

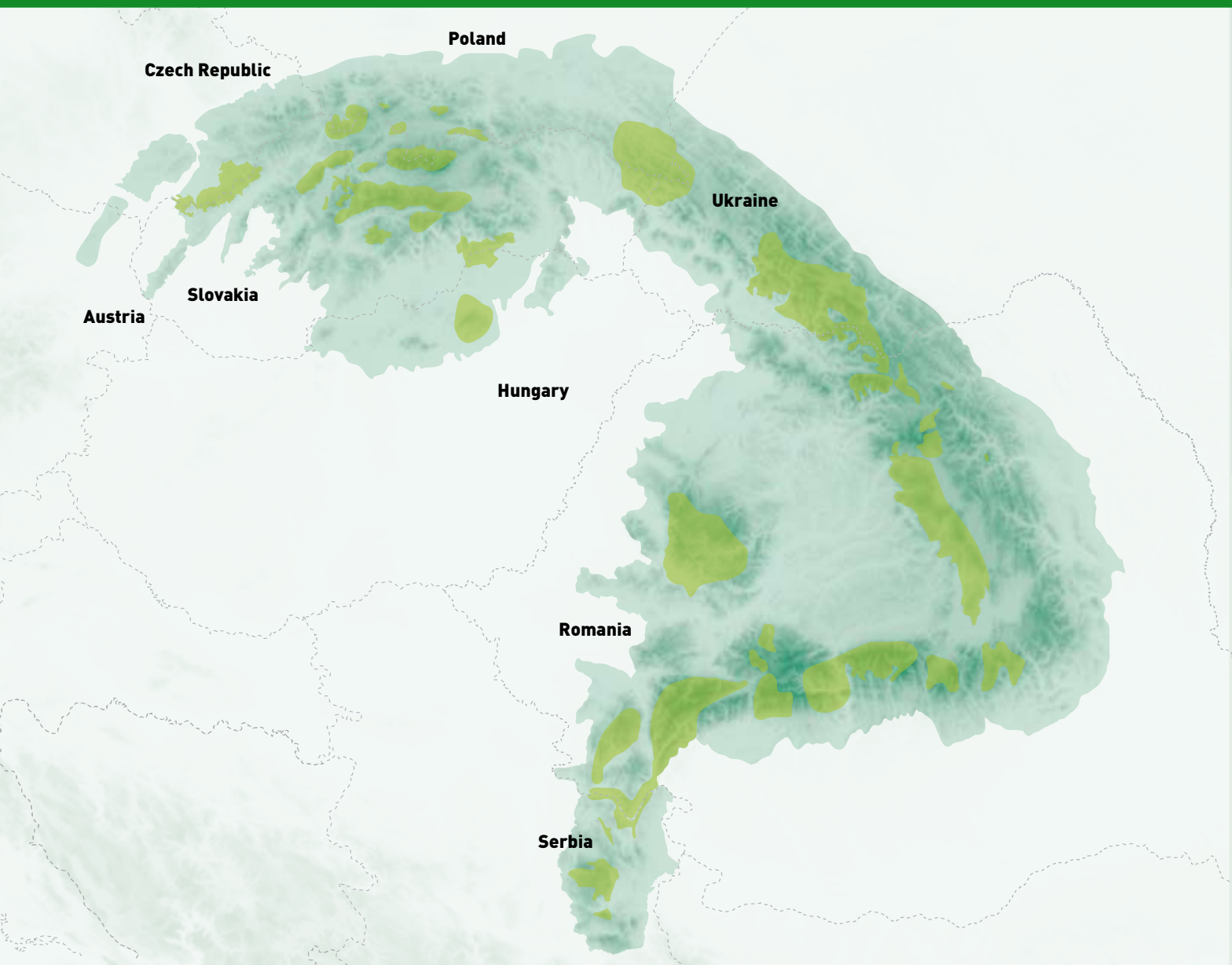


Seizing opportunities

to support nature conservation and local development
in the Carpathian Mountains

■ Handbook of selected funding sources





Carpathian Treasures

The Carpathian Mountains are Europe's greatest remaining wilderness area. They are a bastion of large carnivores, with over half the European populations of brown bear, wolves and lynx as well as the greatest remaining stands of natural forest. At the same time, the Carpathians have some of Europe's richest cultural landscapes, shaped and enriched by centuries of human cultivation.



Project co-financed by the EU



UNEP



Carpathianproject



INTERREG III B CADSES



Seizing opportunities

to support nature conservation

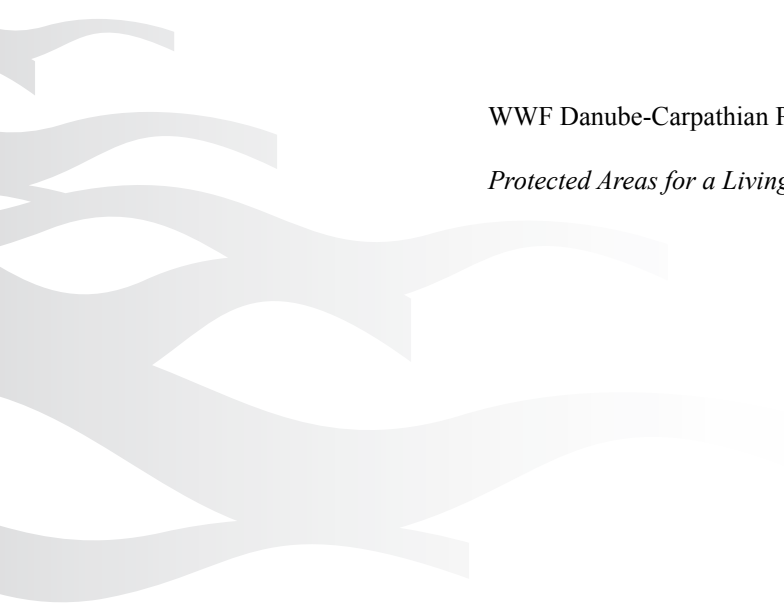
and local development

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■ Handbook of selected funding sources

WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme

Protected Areas for a Living Planet – delivering on CBD commitments



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*Protected Areas for a Living Planet –
delivering on CBD commitments*

Available in digital form and on the Internet:

This handbook, with hyperlinks
to relevant sources of information

Funding sources available
in individual Carpathian countries

Powerpoint presentation on funding sources

All available at:

[www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/
what_we_do/danube_carpathian/our_work/
forests_and_protected_areas/carpathian_ecoregion/
carpathians_funding/index.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/danube_carpathian/our_work/forests_and_protected_areas/carpathian_ecoregion/carpathians_funding/index.cfm)

Foreword

The Carpathians are Europe's largest mountain range and they are characterized by a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, and home to the headwaters of major rivers.

Moreover they constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries.

The Carpathians are an important reservoir for biodiversity, and Europe's last refuge for large mammals – brown bear, wolf, and lynx, home to populations of European bison, moose, wildcat, chamois, golden eagle, eagle owl, black grouse, plus many unique insect species.

With the signature of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in Kiev in May 2003, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine decided to cooperate for the protection and the sustainable development of this region.

Now that all the seven Carpathian Countries have ratified the Convention, the challenging phase of its implementation begins and UNEP as the Interim Secretariat together with all the partners of the Convention are supporting the countries in this effort by providing tools and examples.

This publication prepared by WWF-DCP in the framework of the Carpathian Project financed through the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Programme is addressed inter alia to protected areas managers, NGOs, local communities, interested stakeholders and represents a useful guide for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention at local level.

The local authorities play a fundamental role in the implementation of international environmental agreements as in their daily decisions they have to combine and balance environmental protection with development of inter alia infrastructures, economy and tourism.

This publication, by providing a selection of funding sources for nature conservation, protected areas conservation and sustainable local development that are available for decision makers, will be of great help to local communities representatives and stakeholders in their day-to-day work.

Harald Egerer

Head UNEP Vienna

Interim Secretariat of Carpathian Convention



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We look forward to adding your name to this list! This handbook has been specifically designed to be a living document, to be added to and changed in response to changing legislation and input from users. We encourage you to help us make this as comprehensive and useful as possible. Please send your comments titled **Carpathian Handbook** to: office@wwfdcp.org

Further use and translation of these materials:

Our aim with this publication is to spread practical information regarding legal and administrative tools for nature conservation. Therefore, we welcome and support any efforts to do so, including photocopying and printing as well as translation into other languages. We would appreciate it if in doing so you note the source and would be interested to know how this handbook is being used and distributed. Get in touch with us – we can probably provide you with assistance, e.g. use of digital files, graphic templates, photos, etc. Please send your email titled **Carpathian Handbook** to: office@wwfdcp.org.



1. Introduction:

What and whom this handbook is for

What it is for

The Carpathian Convention – which has been signed and ratified by all Carpathian countries including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine – has set itself the aim of ensuring no less than the protection and maintenance of the region's prodigious natural wealth and of promoting the long-term sustainable development of the region. This dovetails with a number of international commitments that Carpathian governments have made, including implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as – for the EU member states – implementation of the EU's Natura 2000 network of specially protected sites.

Fulfilling these ambitious aims will require significant financial support for everything from protected area management and conservation measures to awareness raising and nature-friendly development for local communities.

Fortunately, there are a number of not insignificant funding sources available to cover at least some of these needs. Gradual reforms have served to increasingly integrate environmental needs into a range of substantial EU funding sources, including e.g. into rural and regional development funds, which are available only to the EU Member States, but also into new funds that can be tapped by prospective EU member states and neighboring countries. There is also parallel support available to a number of the Carpathian countries from the governments of Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

However, which of these funds may be of interest and in what ways may not always be obvious. The purpose of this handbook therefore is to provide an understanding and overview of selected significant funding sources available for supporting nature conservation, protected areas management and related local development across the Carpathian Mountains. Our ultimate aim is to ensure the full and effective use of any and all funding available for nature conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathians.

Who it is for

The handbook is ultimately intended for all stewards of high nature value areas, including Protected Area managers, NGOs, local communities and interested stakeholders. While the primary focus is on biodiversity and landscape conservation, much if not most of the contents of the handbook address inevitably related issues of sustainable local development. While these materials are intended expressly for audiences in the Carpathian Mountains, many of the sources described are relevant in other areas as well.

Admittedly, the amount of detail that is presented here is probably – hopefully! – greater than most users will normally require. The handbook is designed to be used either as a reference work or as a support for those seeking deeper knowledge, including and especially for “multipliers” who can bring this information to others. Especially for such users, please note that there are presentation materials on funding sources for your use and adaptation that are available in digital form and online.

How it is structured

This handbook consists of printed as well as digital and on-line versions¹.

Available in both printed and digital versions are the introduction and general overview of funding needs and funding sources across the Carpathians, including:

- **Section 2**, which briefly discusses the types of financing needs related to nature conservation and related development in the Carpathian countries.
- **Section 3**, which provides a general overview and description of selected funding sources available, focusing on EU and related sources.

Available only in digital and on-line versions¹ are:

- Country reports with:
 - Descriptions of the most relevant funding sources that are available in each country;
 - Descriptions of the most relevant funding sources that are available in each country and organized according to different categories of funding needs.
- A Presentation (powerpoint) providing an introduction to funding sources in the Carpathians.

Country reports are initially available for the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary; further reports for Romania, Ukraine and Serbia will be added later, resources permitting.

References and links to further information are included throughout the document.

