

Our Aims

There is a vision: the **Via Carpatica**. One day, it will run through the whole Carpathian arc and link five European countries through a **trans-national hut and trail network**.

This vision is the basis of **sustainable mountain tourism**. This strategy will help to open up considerable development opportunities for a mountain region, which, at the moment, is undergoing significant economic change. New employment and qualification prospects in various areas – maintenance of the trails; management of the huts; accommodation and shops in the valleys; and information, advice and guides for hikers and mountaineers – will be created and stabilised for the local population.

The realisation of this vision involves various small steps in many regions over a long period of time. Local stakeholders have already made several contributions and the Carpathian Project will build on these activities and support and ensure their continuation and intensification.

The Fagaras Mountains in the Romanian Southern Carpathians are the pilot region for ISF's Carpathian Project. Many steps for the sustainable development of tourism have already been taken in this region.

After an analysis of the existing infrastructure, the Carpathian Project of ISF München will develop a sustainable tourism concept. This concept will provide the basis for promoting and supporting the local stakeholders through expertise, collaboration and exchange of practical experience among other mountain regions while using a transdisciplinary approach. These activities include:

- Maintaining and extending the trail network.
- Refurbishing huts, building new huts as well as creating a network among the hut managers.
- Improving the valley infrastructure in the region (accommodation, shops, public transportation).
- Building an information network concerning huts, trails, accommodation in the valleys and transportation.
- Identifying job opportunities and necessary qualification measures for the areas mentioned above (hut personnel, trail maintenance personnel, mountain guides, etc.).
- Developing and implementing qualification measures.
- Promoting an exchange of practical knowledge with other European mountain regions, particularly the Alps.
- Promoting a network among the people, initiatives and organisations.

Expected Results

The Carpathian Project makes an important contribution to the sustainable development of a mountain region. This means:

from an **economic point of view**:

- strengthening a sustainable economy based on tourism in the region to replace traditional and no longer profitable economic activity;

from a **social point of view**:

- creating new jobs and developing - training as a pre-condition for professionalizing activities and providing job security,
- promoting the exchange of practical knowledge by creating a network among the local people and organisations involved,
- improving user access to information about tourist infrastructure (accommodation, trails, traffic),
- exchange of practical knowledge and transfer of know-how among European mountain regions;

from an **ecological perspective**:

- stabilising an ecologically sensitive area (high mountains) by providing ecological knowledge to hikers and mountaineers.

Network

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Romanian Organisations

SKV (mountain club of Transsylvania)
SALVAMONT (mountain rescue)
AGMR (Romanian Association of Mountain Guides)
CPNT (Club for nature and tourism)
ECOURI VERZI (Green Echoes Association)
Prietenii Naturii Romanii (nature friends Romania)

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Short Description

In its Carpathian Project, ISF München will develop a concept for the **sustainable development** of this Southeast European mountain region and analyse the resulting effects on employment in this region.

In cooperation with regional initiatives and with the support of the tourism-consultant FUTOUR, we will develop a concept for optimising the hut and trail infrastructure in the Fagaras Mountains (also called Transsylvanian Alps). New jobs are to be created – and existing jobs stabilised – for looking after and maintaining huts and trails, and for providing services for hikers. Capacity building measures will complement the concept and ensure its sustainability.

The project is aimed at creating new employment prospects and at improving the personal lives of people living in the area within the framework of regional networks.

The Carpathian Project of the ISF München is a project within the **European Carpathian Project** of the INTER-REG IIB/CADSES programme to which 19 partners, mostly from the Carpathian countries, contribute with their experience in sustainable regional development.

The practical knowledge gained in other mountain regions, in particular the Alps, will also be included in the project.



ISFMÜNCHEN

Economic, Social and Ecological Development of a European Mountain Region

(Carpathian Project of ISF München)

The Carpathian Project of ISF München is a project within the **European Carpathian Project:**

Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in a transnational framework

www.carpathianproject.eu

Promotion
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of the European Union
Programme "Transnational Cooperation"
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