST) in 1993-1998. Between 2005 and 2012 he was the Senior Vice-President for Programs and Development at the International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT.) As the recipient of the Richard von Weizsaecker Fellowship, Mr. Köles is the member of the Robert Bosch Academy since 2014.



BOGLÁRKA BATA

Director of Carpathian Foundation-Hungary

Boglárka Bata is the executive director of the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary since 2008, she joined to the Foundation in 2005. Boglárka holds an MA of Political Science and BA of Economics; she has been working in the non-profit sector for 18 years. Before joining to the Carpathian Foundation – during her University studies – she worked for the Support the Poor Foundation for 5 years and dealt with empowerment, community development of marginalized Roma and skill development of disadvantaged children. Boglárka is a experienced trainer, and civil society development, grantmaking are also her main professional areas.



SLÁVKA MAČÁKOVÁ

Director of ETP Slovakia

Slávka Mačáková has been leading ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development (ETP) since 1997 as Director. Under Slávka's leadership ETP has expanded to leading non-profit organization with more than 50 full-time employees. Slávka has in-depth experience in developing advocacy initiatives and tools impacting inclusive education, social and housing policies and strategies related to Roma integration. She has managed more than 60 projects with a total budget over 20 million EUR. Slávka graduated cum laude with a Master's (Engineering) Degree in Environmental Protection from the Technical University in Košice. She received the Fulbright Scholarship to finalize her doctoral research at the University of Minnesota (1994-1995). Slávka received her PhD in Environmental Protection (Waste Management) in 1997. In 2011, Slávka received the Global Social Benefit Incubator scholarship from Santa Clara University, USA. In 2015, she was awarded the Cordes Fellowship to participate at the Opportunities Collaboration in Ixtapa, Mexico. Under Slávka's leadership, in 2014 the European Economic and Social Committee awarded ETP the Civil Society Prize for the integration of Roma.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



MARIA GAJEWSKA

Expert, Fundacja Brama Karpat

Maria Gajewska - born and raised in Polish Carpathians. Graduated from the three biggest, leading Polish Universities. Certified and experienced in many fields of business, cultural and social areas. Consultant expert and owner of own business. Member of several CS organizations operating in her home region. Since 2009 working with and for many NGOs. Between 2010 and 2015 she was cooperating in many roles with Carpathian Foundation Poland during the "Alps to Carpathians" Swiss project. Consultations for UNEP-GRID center in the frame of project "Carpathians Connect" make her involved in Carpathian Convention formulating process.

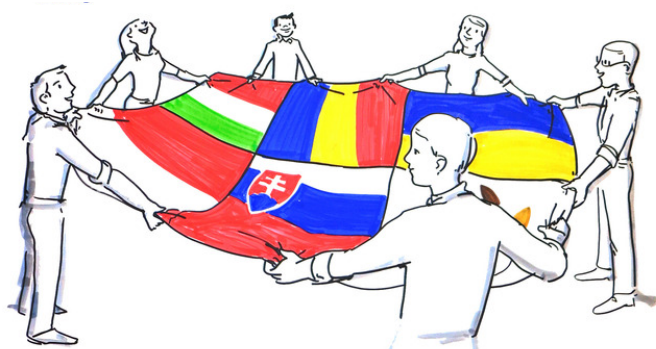
In private life she shares her time between the Carpathians and the Sahara where she also leads a project of social and cultural development. She chooses to be traveler not a tourist, so wherever she goes she takes time to meet local reality with respect and open mind.



RUSLAN ZHYLENKO

Director of Carpathian Foundation Ukraine

Ruslan Zhylenko is the CEO (since 2005) of the Carpathian Foundation – Ukraine. He has been working in the non-profit sector for 15 years, focusing on social services for vulnerable groups and community development. Also Mr. Zhylenko has a PhD degree and works as Associate Professor of Social Work Department in Uzhgorod National University. He is the author of more than 60 scientific publications on different aspects of social work. He is actively involved in social adaptation program for ex-servicemen and the veterans of the war on the east of Ukraine.



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



HUNGARY

Add a kezed Khe - Give me your hand Association
Bodrog Egyesület - Bodrog Association
Boróka Gyermejköltési Egyesület - Boróka Child Care Association
Dialóg Egyesület - Dialogue Association
Egri Egészség - és Környezetvédő Egyesület - Eger Association for Health and Environment Protection
Egri Szív Egyesület - Eger Heart Association
Életfa Környezetvédő Szövetség - Life Tree Environment Protection Association
Észak-Keleti Átjáró Egyesület - North-East Passage Association
Igazgyöngy Alapítvány - Real Pearl Foundation
Kaptárkő Egyesület - Beehive Stone Association
Kárpátok Alapítvány-Magyarország - Carpathian Foundation-Hungary
Lamenda Alapítvány - Lamenda Foundation
Laskó Forrás Egyesület - Laskó-spring Association
Nógrád Megyei Cigány Kisebbségi Képviselők és Szószólók Szövetsége - Association of Nógrád County Roma Minority Representatives and Spokesmen
SZETA Egri Alapítványa SZETA – Foundation in Eger of the Fund Supporting the Poor
Szomolyai Magyar Roma Egyesület - Hungarian-Roma Association in Szomolya