This handbook has been specifically designed as a living document, to be added to and adapted in response to changes in funding sources. In this light, we encourage you to provide us your input and comments for incorporation in future versions.

¹ Available at:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/danube_carpathian/our_work/forests_and_protected_areas/carpathian_ecoregion/carpathians_funding/index.cfm

2. Funding needs in the Carpathians

Funding needs and opportunities related to nature conservation and related local development across the Carpathians have changed dramatically over the last two decades.

For centuries, the natural treasures of the Carpathians remained relatively preserved. Even under the Communist regimes that held sway over the mountain range through much of the 20th century, the mountains benefited from a kind of benign neglect. Aside from some notable exceptions, development efforts of Communist central planners focused on other, usually more accessible areas, leaving the mountains and their communities remarkably untouched. Today, many communities throughout the Carpathians continue living much as their ancestors did for centuries before them.

■ Changing region

This is however quickly changing as the Carpathians become increasingly integrated into the global economy. Free market economic systems are proving more efficient than the previous Communist central planning in spreading infrastructure from motorways to tourism facilities and industrial installations across the Carpathian region. As a result, formerly intact and relatively wild areas are becoming fractured and fragmented, while some treasures risk being lost.

New areas are being opened to forestry, spurred by growing demand for wood and biomass. Changing economies and ways of life are leading to the abandonment of rich mountain meadows and orchards that have been created and shaped by centuries of human cultivation.

Thus, holding onto the prodigious natural riches in the Carpathians requires not only new protection but also new management of habitats and species.

At the same time, the political and social transformation that has taken place since the fall of Communism in 1989 has redrawn the societies, decentralizing power and giving new significance to a range of new actors and stakeholders. These changes have demanded a more active and inclusive form of nature conservation, extending to new areas ranging from education to local development.

Under the previous regimes, nature protection systems – to the extent that they existed – were centrally organized and controlled. Nature conservation was the job of authorities appointed to control areas and their resources. Relations between protected area authorities and local people were often poor, as locals suffered restrictions without realizing benefits.

Today, nature conservation in the Carpathians is ultimately everyone's interest and concern, with protected areas managers increasingly having to play the role of leaders, teachers and facilitators.

As citizens and voters, taxpayers and consumers, landowners and users as well as visitors and volunteers, people – individuals – have gained new importance for nature conservation. Protected area authorities are dependent on their cooperation and ultimately on their support.

Local communities and stakeholder groups such as land owners and users are gaining or regaining powers that can either support or frustrate conservation plans. Limited staff and resources are also pushing conservationists to seek new partners and supporters, including interest groups and NGOs.

Protected area managers are pushed to be active, to work with local communities and businesses, to communicate with them and find win-win solutions for local development that help maintain nature values. In turn, community and business leaders increasingly understand and appreciate the opportunities that nature areas can present, from tourism to local development, and that the long-term well being of their communities and businesses ultimately depends on maintaining the myriad benefits and services provided by the natural environment.

New partnerships are also developing between protected areas authorities and interest groups or NGOs. The groups can contribute valuable skills and know how or practical support. In many cases, they can also meet needs that are difficult or even impossible for authorities or communities to fill – e.g. by tapping funding sources unavailable to state bodies, or facilitating cooperation between different parties. In the Czech Republic and Romania, legislation even permits NGOs to take on official responsibility of caring for some of those countries’ protected areas – helping the state to shoulder the burden of protecting and managing these areas.

Thus, nature conservation across the Carpathians today is as much about biodiversity management as it is about local development, awareness raising and education. Increasingly, it is not just about negative control, but rather far more about positive partnership and cooperation.

Overview of funding needs

These new needs and requirements for nature conservation are reflected in Table 1 below. The table categorizes types of activities as well as lists and describes individual activities. The categories and activities given are the point of departure for the funding instruments described in this handbook. The individual country reports that are available in digital form and online present different funding opportunities according to each category of activity, permitting the user to easily identify potential funding sources for their particular need.

Table 1:

Categorisation of types of activities related to nature conservation and protected area management requiring financing
(adapted from European Commission Financing Natura 2000 Guidance Handbook*)

Category	Activity	Further description
Scientific research and monitoring	1 Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment	Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, assembly of databases, etc.
	2 Pilot projects Initial ‘trial’ projects at sites	
Outreach – communication, education and awareness raising	3 Preparation of information and publicity material	Including handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials for training and capacity building.
Capacity building and training	4 Training and education for staff, including training courses, participation in workshops and seminars, etc.	
Management planning	5 Preparation of management plans, strategies and schemes	Elaboration and/or update of management and action plans, land use plans etc.
	6 Establishment of management bodies Start-up funding, feasibility studies, management plans etc.	
	7 Consultation – public meetings, liaison with landowners	Including costs incurred for the organisation of meetings and workshops, the publication of consultation outcomes, financial support of stakeholders, etc. Can include networking activities (travel, meetings, workshops).
	8 Review of management plans, strategies and schemes Review and updating of management plans and strategies.	
	9 Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment)	Including: running costs incurred to meet depreciation of infrastructure; consumables; travel expenses; rents; leases; etc.
	10 Investments in and maintenance of facilities for public access to and use of the sites, interpretation works, observatories and kiosks etc.	Including costs related to guides, maps, related personnel.
	11 Staff (conservation/project officers, wardens/rangers, workers)	Ongoing staff costs.
Ongoing habitat management and monitoring	12 Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of habitats’ favourable conservation status	Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific habitats, preparation of management plans.
	13 Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of species’ favourable conservation status	Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific species (flora and fauna), plans.
	14 Conservation management measures in relation to invasive alien species (IAS)	Including restoration work, infrastructure, management of specific species, preparation of management plans.
Local development	15 Support for nature-friendly, sustainable local development that enables local people and stakeholders to benefit from the protection and maintenance of nature values	Including e.g. development and promotion of nature-friendly tourism, sustainable use of local resources, creation and branding of local products connected with nature values.
Cross-border management of sites	16 Cross-border management of sites, including for activities mentioned above but across national borders	

* European Commission (2007), Financing Natura 2000.

Guidance handbook (produced for the European Commission by the WWF and IEEP)

3. Selected funding sources in the Carpathians

The following section describes a selection of significant international funding sources that are potentially available to finance nature conservation and related local development in the Carpathian Mountains.

Certainly the greatest amount of funding that is potentially available comes from the European Union and relevant co-financing from national and other sources. By far the lion’s share of this support is available to EU Member States through a number of funding instruments including the ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, LIFE+, and FP7 (the acronyms are explained further below). The EU member states in the Carpathian region further benefit from financial mechanisms supported by the governments of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Some EU support is also available to non-EU member states, including to Serbia through the EU’s Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) and to Ukraine through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

Table 2:
Selected funding sources of possible relevance for nature conservation and protected area management in the Carpathians.

Instrument	Purpose	Scope of assistance	Carp. countries eligible
EU sources			
EAFRD European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	Sustainable rural development throughout the Community. Restructuring of the agricultural sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry■ Improving the environment and the countryside■ Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity.	EU Member States (including CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK)
ERDF European Regional Development Fund	Reducing regional disparities and supporting structural development and adjustment of regional economies. Strengthening competitiveness and innovation, creating sustainable jobs, and promoting environmentally sound growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Productive investment■ Infrastructure■ Other development initiatives (services to enterprises, financing instruments...)■ Environmental protection■ Cooperation	EU Member States (including CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK)
ESF European Social Fund	Full employment, improving quality and productivity at work and promoting social inclusion and the reduction of regional disparities in employment. Strong link to the European Employment Strategy.	<p>Adaptability of workers and enterprises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Access to employment of job seekers and inactive people■ Reinforcing social inclusion■ Investment in human capital■ Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations■ Innovative actions and cooperation	EU Member States (including CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK)



↓

Instrument	Purpose	Scope of assistance	Carp. countries eligible
LIFE+ Financial Instrument for Environment	Development and implementation of Community environment policy and of environmental legislation, as a contribution to promoting sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Implementation and Governance of environmental policy ■ Information and Communication on environmental issues 	EU Member States (including CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK)
FP7 7th Research Programme Framework	Fund transnational research in support of the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Predicting climate, ecological, earth and ocean systems changes; ■ Tools and technologies for monitoring, prevention and mitigation of environmental pressures and risks. ■ Sustainability of the natural and man-made environment. 	EU Member States (including CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK)
IPA Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance	Assist the countries in their progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the EU, including where appropriate the <i>acquis communautaire</i> , with a view to membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Institutional reform, legislative approximation, rule of law ■ Civil society, social inclusion, access to employment, ■ Improve infrastructures ■ Promote sustainable rural development and cross-border cooperation 	Existing and potential EU candidate countries, including Serbia
ENPI European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument	Sustainable development and approximation to EU policies and standards, supporting the agreed priorities contained in ENP Action Plans ¹	<p>Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Institutional capacity, legislative and regulatory approximation, governance ■ Civil society ■ Infrastructure, economic development ■ Cross-border cooperation and integration 	Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy ² , including Ukraine
Other sources			
EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms	Reduction of economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Environment ■ Sustainable Development ■ Cultural Heritage ■ Human Resources ■ Health and childcare ■ Security <p>And other issues as agreed in national programmes.</p>	EU Member States (including CZ, HU, PL, RO ³ , SK)
Swiss Enlargement Contribution	Reduction of economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU		EU Member States that joined in 2004 (including CZ, HU, PL, SK, but not including RO).

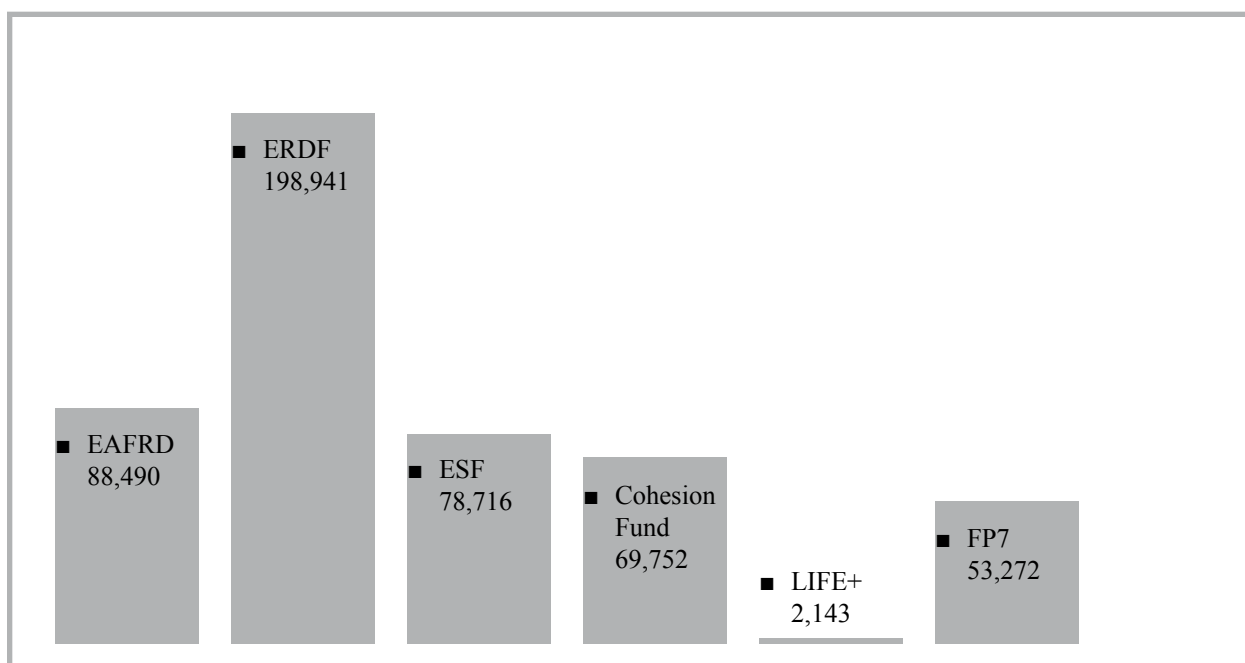
¹ Action Plans are a central element of the European Neighbourhood Policy. They are bilateral documents agreed between the EU and each partner. They set out an agenda of political, socio-economic, environmental reforms with short and medium-term priorities.

² Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Although Russia is also a neighbour of the EU, EU-Russia relations are instead developed through a Strategic Partnership covering four "common spaces".

³ Norwegian support to Romania is channeled through the Norwegian Cooperation Programme. See below for details.

■ EU funding sources

available to Member States



Graph 1: Selected EU Funding sources available to the 27 EU Member States for the period 2007–13, in millions of €.

■ Integration

The approach that the European Union has taken for financing nature conservation and environment more generally in the current EU funding period (2007–13) largely relies on a range of traditionally non-environmental funds. The exception is the LIFE+ Financial Instrument for Environment, a small but important funding line that is specifically dedicated to nature and the environment. It can therefore co-finance very specific conservation work, e.g. telemetry for bear conservation. However, support is very limited, and a drop in the bucket compared to needs for funding, which according to one estimate are €6.1 billion per year for the Natura 2000 network of specially protected sites, let alone other needs. The remaining support is expected to come from other, often much larger funds, including and especially the EAFRD, dedicated to rural development, and the Structural Funds (ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund).

Relying on the range of different EU funds to provide financing for environment and biodiversity protection makes practical as well as political sense. It is also a logical step for integrating environment into all relevant economic sectors, as called for by the EU's sustainable development strategy.

But in a practical sense, it will be neither simple nor easy. It will require a new approach to fundraising and management. Nature conservationists will need to be flexible, creative and opportunistic in assembling support from a range of different and in many cases untraditional sources. They will need to have a clear idea of what they need, and have a good overview and understanding of a wide variety of EU funding opportunities and how they may contribute to these needs. They will need to be flexible, opportunistic and resourceful.

Protected area authorities may draw support from rural development funds to pay farmers for meadow mowing, from regional development funds for building visitor centres and training guides and rangers as well as from LIFE+ for developing and implementing specific species or habitats activities.

You may be surprised to know that:

EU rural development fund (EAFRD) can support:

- Compensation for farmers and forest owners with restrictions in protected areas
- Farmers and other rural actors to undertake conservation measures
- Environmental education and awareness raising for farmers and others in rural areas
- Ecotourism development and promotion
- Efforts to communicate and work with local stakeholders

EU regional development funding can support:

- Construction of visitor centres, trails and other facilities
- Erection of information panels,
- Creation of web pages, publication of brochures, organization of special events
- Training and employment of rangers
- Development of management plans
- Environmental education
- Cooperation activities between countries

■ Programming for use of EU funds

Most of the EU funds, including the largest and most important ones focused on rural and regional development (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF – see more on these further below), follow a programming approach in which member states choose from the menu of measures available to create national funding programmes that fit specific priorities and conditions of the country.

To take a culinary metaphor, in a sense the EU presents member states with a menu of different dishes from which they can pick and choose to assemble a meal according to their particular dietary needs and tastes. There are some guidelines and restrictions, with e.g. a minimum amount of spending required for certain axes in the rural development programme.

Member State authorities develop a series of strategy and planning documents that translate the EU funding priorities for each of the funds into the national and regional context and which are agreed with the European Commission. The detail of programming documents vary from fund to fund: while the Rural Development Plans developed by national authorities for use of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development are quite specific in what they will support, the Operational Programmes developed under the ERDF and ESF will be more general.

It is important to note this process of programming for use of the EU funds at national and sub-national levels: the following sections describe the EU funds and measures that are available to the different EU member states – the “menu” that Member State authorities have been able to choose from. But it does not describe actual funding opportunities in the different EU member states – the “meal” (to go back to our culinary metaphor) that the national authorities have assembled from the EU funds to finance national requirements within the framework of Community priorities. These national funding opportunities are described in greater detail in the country reports that are available in digital form and on-line. What is described in the following sections are the provisions for funding that are available at EU level – but keep in mind that their availability and specific design will vary from country to country.

The programming process for a number of the national programmes has been considerably delayed. Programming was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2006, in order to permit implementation of programmes from January 1, 2007, but at time of writing in late 2007 a number of the national programmes had still not been completed and agreed between the European Commission and a number of the Member States.

For those looking for funding opportunities at national level, the good news is that you can focus on these national programmes and do not need to become an expert on the relevant EU policies, funds and their priorities that are described here.

But understanding the priorities and programmes can help you understand the national measures and develop more effective funding applications. Understanding the EU policies and programmes can also help you follow and possibly influence the use of the EU funds and programmes, which come up for review and possible revision in 2009–10. The next sections describe the individual EU funds and suggest possible uses relevant to biodiversity conservation. Again, keep in mind that actual funding available on the ground will in many cases depend on national programming, for which you will need to refer to the on-line or digital country reports or to other information sources that are referenced.

Rural Development (EAFRD)

EU agricultural support has been considerably reformed over the past funding periods, placing greater emphasis on promoting rural development as well as land stewardship and nature conservation. The result of these changes in the current funding period, 2007–13, is the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The EAFRD is one of the greatest potential sources of support for nature conservation and related local development in the Carpathian countries that are EU members, with opportunities for a range of measures including payments to farmers or land managers for maintaining natural features such as hay meadows or wetlands or to compensate restrictions for nature protection as well as support for promoting ecotourism around protected areas.

The overall objectives of the EAFRD are:

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation;
- Improving the environment and the countryside by supporting land management;
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity.

The EAFRD is structured according to four ‘axes’ of rural development, with a minimum of expenditure for each one.

- **1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector** (minimum 10% of total expenditure).
- **2. Improving the environment and the countryside** (minimum 25% of total expenditure).
- **3. The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy** (minimum 10% of total expenditure).
- **4. Leader** (minimum of 5% of total expenditure).

There are a wide range of measures that are of potential relevance for biodiversity conservation and protected area management in the Carpathians across the actions. While those under Axis 2 are most directly relevant for these fields, other axes can also be very useful. Measures under Axis 1, e.g. can be used to promote sustainable agricultural or forestry practices – promoting sustainable production, and thus also competitiveness, of local farmers and foresters for instance in a protected landscape area. Axis 3 presents a wide range of measures that can also benefit protected areas, e.g. through developing and promoting ecotourism focused around a protected area or supporting awareness raising in environmental education for local residents and visitors to a park.

Axis 1:

Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector:

- Improving the economic value of Forests
- Vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practice, for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors

Axis 2:

Improving the environment and the countryside:

- Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas and in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas (Less Favoured Areas)
- Natura 2000 payments for agricultural land and forest and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
- Agri-environmental payments
- Support for non-productive investments (on agricultural land).
- First afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land.

Axis 3:

The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy:

- Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Encouragement of tourism activities
- Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage
- Training and information for rural stakeholders
- Training and facilitation for preparing and implementing local development strategies

Axis 4:**Leader approach**

The Leader approach has been continued and strengthened from past programming periods. The approach seeks to encourage integrated and bottom-up rural development that in past programming periods has in many cases had clear benefits for nature conservation and protected areas. Public-private partnerships, called Local Actions Groups (LAGs), identify local development needs within their own rural communities, which are then set out in a development plan. LEADER funding supports these local action groups to encourage the development of small-scale, innovative projects that meet local development needs in a sustainable manner. The benefit of LEADER is not so much in providing funding for a specific need for conservation financing, but in promoting cooperation between local actors and the development of integrated development projects. It is thus especially useful for areas that combine conservation with local development, e.g. development of eco-tourism.

Programming and implementation process:

- EU strategic guidelines identify the areas important for the realisation of Community priorities and a range of options which Member States could use in their national strategy plans and Rural Development programmes.
- National Strategy Plans developed by the national authorities with the agreement of the European Commission translate the guidelines into the national context in the light of identified needs of regions;
- Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) developed by the national authorities with the agreement of the European Commission implement the National Strategy Plans.
- National authorities are then responsible for implementation of the programmes, in line with guidelines and restrictions laid out in a series of regulations laid out by the European Commission.

Legal basis

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD):
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_277/l_27720051021en00010040.pdf
- Council Decision of 20 February 2006 on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007–13) (2006/144/EC):
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_055/l_05520060225en00200029.pdf
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1974/2006 of 15 December 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD):
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_368/l_36820061223en00150073.pdf
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1975/2006 of 7 December 2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_368/l_36820061223en00740084.pdf

Further information

- Rural Development policy 2007–13 (EC pages):
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm
- Rural Development policy 2007–13: country files (EC pages) – includes memos on Rural Development Plans for most EU Carpathian countries:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/countries/index_en.htm
- LEADER approach (EC pages) – includes information on LEADER as well as success stories:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm
- The LEADER Approach – a basic guide (EC publication):
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/fact/leader/2006_en.pdf

Structural Funds (ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund)

**Table 3: Cohesion Policy 2007–13: Indicative financial allocations
for Carpathian EU Member States (millions of €, current prices)**

Country	Convergence objective		Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective	European Territorial Cooperation Objective	Total
	Cohesion Fund	ERDF and ESF	ERDF and ESF	ERDF	
Czech Rep.	8 819	17 064	419	389	26 692
Hungary	8 642	14 248	2 031	386	25 307
Poland	22 176	44 377	0	731	67 284
Romania	6 552	12 661	0	455	19 668
Slovakia	3 899	7 013	499	227	11 588
Total	50 088	95 363	2 949	2 188	150 539

The European Union's Cohesion Policy has on the one hand the objective of reducing the gap in the different regions' levels of development, in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion. At the same time, the policy seeks to prepare and support Member States to face a variety of challenges, including those as a result of the acceleration of economic restructuring following globalisation, the opening up of trade, the effects of the technological revolution, the development of a knowledge-based economy, an ageing population, and the growth of immigration. The Community Strategic Guidelines that lay out the framework for the EU's Cohesion Policy includes nature and species protection within the compliance with EU environmental legislation.

The policy relies on three funds – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF), often referred to collectively as the “Structural Funds”, and the Cohesion Fund – that fund three objectives:

- **Objective 1:**
Convergence, financed by the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund, available to those regions where Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is less than 75% of the EU average, including all Carpathian areas except the Bratislava region.
- **Objective 2:**
Regional Competitiveness and Employment, financed by the ERDF and ESF, and available to all regions.
- **Objective 3:**
Territorial Cooperation, financed by the ERDF

Table 4: Structural Funds objectives, 2007–13 (for all 27 EU Member States)

Objectives:	Total amount	Structural and Cohesion Funds		
1. Convergence	€282.8 billion, or 81.54% of total budget	ERDF	ESF	Cohesion Fund
2. Regional Competitiveness and Employment	€55 billion, or 15.95% of total budget	ERDF	ESF	
3. European Territorial Cooperation	€8.7 billion, or 2.52% of total budget	ERDF		

Programming process:

- Member State authorities develop **National Strategic Reference Frameworks** (NSRFs) that set out the strategy with thematic and territorial priorities.
- After these are agreed with the European Commission, the Member States then develop a series of regional or thematic **Operational Programmes** (OPs) that define the concrete activities that will be undertaken through the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund in their country.
- After the Operational Programmes are agreed with the European Commission, the Member State authorities are then responsible for overseeing actual implementation of the Programmes.
- All of these programming steps as well as implementation and evaluation of the programmes should be conducted in close partnership with social, environmental and economic stakeholders, including NGOs.

