



Carpathian Foundation

Fund for the Development of the Carpathian Euroregion

Fondul de Dezvoltare a Euroregiunii Carpatice Romania

Istanbul, February 2007



European Context





The bordering regions represented, at the beginning of the third millennium, 40% of the European Union territory, being inhabited by 25% of its population, in the formula of 15 members

Development of these areas represents a key factor for the European integration and social cohesion processes. The enlargement of Europe, together with changes in the geopolitical situation, is confronting the Union and its citizens with new challenges

In a EU of 27 or more Member States, the extent of regional inequalities will increase. With the accession of their home countries, people of the new Member States can correctly expect the EU to assist them in the economic acceleration process



In this context, the European integration process is bringing new lights towards the role of the Carpathian Foundation in the region.

Three out of five countries became member states in May 2004. Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have new approaches in terms of border policy as well as in terms of financial sources available for the local administration and for the non-governmental sector.

Romania joined the EU team a few weeks ago, becoming the Eastern border of the European Union. This position creates serious challenges from all points of view: economic, social, and politic.

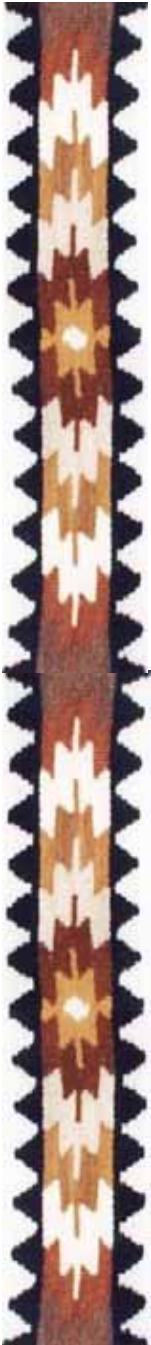
Border issues, in the given context, become more complex and much more important.

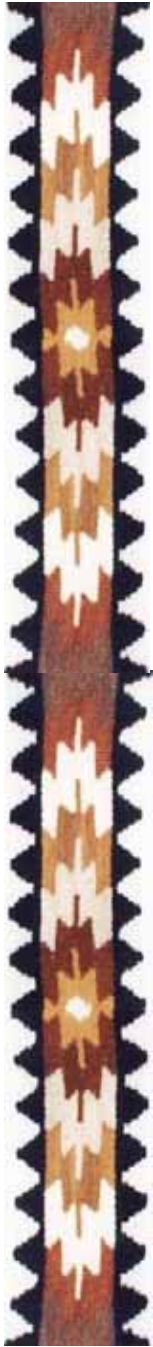


CF Mission:

To strengthen the capacity of civic organizations and local self-governments to address community and regional needs.

Carpathian Foundation assists efforts in strengthening the local democracy, the development of civil society, in promoting inter-ethnic, trans-frontier and cross-sector cooperation.





Carpathian Euroregion



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Area: parts of the bordering areas of **Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine:**

Hungary: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Hajdú-Bihar, Heves, Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties

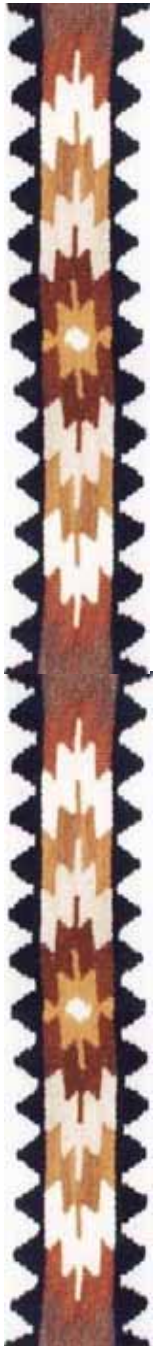
Poland: Podkarpackie Province

Romania: Bihor, Botosani, Harghita, Maramures, Satu Mare, Salaj and Suceava counties

Slovakia: Košice and Prešov region

Ukraine: Černivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska, Zakarpatská oblast (region)





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Romania is member in 9 euroregional structures:

1. **The Lower Danube Euroregion** - Romania, Moldova Republic and Ukraine
2. **“Danube 21” Cross border Cooperation Association** - Romania, Bulgaria and Former Republic Yugoslavia
3. **“Giurgiu - Ruse” Euroregion** - Romania and Bulgaria
4. **“Southern Danube” Euroregion** - Romania and Bulgaria
5. **“Danubius” Euroregion** - Romania and Bulgaria
6. **The Siret – Prut – Nistru Euroregion** - Romania and Moldova
7. **The Upper Prut Euroregion** - Romania, Moldova Republic and Ukraine
8. **DKMT The Euroregion Danube – Kris – Mures – Tisa** - Romania, Hungary and Former Republic Yugoslavia
9. **The Bihor – Hajdu Bihar Euroregion** - Romania and Hungary
10. **The Carpathian Euroregion** - Romania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine, the only structure supported by grant programs especially designed for the local communities.

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Romanian part of the Carpathian Euroregion

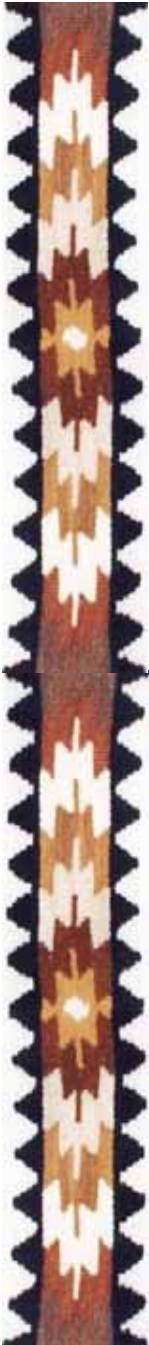


- 7 counties - Bihor, Botosani, Harghita, Maramures, Salaj, Satu Mare and Suceava
- 3,326,637 inhabitants
- 42,122 sq km surface
- 46 towns, from which 9 are municipalities, and 449 communes having other several hundred villages under their local administration authority
- more than 1500 registered NGOs

The region can be considered as one of the most under-developed from the economic point of view, compared to the rest of the country, even if it is located in the so-called “Western Wall.”

In statistic terms, from the 188 regions of Europe, the NW one is on the position 186 and the NE one, on the 188.

We are targeting the less developed regions of whole Europe.



Year	Number of projects	Amount granted USD and EUR
1995	12	17,794 USD
1996	14	207,329 USD
1997	6	43,135 USD
1998	13	69,998 USD
1999	26	75,622 USD
2000	28	108,830 USD
2001	27	152,125 USD
2002	48	269,858 USD and 44,106 EUR
2003	34	113,553 USD and 38,835 EUR
2004	26	66,582 USD and 49,551 EUR
2005	16	112,700 USD
Total	250	1.237.526 USD and 132.492 EUR

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Grant programs:

1. Local Initiative Program - LIP

Up to 5,000 USD/project

2. Cross Border Cooperation Program - CBC

Up to 25,000 USD/grant

3. Integrated Rural Community Development Program - IRCD

Up to 150,000 USD/program

4. Romanet

Up to 5,000 USD/project

5. Living Heritage Program

From 2,000 up to 8,000 EUR



Operational areas:

- 1. IRCD Networking**
- 2. LSG/Communal Expo**
- 3. CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility**

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CBC

1. Sustainable Management of Private Forests

- Romania and Hungary

A multifunctional and long-lasting administration of the private forests, church forests, and villages forests for a better production, protection and recreation of the forests.

- Creation of a model of management from private owners through a private forest district
- Campaign on forests' protection and administration issues
- Creation of the first private forest district in Bihor County
- **53 new working places created**
- experience exchange meetings with Hungarian partner
- two representatives (one of the Forest District and one of the Foundation) are part of the National Working Group for Forest Certification

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CBC

2. Long-Term Development by Efficient Exploitation of Touristic Products

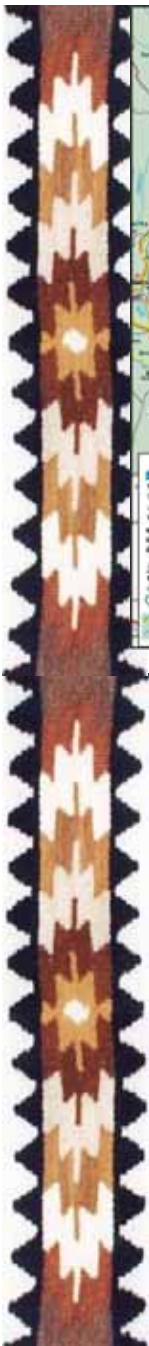
- in all 5 countries

“The long lasting development of the tourism in Carpathian Euro-Region area, throughout creation of an adequate communication in the shape of a network, in order to turn into account experience and stored information by the partners involved in the project and to determine a dynamism of the touristic wave in The Northern Carpathians”