POLAND

Przemyskie Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Dobrego Wojaka Szwejka Przemysl - Association of Friends of Good Solider Szwejk
W Dereniowym Drzewie Siła Drzemie" - stowarzyszenie - In Dogwood Tree Power Snooze Association
Bieszczadzkie Stowarzyszenie inicjatyw lokalnych "BESIDA" - Bieszczady Association of local initiatives " BESIDA"
Bieszczadzkie Towarzystwo Folkowe "Bojkowiana" - Bieszczady Folk Society "Bojkowiana"
Fundacja "Torem Oślawy" - Foundation "Track of Ośława"
Fundacja Bieszczadzka - Bieszczadzka Foundation
Fundacja Brama Karpat - Carpathian Gate Foundation
Fundacja dla Ziemi i Chleba - Foundation for Land and Bread
Koło Gospodyń Wiejskich Ochotnica - Circle of rural hostesses Ochotnica
Lokalna Grupa Działania "Zielone Bieszczady" - Local Group of Action "Green Bieszczady"
Stowarzyszenie „Odkrywamy Gorce” - Association "Discovering Gorce mountains"
Stowarzyszenie Aktiv Pro - Aktiv Pro Association
Stowarzyszenie Kulturalno - Oświatowe "PRZYJAŹŃ" - Cultural - education Association "FRIENDSHIP"
Stowarzyszenie na rzecz holistycznego rozwoju człowieka Homo homini - Asociation pro holistic development of human Homo Homini
Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju Bieszczadów - Association of Bieszczady development
Stowarzyszenie Teatr Bo Tak Association - Theater Because Yes
Stowarzyszenie Wspierania Inicjatyw Lokalnych Komańcza - Association of support of local Initiatives of Komańcza
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Miasta Ustrzyki Dolne - Society of Friends of Ustrzyki Dolne Town
KAZET MEDIA Krzysztof Zieliński

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



SLOVAKIA

Divé maky - Wild Poppies
ETP Slovensko - ETP Slovakia
Karpatská nadácia - Carpathian Foundation
Komunitné centrum menšín Veľký Krtíš - Community Centre of Minorities Veľký Krtíš
Kultúrne výchovné OZ Lácho drom - Cultural-education civic organization Lácho Drom
Nadácia Ekopolis - Ekopolis Foundation
Nádej deťom - Hope to Children
OZ Čarovné husle - Civic organization Magic Violin
OZ ĎAKUJEM - „PALIKERAV“ - Civic organization Thank you - Palíkerav

UKRAINE

Агенція розвитку громад Богородчанського району - Agency for communities' development Bohorodchany district
Всеукраїнське об'єднання "Українці Донбасу та Криму" - All-Ukrainian Union "Ukrainians of Donbas and Crimea"
Асоціація туристичного розвитку - Association of tourism development
Агенція розвитку громад Богородчанського району - Bohorodchany district agency for community development
Карітас Івано-Франківської Єпархії УГКЦ - Caritas Ivano-Frankivsk
Карпатський фонд Україна - Carpathian Foundation Ukraine
БФ Центр громадських ініціатив - Center for civic initiatives
Простір розвитку громад - Community Development Space
Розвиткова Промоція - Development promotion
БФ Серце Марії CF - Charitable Organization "Heart of Maria"
Інша освіта - Insha Osvita
Народна допомога Україна - People's Help Ukraine
Невицька сільська рада - Nevytsky village council
Проект Україна-Норвегія - Project Ukraine-Norway
ГО "Реабілітаційно-педагогічний центр "Струмok" - Public organization Rehabilitation and Pedagogical Center "Strumok"
Регіональна туристична організація Закарпаття - Regional tourism organisation Zakarpattia
Закарпаття-Донбас - Transcarpathia-Donbass
Закарпатський обласний благодійний фонд БЛАГО - Transcarpathian Regional Charitable BLAGO Foundation
VESTA VESTA
Жіночі перспективи - Women's Perspectives
Комітет молодіжного врядування Youth - Self-Government Committee
Злагода - Harmony
Наше рідне Закарпаття - "Our Native Zakarpattia"

ROMANIA

Civitas Foundation
Asociația Zona Marghita - Zona Marghita Association

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



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CONFERENCE VENUE

HOTEL SZENT ISTVÁN
www.hotelszentistvan.hu
Reception: +36 36 511-300
Eger, 12 Legányi Ferenc street

Check in 14PM
Check out 10AM
Breakfast: 7:30-10:00

Free Spa and Wellness facilities:
Indoor pools, a 15-metre swimming pool, a pool for children, a
spa pool, a jacuzzi, Sauna

Hotel bar open till 2AM

EGER

Information on the city: <https://visiteger.com/en>

LOOKING FORWARD TO HOSTING YOU AT OUR CONFERENCE IN EGER!



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