Note: Due to the more open and decentralized logic of the policy, Operational Programmes are generally less detailed and prescriptive than Rural Development Plans that are developed under the EAFRD.

Further information

- **Regional Policy (InfoRegion):**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm
- **Structural Funds regulations:**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm
- **Links to further information Cohesion Policy, 2007–13 in Carpathian EU countries, including maps of eligible areas and programming documents:**
 - Czech Republic**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/czech/index_en.htm
 - Hungary**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/hungary/index_en.htm
 - Poland**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/poland/index_en.htm
 - Romania**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/romania/index_en.htm
 - Slovakia**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/slovakia/index_en.htm

■ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The European Regional Development Funds is the major funding source contributing to the EU's Cohesion Policy. The ERDF contributes to the reinforcement of economic, social and territorial cohesion within the EU by reducing regional disparities and supporting the structural development and adjustment of regional economies. In particular, the ERDF aims to strengthen competitiveness and innovation, create sustainable jobs, and promote environmentally sound growth.

While many people think of the ERDF in terms of building business training centres and roads or other infrastructure, the financing instrument is also potentially a key source of funding for environment and nature conservation. It not only is the largest fund, but also can cover a very wide range of activities, from ecotourism promotion to construction of visitor centres or erection of solar panels on park headquarters, to support for management planning and international cooperation.

Generally, the measures provided for the ERDF as for other Structural Funds are less specific and thus less prescriptive than e.g. those for the EAFRD. Thus, there is considerable scope for national and sub-national authorities on down to individual project promoters to design programmes and activities.

The lion's share of funding in the ERDF is dedicated to the Convergence objective and is available to the poorer EU member states, including all Carpathian EU members. Support under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective in contrast is more modest and available to all EU member states. Funding that is earmarked for the Territorial Cooperation objective is even smaller, but past experience has shown it to be especially interesting for nature conservation and environmental cooperation.

Some of the ERDF measures that may be of greatest relevance to biodiversity conservation and protected area management are noted below according to the Cohesion Policy objectives to which they contribute.

Objective 1:

Convergence

- Biodiversity promotion and nature protection, including investments in Natura 2000 sites
- Climate change mitigation
- Tourism, including promotion of natural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of natural heritage in support of socio-economic development
- Energy investments, including improvement of energy efficiency and development of renewable energies
- Prevention of natural risks (floods, fires, droughts, erosion, etc.), including re-naturalization of flood-plains
- Soil rehabilitation or the rehabilitation of derelict industrial sites

Objective 2:

Regional Competitiveness and Employment

- Development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and investments in Natura 2000 sites, where this contributes to sustainable economic development and/or diversification of rural areas
- Stimulating energy efficiency and renewable energy production
- Protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage in support of socio-economic development and the promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism

Objective 3:

Territorial cooperation

The ERDF is the only instrument for addressing the territorial cooperation objective, which can be of special interest also for biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians. The current territorial cooperation objective in the ERDF includes three strands:

- Cross-border cooperation (74% of funding for the objective): consists of 65 different geographic programme areas and addresses local problems along land and maritime borders, including natural resource and river basin management. Projects must involve at least two countries, at least one of which must be an EU member state. In the Carpathians, relevant areas include all EU borders within the region (see Map 2 inside back cover).

- Trans-national cooperation (21% of funding for the objective): consists of a set of 13 different geographical programme areas and focuses for example on innovation, environment, and water management risk prevention. Projects must involve at least two countries, at least one of which must be an EU member state. Carpathian areas fall into 2 regions: “Central Europe”, including all of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia and neighbouring areas of Ukraine; and “South East Europe”, including all of Hungary, Romania, Slovakia as well as neighbouring areas of Ukraine and Serbia (see Map 2 inside back cover).
- Interregional cooperation (5% of funding for the objective): focuses on the exchange of experience and best practice in the fields of innovation, environment and risk prevention. This strand is organized as one programme for the whole EU, with all EU member states eligible. Projects must involve at least three countries, at least two of which must be EU member states.

Regions eligible for funding under ERDF’s Territorial Cooperation (Article 6):

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/graph/cartes_en.htm.

See colour maps inside back cover: *Regions eligible for funding the ERDF Cross-Border-Cooperation* and *Regions eligible for funding under the ERDF Trans-national cooperation*

Legal basis

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999; and
- Regulation (EC) No. 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1783/1999.

Available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm

Further information

- European Regional Development Fund (European Commission):
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/feder/index_en.htm
- European Regional Policy (European Commission):
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

■ European Social Fund (ESF)

The European Social Fund (ESF) sets out to improve employment and job opportunities in the European Union, contributing to the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment objectives of the EU's Cohesion Policy, which are both relevant to the Carpathian EU countries.

The ESF supports actions in Member States in the following areas:

- Adapting workers and enterprises: lifelong learning schemes, designing and spreading innovative working organisations;
- Access to employment for job seekers, the unemployed, women and migrants;
- Social integration of disadvantaged people and combating discrimination in the job market;
- Strengthening human capital by reforming education systems and setting up a network of teaching establishments.

Conservation actions that can contribute to these objectives may be able to tap support from the ESF. Funds for example could be used for:

- Training for rangers, administrators and other staff of park administrations, local government or other organisations.
- Supporting conservation staff, e.g. through job creation schemes for the unemployed.
- Developing training schemes.
- Strengthening institutional capacity of public administrations, including e.g. for conservation management and implementation.

Legal basis

- Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999
- Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999

Available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm

Further information

- European Social Fund (European Commission): http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/fse/index_en.htm

■ Cohesion Fund (CF)

While all Carpathian EU countries are eligible to receive Cohesion Funds, it is the EU fund of least direct relevance for nature conservation as it exists to finance large transportation, energy as well as “grey” environmental projects such as water and sewage treatment plants and thus is not treated here.

Note: While we can rarely see beneficial use of the Cohesion Fund for nature conservation, the negative impacts of this fund on nature and on local communities can be considerable, e.g. in terms of habitat fragmentation as a result of EU funded transport infrastructure. It is therefore important that environmental advocates play an active role in assessing, planning and monitoring such projects in order to ensure the best balance between development requirements on the one hand and conservation on the other. Projects that are to be funded through the Cohesion and Structural Funds are governed by requirements for environmental assessments and consultation with environmental authorities and stakeholders, including e.g. NGOs.

The WWF handbook *Addressing Threats to Nature in the Carpathians: Handbook of legal and administrative instruments for addressing conflicts between infrastructure and nature conservation* (WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, 2007) presents a number of legal and administrative instruments for addressing such situations.

Legal basis

- Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:210:0025:0078:EN:PDF>
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 of 11 July 2006 establishing a Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1164/94: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/cohesion/ce_1084\(2006\)_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/cohesion/ce_1084(2006)_en.pdf)

Further information

- Cohesion Fund (European Commission): http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/cf/index_en.htm
- *Addressing Threats to Nature in the Carpathians: Handbook of legal and administrative instruments for addressing conflicts between infrastructure and nature conservation* (WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, 2007) www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/danube_carpathian/our_work/forests_and_protected_areas/carpathian_ecoregion/addressing_threats/index.cfm

■ LIFE+ – Financial Instrument for Environment

The new LIFE+ Financial Instrument for Environment is the EU's only financial instrument specifically dedicated to environment, with one focus on biodiversity conservation.

The main objectives for the instrument are to:

- Contribute to the implementation of EU policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity and to support the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network;
- Contribute to the consolidation of the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of EU nature and biodiversity policy and legislation;
- Support the design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for the monitoring and assessment of nature and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on them, in particular in relation to the achievement of the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010 and the threat to nature and biodiversity posed by climate change;
- Provide support for better environmental governance, by broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of NGOs, in consultations on and the implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation.

A total of ca. €2.1 billion are available through LIFE+ for the current financial period 2007–13. Member States are allocated an indicative annual budget for LIFE+ projects based on their population and their coverage of Natura 2000 sites.

The instrument consists of three components:

- **LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity**, accounting for ca. 39% of total budget
- **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance**, accounting for ca. 39% of total budget
- **LIFE+ Information and Communication**, accounting for ca. 22% of total budget

Member States will be allocated an indicative annual budget for LIFE+ projects based on their population and their coverage of Natura 2000 sites. Table 5 provides an overview of indicative budget allocations for the Carpathian EU Member States for 2007, giving an impression of the annual amount of funding potentially available to each country. Note however that these are only indicative figures, with final levels of allocation also dependent on the quality of proposals submitted, and of course for each country as a whole and not for Carpathian areas.

Table 5: Indicative allocation of LIFE+ budget for 2007 per Carpathian EU Member State and according to programme components, in € (WWF calculations for components based on indicative total allocations).

Member State	Total allocation 2007	Allocation component 1	Allocation component 2	Allocation component 3
Czech Republic	3,709,840	1,483,936	1,483,936	741,968
Hungary	4,673,225	1,869,290	1,869,290	934,645
Poland	8,857,722	3,543,089	3,543,089	1,771,544
Romania	8,139,185	3,255,674	3,255,674	1, 627,837
Slovakia	2,856,672	1,142,669	1,142,669	571,334

Note: The total amount of €187 million expenditure in 2007, the first year of the programme, is less than the annual average of €306 million.

The grant rate is 50% (i.e. requiring at least 50% own co-financing), but up to 75% EU support for projects targeting priority habitats and species (LIFE+ Nature priority only).

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity

As in the former LIFE-Nature programme, funds are available for implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives objectives – and especially for work on Natura 2000 sites. As mentioned above, 75% EU co-financing is available for projects targeting priority habitats and species. In addition, however, money is available under the ‘biodiversity’ part of this pillar for wider actions contributing to the EU’s aim of halting biodiversity loss in areas outside of the Natura 2000 network and as laid out in the EU’s Biodiversity Action Plan. Under LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity the European Commission would like to see ‘concrete conservation actions’ in the field. The ‘demonstration of best-practice’ (LIFE+ Nature) and ‘demonstration of innovative projects’ (LIFE+ Biodiversity) are key criteria for project selection.

LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

This pillar includes funding for ‘priority actions’ such as climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests, innovation and strategic approaches. The wording is quite general and allows for considerable flexibility. However, projects should for example ‘contribute to the development of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments’ or the ‘implementation of Community environmental policy’. Special measures (LIFE+ Annex 1) and principal objectives (LIFE+ Annex 2) defined for every priority action.

LIFE+ Information and Communication

This pillar supports communication and awareness raising campaigns on environmental, nature protection or biodiversity conservation issues. While the other two LIFE+ pillars include and encourage communication activities, here they are the sine qua non for obtaining support. Communication campaigns always fall under this component even if the main target is biodiversity.