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**On the Trails of Forgotten
 Ancestors ...
 The Painted Monasteries Route**



**The Track of Icons
 Slovak Gothic Route
 Following Traces of Good
 Soldier Svejk**

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LIVING HERITAGE

“Europe without borders will be Europe of local identities”

**Aiming to support long term local development through community involvement
in the identification, conservation and sustainable use of heritage related
resources**

A partnership between

Carpathian Foundation Romania

**King Baudouin Foundation
Belgium**

**Romanian Environmental Partnership
Foundation**

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Objectives

Stimulate community interest and involvement in heritage related initiatives

Support the implementation of pilot projects for the identification, protection and sustainable use of heritage resources at the community level in the above mentioned counties

Strengthen the capacities of local community actors to identify, protect and use heritage resources in a sustainable way

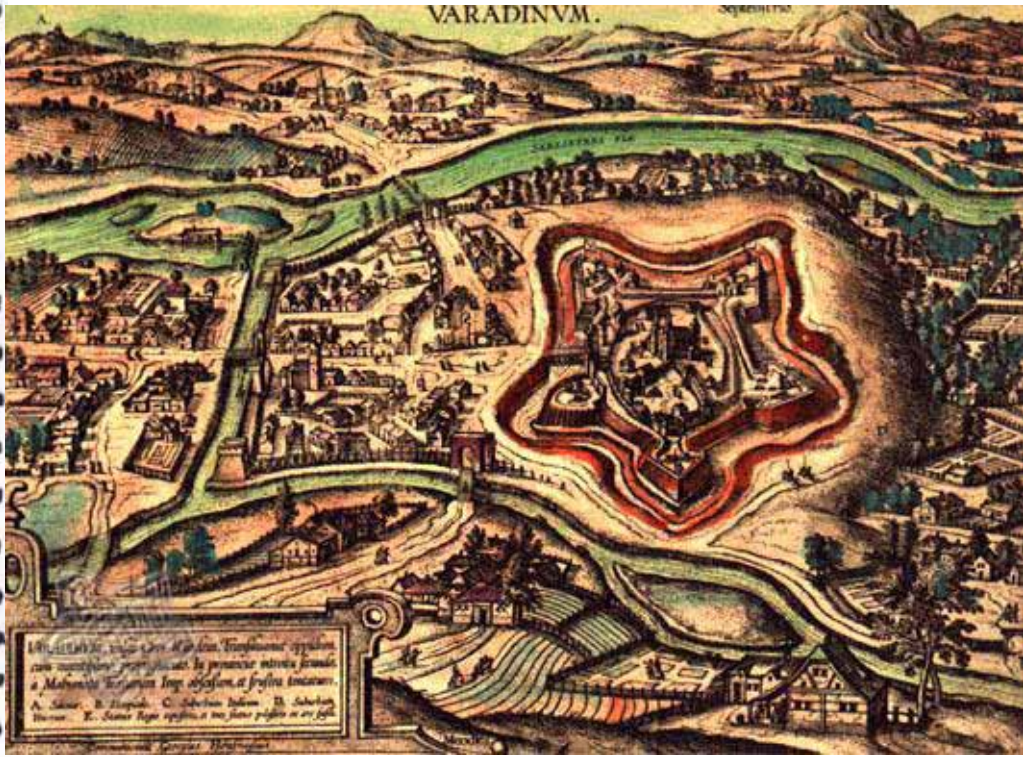
Promote models and good practices for community involvement in the identification, protection and sustainable use of heritage related resources