Special measures and principal objectives are defined for each of the three LIFE+ pillars in Annexes 1 and 2 of the LIFE+ Regulation. Specific measures that are envisaged to be financed by the Nature and Biodiversity component of LIFE+ include:

- site and species management and site planning, including the improvement of the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 network;
- monitoring of conservation status, including setting up procedures and structures for such monitoring;
- development and implementation of species and habitat conservation action plans;
- the extension of the Natura 2000 network in marine areas; and
- the purchase of land (with a number of restricting principles listed in the Annex).

To ensure European added value and to avoid financing recurring activities, the regulation emphasizes that projects must be best practice or demonstration projects for the implementation of EU environmental policy. With an eye to ensuring best use of the relatively limited EU support that is specifically dedicated to the environment, there are provisions (in Article 10 of the Regulation) to ensure that support is not awarded where other EU instruments can cover them – so make certain that alternative EU funding sources, including those described in the sections above, are not available.

Programming and implementation process:

- The Commission draws up two multi-annual strategic programmes, for 2007–10 and for 2011–13, which define the principal objectives and priority areas of action for Community funding. From 2008 member states may recommend priority areas for support within the framework of the multi-annual strategic programmes.
- Within the framework of the multi-annual strategic programmes, the Commission publishes annual calls for project proposals. Member States receive and collect the individual proposals and put them forward to be considered by the Commission.
- Based on a selection process and with the support of independent expert evaluators, the Commission decides which projects should receive funding from the annual LIFE+ budget. When selecting the projects priority is given to projects making the greatest contribution to EU-wide environmental objectives, including transnational projects.
- Applications are first assessed for eligibility and then scored in several categories – e.g technical coherence, conservation benefit, socio-economic benefit and financial coherence. National authorities may make comments on the applications they submit. The Commission gives a ‘bonus score’ derived from those comments and how well the project fits with possible national priorities. Transnational projects are encouraged.

Legal basis

- Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+):
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_149/l_14920070609en00010016.pdf

Further information

- LIFE+ Financial Instrument for Environment (European Commission), including calls for proposals, general description, best practice and links to legal texts:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>.

■ 7th Framework Research Programme

The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) sets out the EU's priorities and activities for research, technological development for the current funding period 2007–13. The programme supports transnational research on a variety of priority issues. Environment is one priority issue for the programme; a total of €1.9 billion is earmarked for work in this area over the period 2007–13.

Within the Environment priority, emphasis will be given to the following activities:

■ Climate change, pollution and risks

- Pressures on the environment and climate
- Environment and health
- Natural hazards

■ Sustainable Management of Resources

- Conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources and biodiversity
- Management of marine environments

■ Environmental Technologies

- Environmental technologies for observation, simulation, prevention, mitigation, adaptation, remediation and restoration of the natural and man-made environment
- Protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, including human habitat improved damage assessment on cultural heritage

■ Technology assessment, verification and testing

- Earth observation and assessment tools
- Earth and ocean observation systems and monitoring methods for the environment and sustainable development
- Forecasting methods and assessment tools for sustainable development taking into account differing scales of observation

The fund is administered by the European Commission with calls for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Legal basis

- Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007–13): <http://cordis.europa.eu/documents/documentlibrary/2750EN.pdf>

Further information

- 7th Research Framework Programme (European Commission): http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html
- Environment (and climate change) pages, 7th Research Framework Programme: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/environment/home_en.html

■ EU funding sources

for non-Member States

■ Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is available to EU candidate countries (currently Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) as well as potential candidate countries (Serbia including Kosovo, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina) and replaces a number of EU programmes and financial instruments for candidate countries of potential candidate countries from the previous funding period, including PHARE, PHARE CBC, ISPA, SAPARD and CARDS, the financial instrument for the Western Balkans. The objective for the programme is to “assist the countries in their progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the EU, including where appropriate the *acquis communautaire*, with a view to membership.” A total of €11.468 billion is available for the IPA for the period 2007–13.

The IPA has five components:

- Transition assistance and institution building;
- Cross-border cooperation;
- Regional development (transport, environment and economic development);
- Human resources development (strengthening human capital and combating exclusion);
- Rural development.

The latter three components are for candidate countries and are designed to mirror structural funds, thus necessitating the relevant management structures to be in place within the country. As officially a “potential candidate country”, Serbia can currently benefit from similar measures implemented through the component for transition assistance and institution building, administered by the European Commission.

Table 6: Serbia Multi-annual indicative financial framework, 2007–09 (in millions of €)

Component	2007	2008	2009	2007–9
I. Transition assistance and Institution Building	178.5	179.4	182.6	540.5
■ Political requirements				
■ Socioeconomic requirements				
■ European approximation of sectoral policies				
II. Cross-Border Cooperation	8.2	11.5	12.2	31.9
■ IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia				
■ IPA CBC Romania-Serbia				
■ IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia				
Total	186.7	190.9	194.8	572.4

Most relevant in terms of biodiversity conservation and environment in the Carpathians is probably Cross-Border Cooperation with Romania. The total budget for this programme for the period 2007–09 amounts to €23 million.

Table 7: IPA CBC Romania-Serbia: eligible regions

Serbia	Romania
Severno-banatski (North Banat)	Mehedinti
Srednje-banatski (Central Banat)	Caras-Severin
Juzno-banatski (South Banat)	Timis
Branicevski	
Borski	

Main areas for intervention include:

- Tourism development
- Business and Agricultural Support Cooperation
- Cooperation between local public services
- Improvement of systems and approaches to address cross-border environmental challenges, protection and management (including awareness and information campaigns, trainings in the fields of environment and emergency preparedness).
- Development and implementation of effective strategies for waste and waste water management.
- Development of civil society and local communities
- Improvement of local governance in relation to the provision of local services to communities in the border areas

■ Multi-Beneficiary programme 2007–09

The bulk of IPA support to the beneficiary countries will be delivered through the National Programmes. However, around 10% of available funds will be allocated through the Multi-Beneficiary Programme to support beneficiary countries in their efforts toward EU accession, totaling €401.4 million in the period 2007–09. This programme will support multi-country activities between candidate and potential candidate countries on a number of priorities. Most relevant for nature conservation and environment are probably Regional Cooperation, Infrastructure Development, and Supporting Civil Society.

Legal basis

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA): http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_210/l_21020060731en00820093.pdf

Further information

- DG Enlargement (European Commission): http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm
- EC Delegation in Serbia: www.eudelyug.org/en
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (DG Enlargement pages): http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/index_en.htm
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (InfoRegio pages): http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/ipa/index_en.htm
- Serbian National Programme, 2007–09: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/mipd_serbia_2007_2009_en.pdf
- Multi-Beneficiary programme 2007–09: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/mipd_multibeneficiary_2007_2009_en.pdf
- Romania-Serbia CBC programme: www.romania-serbia.net

Tenders and calls for proposals are published:

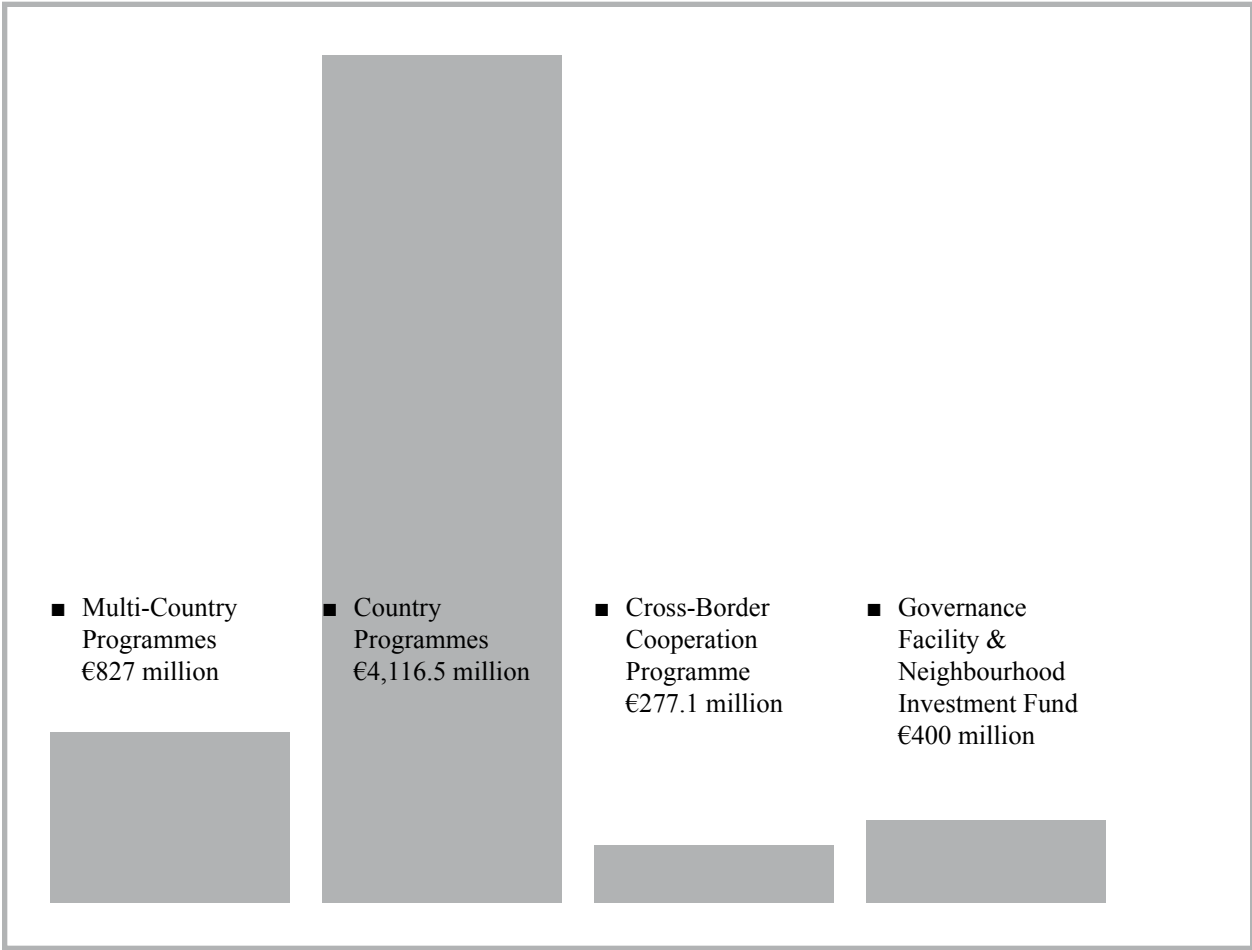
- On the website of the Romania-Serbia CBC programme: www.romania-serbia.net/index.php?page=NEWSROOM_CALL_FOR_PROPOSAL
- On the EuropeAid website (international): <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

■ **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)**

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is the main EU funding instrument available to Carpathian country Ukraine and replaces the EU’s former TACIS programme. The aim of the financial instrument is to support the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy and of reforms in a number of areas jointly agreed between the EU and the partner country. The EU’s European Neighbourhood Policy engages neighbouring countries from Eastern Europe and the Caucasus to North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean to “prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and offer them the chance to participate in various EU activities, through greater political, security, economic and cultural cooperation.”

The total budget for the ENPI is €11.18 billion for the current financial period 2007–13, with €5.62 billion available in the first four years 2007–10. The instrument consists of four pillars:

- Country programmes
- Cross-Border Cooperation programme, supporting cooperation between regions of EU Member States and of neighbouring countries sharing a common border; and
- Multi-country programmes
- Governance facility and Neighborhood Investment Fund



Graph 2: Indicative multi-annual allocations of ENPI among different components, 2007–10.
Total: €5.62 billion (for all eligible countries).

Country programmes:

Country programmes are the main focus of the instrument, supporting partners' implementation of their own political, governance, economic and social reform programmes. Of the €5.6 billion available for 2007–10, the majority (73%) will be geared to support partners' implementation of their European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), i.e. the Country Action Plans that have been agreed with the European Commission.

Some €494 million has been earmarked for Ukraine for the period 2007–10. Most of the funds will be channelled through direct budget support, i.e. will not be available to support non-state actors, including NGOs or communities.

Table 8:

National Indicative Programme for Ukraine in the period 2007–10 (total available for period: €494 million).

Priority areas and indicative breakdown of resources	Sub-priorities
1. Support for Democratic Development and Good Governance (€148.2 million, i.e. 30% of total)	1. Public administration reform and public finance management 2. Rule of law and judicial reform 3. Human rights, civil society development and local government 4. Education, science and people-to-people contacts/exchanges
2. Support for Regulatory Reform and Administrative Capacity Building (€148.2 million, i.e. 30% of total)	1. Promoting mutual trade, improving the investment climate and strengthening social reform 2. Sector-specific regulatory aspects and administrative capacity
3. Support for Infrastructure Development	1. Energy 2. Transport 3. Environment 4. Border management

Source:

ENPI Ukraine National Indicative Programme, 2007–10:
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_nip_ukraine_en.pdf

Further information

- DG RELEX (European Commission):
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm
- EC Delegation in Ukraine (local):
www.delukr.ec.europa.eu
- ENPI Ukraine Country Strategy Paper, 2007–13:
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_csp_ukraine_en.pdf
- ENPI Ukraine National Indicative Programme, 2007–10:
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_nip_ukraine_en.pdf

Tenders and calls for proposals are published:

- On the website of the EC Delegation in Ukraine (local):
www.delukr.ec.europa.eu
- On the EuropeAid website (international):
<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

Cross-Border Cooperation programmes:

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) finances “joint programmes” bringing together regions in EU Members States and partner countries sharing a common border. The approach used models on “Structural Funds” principles such as multi-annual programming, partnership between different stakeholders and co-financing, adapted to take into account the specificities of external relations. The cross-border cooperation (CBC) is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Two types of programmes will be established: bilateral programmes covering a common land border (or short sea crossing), and multilateral programmes covering a sea basin. Relevant for Carpathian Ukraine are the **Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine** CBC Programme and the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine CBC programme.

The overall objective of the **Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine** CBC Programme is to intensify and deepen social and economic cooperation in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way between regions of Ukraine and those of Member States sharing a common border. Programme priorities that are of possible relevance for biodiversity conservation and environment include Priority 1: Economic and Social Development, including harmonized development of tourism, creation of better conditions for SMEs and business development (e.g. for nature-friendly businesses), institutional cooperation and People-to-People actions; and Priority 2: Enhance environmental qualities, including environmental protection, sustainable use and management of natural resources as well as possibly emergency preparedness (e.g. for nature-friendly flood management, e.g. through wetland conservation and restoration).

Projects must have at least one partner from each side of the border, i.e. from Ukraine and one of the neighbouring EU Member States. All project partners must have their headquarters in the eligible area of the programme (see map on inside of back cover).

Programme administrator (Joint Managing Authority) is the Romanian Ministry for European Integration (www.mie.ro).

The overall objective of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine CBC programme is to enable cross border cooperation by bringing together the different actors – people, institutions and organisations, enterprises and communities – closer to each other, in order to better exploit the opportunities offered by the joint development of the cross border area. Programme priorities that are of possible relevance for biodiversity conservation and

environment include Priority 1: Increasing competitiveness of the border area, including through business and tourism development; Priority 2: Improving the quality of life, including through improvement of cross-border natural environment protection; Priority 3: Networking and people-to-people cooperation, through Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building and local communities' initiatives.

Projects must have at least one partner from each side of the border, i.e. from Ukraine or Belarus and one of the neighbouring EU Member States. All project partners must have their headquarters in the eligible area of the programme (see Table 9 with eligible areas).

Programme administrator (Joint Managing Authority) is located at the Polish Ministry of Regional Development¹.

Table 9:

CBC Programmes relevant for Ukraine, with budget allocations, 2007–13 (Carpathian relevant programmes in bold)

CBC Programme	2007–10	2010–13	Total
Poland/Belarus/Ukraine	€97.107 million	€89.094 million	€186.201 million
Hungary/Slovakia/Ukraine/Romania	€35.796	€32.842	€68.638 million
Romania/Moldova/Ukraine	€66.086	€60.632	€126.718

Table 10: Geographical Eligibility ENPI CBC 2007-2013. Programme Eligible border areas Adjoining areas

Programme	Eligible border areas	Adjoining areas
Poland/ Belarus/ Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Poland: Bialostocko-suwalki, Ostrolecko-siedlecki, Bialskopodlaski, Chelmsko-zamojski, Krosnienskoprzemyski ■ Belarus: Hrodna and Brest oblats, western part of Minsk oblast (Miadel, Vileika, Molodechno, Volozhin, Stolbtsy, Niesvizh and Kletsk districts) ■ Ukraine: Volynska, Lvivska and Zakarpatska Oblasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Poland: Lubelski, Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski, Lomzynski ■ Belarus: eastern part of Minsk Oblast, Gomel Oblast ■ Ukraine: Rivnenska, Ternopil'ska Oblasts and Ivano-Frankiv'ska Oblast
Hungary/ Slovakia/ Romania/ Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hungary: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg ■ Slovakia: Prešovský kraj, Košický kraj ■ Romania: Maramures, Satu Mare ■ Ukraine: Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankiv'ska Oblasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hungary: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén ■ Ukraine: Chernivetska Oblast ■ Romania: Suceava

Legal basis

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 951/2007 of 9 August 2007 laying down implementing rules for cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:210:0010:0025:EN:PDF>

Further information

- Draft Poland-Belarus-Ukraine CBC programme: www.interreg.gov.pl/20072013/instrument+sasiedztwa/pl-bl-uk/dokumenty
- Poland-Belarus-Ukraine CBC programme Joint Managing Authority – Polish Ministry of Regional Development: www.mrr.gov.pl and www.interreg.gov.pl
- Draft Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine-Romania CBC programme: www.mie.ro/_documente/state_nemembre/consultare_enpi/Programul%20Operational.pdf
- Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine-Romania CBC programme Joint Managing Authority – Romanian Ministry for European Integration: www.mie.ro
- EC website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/projects/enpi_cross_border/index_en.htm

Multi-country programmes:

Relevant for Carpathian Ukraine is the ENPI regional programme East, which in addition to Ukraine includes Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Russia. Total programme funding for the 2007–13 financial period is €223.5 million. Programme priorities that are of possible relevance for biodiversity conservation and environment include environmental protection and forestry, climate change and water as well as people-to-

people activities, including environmental awareness raising. As one would expect, projects must involve at least two eligible countries, with organizations based in EU Member States or in eligible ENPI countries. The programme is administered by the European Commission from Brussels, but with input and support from EC Delegations in the relevant countries.

Table 11:

ENPI Eastern Regional Indicative Programme for the period 2007-10 (indicative total available for period: €223.5 million).

Priority areas and indicative breakdown of resources	Sub-priorities and specific objectives for areas most relevant to nature conservation and environment
1. Networks (25–35% of total budget)	1. Transport 2. Energy 3. SME Regional Cooperation
2. Environment protection and forestry (25–35% of total budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To support regional aspects of the EU Water Initiative, including integrated water management ■ To give regional support to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol ■ To support the improved and sustainable management of forests and forestry resources, and other natural areas (including: support for conservation of biological diversity, nature protection, and measures against land degradation).
3. Border and Migration Management, the Fight against Transnational Organised Crime, and Customs (20–30% of total budget)	
4. People-to-people Activities, Information and Support (10–15% of total budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To enhance cooperation between people and civil society organizations from different countries in the region and between them and the EU ■ Improved mutual understanding between the citizens in the EU and the partner countries. Effective and efficient implementation of the ENPI programmes.
5. Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War, Small Arms and Light Weapons (5–10% of total budget)	

Source: ENPI Eastern Regional Indicative Programme, 2007–10: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_eastern_rsp_en.pdf

Further information

- ENPI Eastern Regional Strategy, 2007–13: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_eastern_rsp_en.pdf
- ENPI Eastern Regional Indicative Programme, 2007–10: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_eastern_rip_en.pdf
- Information on forecast and open grants and tenders: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

Legal basis ENPI

- Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 Of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI): http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/oj_l310_en.pdf

Further information

- European Neighbourhood Policy (European Commission): http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/policy_en.htm
- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (European Commission): http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/funding_en.htm

Thematic programmes

A final financing opportunity that may be of relevance for biodiversity conservation and environment in the Carpathians are the EU Thematic Programmes within the framework of the EU's Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Eligible to the thematic programmes are not only all European neighborhood countries (including Eastern Europe, Caucasus, North Africa and Eastern Mediterranean), but also from other parts of the world including Central Asia, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

Among the five thematic programmes are:

- Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy;
- Non-state actors and local authorities in development;
- Food security;
- Investing in People and
- Migration and Asylum.

Under the Thematic Programme on Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP), a total of €63 million has been earmarked for all ENPI countries for the period 2007–13, including €30.7 million available for the following period 2007–10. Issues include climate change, biodiversity, energy and the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF). Projects can be in-country or multi-country, with organizations based in EU Member States and/or the beneficiary countries.

Legal basis

- Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_378/l_37820061227en00410071.pdf

Further information

- Multi-Annual Programme ENRTP, Annual Action Programme 2007:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/environment/working-documents_en.htm
- Calls for proposals are published on the EuropeAid website at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

Other sources

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms

Parallel to the various EU funds, non-EU members Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein have agreed to provide additional development support to the EU's newest member states, including those in the Carpathian region – essentially the price of participating in and benefiting from the expanded Common Market.

Like the EU's funding instruments, the aim of the different financial mechanisms that have been agreed is to reduce social and economic disparities within the European Economic Area (EEA), and to enable all EEA countries to participate fully in the Internal Market. While programming for the funds varies from country to country, biodiversity conservation and environment as well as support for civil society are significant priorities that apply to the Carpathian region.

Through the EEA Financial Mechanism, the three EEA-EFTA states Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will make a total €600 million available to the 10 countries that joined the EU and the EEA in May 2004, as well as to Greece, Portugal and Spain. Norway, being significantly larger than Iceland and Liechtenstein, has agreed an additional and parallel financial mechanisms through which it will make an additional €567 million available to the 10 countries that joined the EU and the EEA in 2004.

Both mechanisms run over a five-year period until 2009. Norway, as the largest of the three donors, will contribute with close to €1.14 billion.

The EEA Financial Mechanism will also make available €72 million to Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EEA in 2007, over a two-year period until 2009, while Norway will contribute an additional €68 million to the two new EEA members over the same period through bilateral cooperation programmes. EEA and Norwegian support to Romania and Bulgaria is organized separately and differently from that awarded to the other new EU member states so is treated separately in the section below.