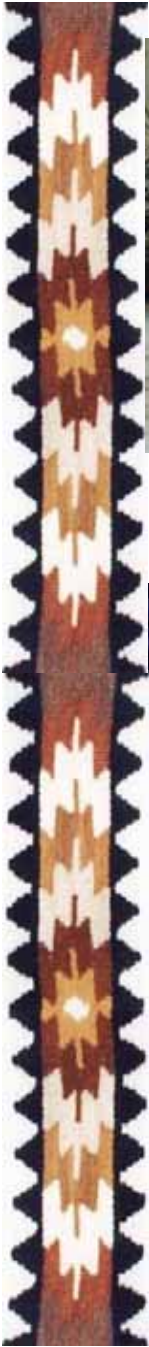


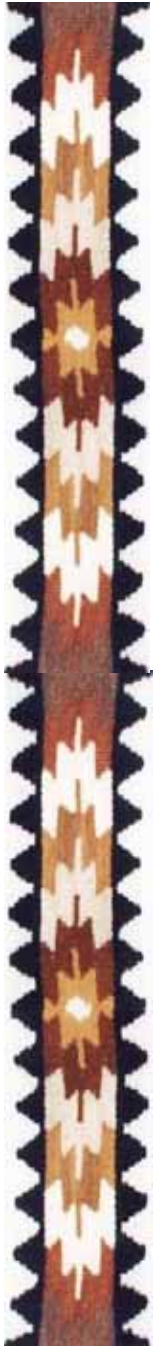
Principles :

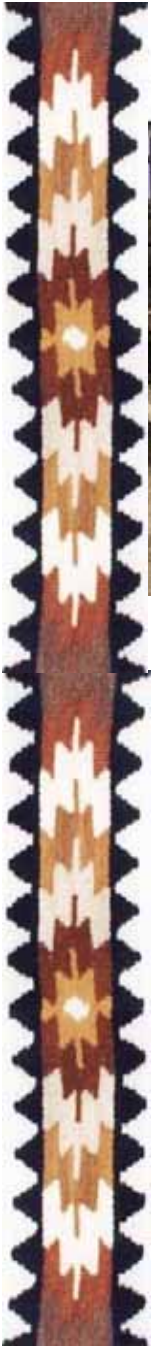
- **Demonstrating local benefit**
- **Planing sustainable development**
- **Step by step approach**
- **A team with vision**
- **Honesty and openness in partnerships**
- **Risking start up processes**
- **Supporting involvement of volunteers**
- **Flexibility and openness toward change**
- **Media relations: “what it’s not written, doesn’t exist”**
- **Dig where you stand**
- **Best practice concept**



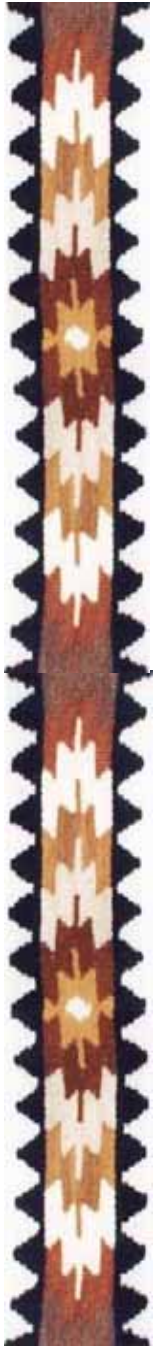




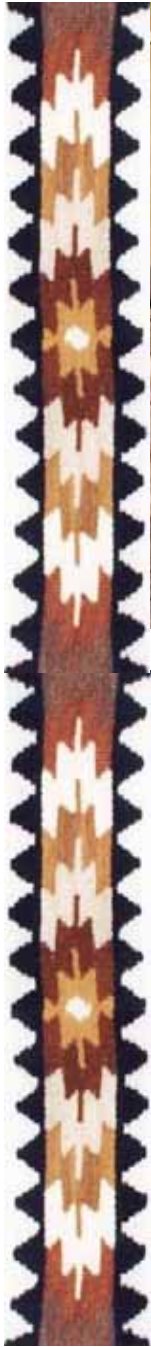




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LESSONS LEARNED

- The **cross-sector partnership** between the local administration and NGO, even difficult to achieve in many circumstances, is a crucial element for the local community, in each initiative
- **‘Beacon Project’** is the concept of exponentially generating ideas from previously best practices. The projects implemented previously are the basis of creating new and improved initiatives
- **Ownership and responsibility** should be followed as preconditions for a successful initiative
- **Networks!!!!**
- **The long term commitment** of donors is essential
- **What is next? CSR AND LH**– using the heritage as a “tool”, particularly in the Corporate Social Responsibility programs



Thank you for your attention!!!!

Carpathian Foundation Romania