In total, the financial mechanisms will make €1.17 billion available over the 2004-2009 period to support projects in a range of priority sectors, including:

- Protection of the environment
- Sustainable development
- Conservation of European cultural heritage
- Development of human resources
- Health and childcare

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism will also make funding available for:

- Implementation of legislation in the field of internal security and border control, such as support for 'Schengen' action plans
- Environment, i. a. with emphasis on strengthening the administrative capacity to implement relevant acquis and investments in infrastructure and technology with priority given to municipal waste management,
- Regional policy and cross-border activities
- Implementation of aquis communautaire through technical assistance
- Academic research within the priority sectors of both mechanisms

Table 12:

Allocation of support from EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms among selected eligible beneficiary countries in period 2004–09.

Country	EEA FM	Norwegian FM	Total
Poland	€280.8 million	€277.8 million	€558.6 million
Hungary	€60.8 million	€74.3 million	€135.1 million
Romania	€50.5 million	€48 million 1)	€98.5 million
Czech Republic	€48.5 million	€62.4 million	€110.9 million
Slovakia	€32.3 million	€37.9 million	€70.2 million
Bulgaria	€21.5 million	€20 million*	€41.4 million
Lithuania	€27 million	€40.3 million	€67.3 million
Latvia	€19.7 million	€34 million	€53.7 million
Estonia	€10.1 million	€22.7 million	€32.8 million
Slovenia	€6.1 million	€12.5 million	€18.6 million
Cyprus	€1.3 million	€3.4 million	€4.7 million
Malta	€1.9 million	€1.7 million	€3.6 million
Spain	€45.8 million	--	€45.8 million
Greece	€ 34.3 million	--	€ 34.3 million
Portugal	€31.3 million	--	€31.3 million

* Norwegian support to Romania and Bulgaria is organized separately and differently from the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms – see further information on the Norwegian Cooperation Programme in separate section below.

Table 13:

Priorities for EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms in Carpathian beneficiary countries in period 2004–09 as well as selection of areas of focus that are most relevant to biodiversity conservation and protected area management in the Carpathians.

Country	Priorities for support; selected focal areas within most relevant priorities
Poland	Environment, Sustainable development, Cultural heritage, human resources, Health and childcare, Schengen acquis, Cross-border activities, Acquis Communautaire, Academic research
Protection of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Replacement of obsolete heating energy sources by modern, energy-saving and ecological ones ■ Investments in the use of renewable energy sources, such as small hydropower plants, use of solar energy, etc.
Promotion of Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduction of energy, raw material and water consumption of manufacturing and services activities through improvement of efficiency of productive resources use ■ Use of alternative energy sources ■ Enhancement of environmental education through creation of networks for environmental learning ■ Support for the creation of a “green workplace” and “green procurement” ■ Activities encouraging protection, improvement and restoration of biodiversity, including areas included in the Natura 2000 sites
Conservation of European Cultural Heritage	Priority is placed on large projects of at least €1 million and focused on preservation and development of national cultural tourism products in historical cities, especially Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Poznan and Gdansk, i.e. there appears to be relatively little scope for support for projects in the Carpathians.
Protection of the Environment – capacity to implement acquis relevant to investment projects	Capacity building for central and regional authorities for implementation of EU environmental legislation.





Country	Priorities for support; selected focal areas within most relevant priorities
Regional Policy and Cross-Border Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cooperation with Ukraine (Carpathians area) as well as Baltic neighbours, Belarus, Russia and EEA EFTA countries ■ Cross-border cooperation programmes for improving self-governmental administration and stimulating health and social initiatives and enterprise development ■ Knowledge transfer from more to less developed regions ■ Promoting regional and local development in Poland ■ Cooperation in the field of cross-border ecological tourism
Hungary	Environment, Sustainable development, Cultural heritage, Human resources, Health and childcare, Schengen acquis, Cross-border activities, Academic research
Protection of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promoting the involvement of NGOs in the field of environment protection ■ Environmental-awareness education ■ Promoting the use of renewable/alternative energy ■ Noise reduction/protection ■ Promoting the introduction of clean production
Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Encouraging organic agriculture, production and breeding of ancient Hungarian domestic plant and animal species. ■ Establishing and further developing of innovation centres ■ Promoting sustainable economic development
Conservation of European Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Restoration of historical sites and buildings, based on utilization plans ■ Conservation of world heritage sites in Hungary ■ Restoration of museums and establishment of collections for the introduction of certain fields of European heritage
Human Resource Development, Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adult training, vocational education and training, life-long learning
Regional Development and Cross-Border Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen the principles of democracy, partnership and decentralization on EU external borders ■ Competence building of different levels of regional development (micro-regions, municipalities)
Academic Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research related to priority areas
Czech Republic	Cultural Heritage, Environment, Human Resource Development, Health and Childcare, Promotion of Sustainable Development, Academic Research and Development
Conservation of the European Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protection and renewal of immovable cultural heritage ■ Improvement of care and protection of movable cultural heritage ■ Renewal of urban areas and historical parts in regions
Protection of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring systems in regions and systems to follow up results of monitoring ■ Environmental education on all levels of state administration ■ Reduction of greenhouse gases in Czech Republic ■ Reduce the loss of biodiversity and preserve untouched natural habitats
Promotion of Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assistance with enforcing and implementation of Strategy on Sustainable Development on local and regional level
Academic Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Academic research and development within the above-mentioned areas, in particular environment, health and children's living conditions

Country	Priorities for support; selected focal areas within most relevant priorities
Slovakia	Environment, Sustainable development, Cultural heritage, Human resources, Health and childcare, Schengen acquis, Cross-border activities, Acquis Communautaire, Academic research
Protection of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improvement and development of infrastructure for water protection and management ■ Improvement of air quality and reduction of greenhouse gases in Slovakia ■ Improvement of waste management at municipality level ■ Reduction and safe management of old environmental burdens ■ Reduce the loss of biodiversity and preserve natural habitats
Promotion of Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promotion of renewable energy sources ■ Improvement of municipal street lighting for energy saving ■ Reconstruction of heat distributions and central sources of heat operated by public enterprises for energy saving ■ Promotion of the use of bio fuels and alternative energy resources as secondary source of energy at municipality and regional level ■ Promotion of food safety ■ Environmental education and mainstreaming on all levels of public administration including support to environmental information activities
Conservation of the European Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Integrated protection and development of objects of cultural heritage ■ Protection, presentation and improvement of conditions for movement control of movable cultural heritage objects ■ Cultural heritage as a basis for local and regional development
Human Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of professional and life-long education ■ Establishing youth centres for after-school activities, including preventive actions against drug abuse ■ Integrated education and work for disabled and young people with special needs ■ Support social integration and education schemes for minority groups ■ Enabling women and young girls to enter the workforce through job-creating programmes and innovation schemes
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research activities within all the eligible areas of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism
Regional and Crossborder Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regional development focused on priorities of particular regional authorities and municipalities e.g. in the field of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ strengthening competence and capacity at local level ▪ foster good governance in public administration ▪ private sector development on local and regional level ▪ strengthen participation of minority groups in society ■ Cross-border co-operation within priority areas focused on co-operation with Ukraine on national and regional level
Romania	Environment, Human resource development, Health and childcare, Cultural heritage including public transport and urban renewal
Protection of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supporting biodiversity and nature reserves, including sustainable use of water resources; ■ Monitoring systems for ground water, waste water and air pollution; ■ Reducing water pollution from mining activities ■ Developing sustainable waste water collection and promoting recycling systems; ■ Enhancing flood prevention ■ Strengthening integrated coastal area management ■ Developing renewable energy sources, including geothermal energy and hydropower
Human Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhancing the administrative capacity of central and local public authorities, including for integrated development planning and the use of information technology; ■ Developing tools and databases for territorial planning ■ Supporting exchanges and training courses for students and teaching staff from pre-university system and universities between the relevant institutions in Romania and the EEA EFTA States ■ Strengthening civil society through the establishment of NGO fund; ■ Promoting the social dialogue; ■ Enhancing competence building in the justice and home affairs sector ■ Enhancing attractiveness of, access to and participation in vocational education and training
Conservation of European Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conservation of European cultural heritage

Overview of funds and programmes in beneficiary countries: www.eeagrants.org/index.php?name=CmodsDownload&file=index&req=viewdownload&cid=8&orderby=dateD

Priorities for support are contained in annexes to the Memoranda of Understanding signed by the beneficiary countries and the EEA and Norway, and can be downloaded at: www.eeagrants.org/index.php?name=CmodsDownload&file=index&req=viewdownload&cid=3&orderby=dateD

Programming process:

National programmes for use of the funds have been agreed between the beneficiary states and authorities of the EEA and the Norwegian government. Implementation of the funds varies depending on the programming in each country, including grants, technical assistance as well as project support e.g. for NGOs.

Project proposals can be submitted by public bodies and institutions including local communities and regional and national authorities, international organisations, and NGOs.

Please see country reports and/or the Internet pages of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms below for further details.

■ Norwegian Cooperation Programme (Romania and Bulgaria)

The support that Norway provides to Romania and Bulgaria above and beyond its contribution to these countries through the EEA Financial Mechanism is not handled through the parallel Norwegian Financial Mechanism as in other new EU member states but through a different arrangement, the Norwegian Cooperation Programme.

Main differences between this arrangement and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism include:

- The more prominent involvement of Norwegian partners, with all projects requiring active and integral Norwegian partners.
- Seed funds of up to €25,000 are available for facilitating development of full-scale projects, e.g. for covering feasibility studies, travel, project development, and staff time.

■ European Economic Area

The European Economic Area was established by the European Union and the countries of the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA), which today include Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The agreement permits the EFTA countries to participate in the internal market while not taking up the full responsibilities of EU membership. Switzerland later following a referendum decided to opt out of the EEA agreement and has since negotiated its own agreement with the European Union.

European Economic Area (European Commission pages): http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eea/index.htm
European Free Trade Agreement website: <http://secretariat.efta.int/Web/EFTAAtAGlance/introduction>

Table 14: Priority and focus areas for Norwegian Cooperation Programme in Romania, 2007–09

Priority	Focus areas
1. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including Joint Implementation projects under the Kyoto Protocol, and other emissions in air and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce air pollution, particularly prevent emissions of greenhouse gases. Improvement of technology and processes, capacity building, regulations and monitoring. Analysis of impacts of climate change and measures to adapt to climate change. ■ Reduce and prevent pollution of water. ■ Waste management, waste water treatment and safe handling of hazardous substances. ■ Stimulate environmental technology. ■ Promote environmentally friendly urban transport.
2. Energy efficiency and renewable energy.	<p>(Priority should be given to projects developed and coordinated with the following programmes: EU framework programme for competitiveness and innovation (CIP) (Intelligent Energy Europe II), EU's 6th and 7th framework programme for research, The Norwegian Research Council's "Renergi" programme).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promotion of energy efficiency within key sectors, e.g. production, construction, households and transport. ■ Promotion of renewable energy. ■ Upgrading of energy systems, including the use of combined heat and power. ■ Competency and capacity building, establishment of energy centres, networks and institutional cooperation. ■ Research, development and the development and demonstration of technology within the energy sector. ■ Cooperation in nuclear safety issues.
3. Facilitating sustainable production, including certification and verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improvements of technology and processes (including IT solutions) in all sectors. Organisational development, risk management, certification/verification (quality, health and safety, environment). ■ Systems for strengthening competences and capacity building within the shipbuilding sector. ■ Activities promoting the environment within tourism. ■ Veterinary and sanitary measures within food production.

Further information

- EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism:
www.eeagrants.org/financialmechanisms?POSTNUKESID=20c72b945d48892d7f7e57ba8f019b1f
- Norway grants for Romania and Bulgaria (Norwegian Government):
www.norwaygrants.org/en
- European Economic Area (European Commission pages):
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eea/index.htm

The Swiss enlargement contribution

Similar and parallel to the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms described above, Switzerland has made a separate agreement with the EU to provide development support to the EU's newest member states which can be of some benefit for biodiversity conservation and environment in the Carpathians.

Like the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, the aim of Switzerland's enlargement contribution is to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union. Switzerland will provide CHF 1 billion (ca. €610 million) in support over a period of five years (June 2007–June 2012) to the ten states which joined the EU on May 1, 2004, including those that are in the Carpathian region, i.e. the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The support follows on ca. CHF 700 million (ca €427 million) that Switzerland channeled to Eastern European countries in the 1990s in the context of its traditional aid to the region.

Table 15: Allocation of Swiss enlargement contribution among eligible EU countries (2007-12) (Carpathian countries in bold).

Country	Swiss contribution	
Poland	CHF 489.02 million	ca € 298.17 million
Hungary	CHF 130.74 million	ca € 79.72 million
Czech Republic	CHF 109.78 million	ca € 66.94 million
Lithuania	CHF 70.86 million	ca € 43.23 million
Slovakia	CHF 66.87 million	ca € 40.77 million
Latvia	CHF 59.88 million	ca € 36.52 million
Estonia	CHF 39.92 million	ca € 24.35 million
Slovenia	CHF 21.96 million	ca € 13.39 million
Cyprus	CHF 5.99 million	ca € 3.65 million
Malta	CHF 2.99 million	ca € 1.82 million

Support to Carpathian country Romania as well as Bulgaria, who both joined the EU in January 2007, is not presently part of the Swiss enlargement contribution.

According to the agreement signed between Switzerland and the EU, support will go toward the following four thematic areas:

- Security, stability and support for reforms, including the development of administrative capacities; regional development initiatives in peripheral and disadvantaged regions, etc.
- Infrastructure and environment, including renovation and modernisation of basic infrastructure such as energy, drinking water, sewage, waste disposal and public transport; cross-border environmental initiatives, etc.
- Promotion of private enterprise, including development of the private sector with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises; promotion of industrial production in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, etc.
- Human and social development, including technical and vocational training; research and development (scientific exchange programmes, scholarships and grants, cooperation in applied research), etc.

Country-specific fields of activity within these priorities as well as geographical priorities have been agreed with each of the beneficiary countries.

Table 16:

Thematic priorities for Swiss enlargement contribution in Carpathian beneficiary countries in period 2007–12 that are of special interest to biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians.

Country	Thematic priorities for support most relevant to biodiversity conservation and environment
Poland	Priority regions: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Swietokrzyskie and Malopolskie (at least 40% expenditure in these regions)
1. Security, Stability and Support for Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional development initiatives in peripheral or disadvantaged regions: co-financing for integrated local development in geographic focal regions (similar to LEADER approach under EU's EAFRD fund).
2. Environment and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of the Environment: Increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions, including introduction of renewable energy systems and improvement of energy efficiency (minimum investment of CHF 10 million per project). Biodiversity and nature protection and Cross-border environmental initiatives: to protect nature and the functioning of ecosystems in a sustainable manner in the geographic focus area, through e.g. development and implementation of integrated natural resource management concepts including nature protection, economic and social use; promotion of ecotourism; awareness building and environmental protection requirements; capacity building in stakeholder organizations; Carpathian Convention: Networking and implementation.
3. Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the private sector and promotion of exports of SMEs: increase the market shares of Polish exports of goods and services, through e.g. strengthening of local service providers in the area of eco-efficiency and corporate social responsibility; tourism hospitality education programmes and tourism destination planning.
1. Special allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Block Grants (for re-granting): To promote civil society's contribution to economic and social cohesion as important actors of development and participation. To promote and/or enhance partnerships between municipalities and regions of the Republic of Poland and Switzerland.
Hungary	Priority regions: Northern Hungary (especially Borsod-Abauj-Zemplen County) and Northern Great Plains (especially Szabolcz-Szatmar-Bereg and Hajdu-Bihar Counties) (at least 40% of expenditure in these regions).
1. Security, Stability and Support for Reforms	<p>Regional development initiatives in peripheral or disadvantaged regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and enhancement of regional and/or micro-regional development plans including all development stakeholders; Block grant for small projects of civil society. Tourism planning at regional and county level; Mobilisation of tourism potentials, primarily in health, ecotourism, cycling, cultural heritage, etc. <p>Prevention and management of natural disasters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning of investments and measures to prevent disasters
2. Environment and Infrastructure	<p>Rehabilitation and modernization of basic infrastructure and improvement of the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading of environmental monitoring systems. Cross-border environmental initiatives, biodiversity and nature protection: Tisza river basin management: Regional initiatives strengthening joint planning and implementation; policy dialogue between concerned countries (HU, SK, RO, UA, Serbia). Carpathian Convention: Networking and implementation Studies to lay the basis for protection/Natura 2000 species and habitat conservation tasks Promotion of protected natural assets by awareness campaigns Capacity building in stakeholder organizations
3. Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of quality standards (including environmental). Tourism hospitality education programmes and tourism destination planning.
5. Special Allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO Block Grant: for civil society/NGOs contributing primarily to social service provision as well as environmental concerns, allowing to strengthen organizational capacities.

Czech Republic	Priority regions: Regions of Moravia-Silesia and Olomouc, possibly later also Zlin (at least 40% expenditure in these regions)
1. Security, Stability and Support for Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Revision of regional or micro-regional development plans. ■ Tourism planning at regional and county level; mobilization of tourism potentials, primarily in health, ecotourism, cultural heritage, etc.
2. Environment and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sustainable wastewater management ■ Introduction of renewable energy systems, improvement of energy efficiency ■ Environment Expertise Fund to support the planning capacities of the public administration and to facilitate knowledge transfer, through e.g. policy studies, strategic planning and knowledge transfer in the field of environment (e.g. nature protection, etc.).
5. Special Allocations	Block Grant: for re-granting to civil society/NGOs contributing to social service provision as well as environmental concerns, allowing to strengthen organizational capacities.
Slovakia	Priority regions: East Slovak region (at least 40% expenditure in this region).
1. Security, Stability and Support for Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regional development initiatives in peripheral or disadvantaged regions, through e.g. tourism planning at regional and district level, mobilization of tourism potentials (including ecotourism, cultural heritage), and strengthening and improving social services.
2. Environment and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rehabilitation and modernization of basic infrastructure and improvement of the environment, through e.g. sustainable water and wastewater management. ■ Nature protection, including e.g. protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscapes primarily in the geographic focus area with a special attention to Natura 2000 and the Carpathian Convention; monitoring and research of forest ecosystems (improvement of instrumentation and other technical equipment).
3. Private sector:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of the private sector and promotion of exports of SMEs: increase the market shares of Slovak exports of goods and services, through e.g. promotion of quality standards (including environmental).
5. Special Allocations:	<p>Block Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For civil society/NGOs contributing primarily to social service provision as well as environmental concerns, allowing to strengthen organizational capacities. ■ For the financing of small joint projects in the frame of partnerships between Swiss and Slovak institutions, municipalities and regions.

Priorities for support are contained in the Memoranda of Understanding signed by the beneficiary countries and the Government of Switzerland and in greater detail in the Annexes on conceptual frameworks for the cooperation programmes, and can be accessed via the Swiss enlargement contribution web pages at: www.erweiterungsbeitrag.admin.ch/org/index.html?lang=en

Programming and implementation process:

National programmes for use of the funds were agreed between the beneficiary states and Swiss authorities at the end of 2007, clearing the way for implementation of the funds from January 2008. In each of the beneficiary countries, project proposals will be accepted by the national coordination units, which in most countries are the same government offices that are responsible for the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds and the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism. Supported by an advisory committee, the national coordination units will review the proposals regarding their completeness and suitability.

Those proposals approved by the national coordination units will be forwarded for final approval by the Swiss authorities through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). Project proposals can be submitted by public bodies and institutions including local communities and regional and national authorities, international organisations, and NGOs.

Please see country reports and/or the Internet pages of the Swiss enlargement contribution below for further details.

Further information

- The Swiss enlargement contribution (Swiss Government pages): www.erweiterungsbeitrag.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en
- New EU member states (Swiss Government pages): www.deza.ch/en/Home/Countries/Southeastern_Eastern_Europe/Neue_Mitgliedstaaten_der_EU

4. General references and further information

■ Carpathian Mountains

www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/danube_carpathian/blue_river_green_mtn/carpathian_mountains/index.cfm

Carpathian Convention:
www.carpathianconvention.org/index.htm

Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI):
www.carpates.org

Carpathian Project:
www.carpathianproject.eu

Webster, R., Holt, S. and Avis, C. **The Status of the Carpathians: A report developed as part of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative** (WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, 2001):
www.carpates.org/publications.html

REC and EURAC, **Handbook on the Carpathian Convention** (Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, 2007):
www.carpathianconvention.org/NR/rdonlyres/13F29764-FA98-4619-93B9-5852795D73C2/0/DraftHandbookonthe-CarpathianConvention.pdf

■ Convention on Biological Diversity

www.cbd.int

Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas:
www.cbd.int/protected

■ EU Funds, Natura 2000, Rural and Regional Development

European Commission (2007), **Financing Natura 2000 Guidance Handbook** (produced for the European Commission by WWF and IEEP), available in all EU languages:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/financing_natura/library?!=/contract_management/handbook_update&vm=detailed&sb=Title

European Commission (2007), **New Funds, Better Rules – Guide to EU Funds:**
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/publications/financial_pub/pack_rules_funds_en.pdf

Financing for Natura 2000 – European Commission pages:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm

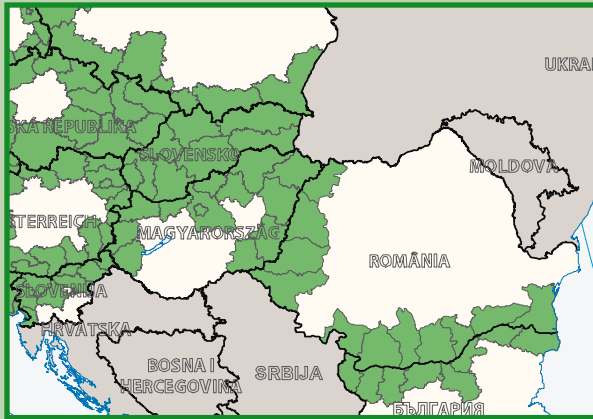
Greening Regional Development Programmes: **Greening Regional Development Programmes** (GRDP) is an EU-wide network formed in 2004 to help regions create jobs and growth in a way that protects the environment
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/grdp

Beyond Compliance Toolkit – integrating environment into local development. Toolkit developed by Green Regional Development Programmes (an EU-wide network formed in 2004 to help regions create jobs and growth in a way that protects the environment). Available at:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/grdp_toolkitenglish_1739735.pdf?referrer=grdp

Partnership as a tool to green Regional Development Programmes: Experience and Recommendations, February 2006, Greening Regional Development Programmes Network
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/grdp_partnership_1394252.pdf?referrer=grdp

WWF (2005), **EU funding for the Environment: A handbook for the 2007–13 programming period.** Available at:
<http://assets.panda.org/downloads/eufundingforenvironmentweb.pdf>

Notes:





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www.panda.org/dcpo

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



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