

Discussion Papers 2008.
Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area
(VASICA)

**CENTRE FOR REGIONAL STUDIES
OF HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

**DISCUSSION PAPERS
Special**

**Visions and Strategies
in the Carpathian Area
(VASICA)**

Author & Editor
Iván Illés

Series editor
Zoltán Gál

**Pécs
2008**

Discussion Papers 2008.
Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area
(VASICA)



Project co-financed by the EU



ISSN 0238-2008
ISBN 978 963 9899 00 01

2008 by Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Technical editor: Ilona Csapó
Printed in Hungary by Sümegi Nyomdaipari, Kereskedelmi és Szolgáltató Ltd., Pécs

CONTENT

1	Introduction	5
2	The Carpathian region in the European space	8
2.1	The delineated “Carpathian Region”	9
3	A brief review of the situation and problems: the SWOT analysis of the Carpathian Area.....	11
3.1	The SWOT analysis.....	11
4	Strategic objectives in the Carpathian region	16
4.1	Strengthening the internal cohesion of the Carpathian area.....	16
4.2	Strengthening the cohesion with other parts of the European territory.....	18
4.3	Promoting economic growth and job creation in the Carpathian area	20
4.4	Improved management of the region’s environment and natural-cultural heritage	21
5	Demography	23
6	Agriculture in the Carpathian region	26
6.1	The situation and the challenges	26
6.2	Policy recommendations for the agriculture of the Carpathian area.....	32
6.2.1	The cooperation of Carpathian countries and regions in the field of agriculture	32
6.2.2	The protection and promotion of Carpathian mountain food products.....	33
6.2.3	Flexibility of EU CAP and national regulations in the Carpathian Area	34
6.2.4	Diversification of mountain economy	37
7	Industry in the Carpathian area.....	38
7.1	Situation and challenges	38
7.1.1	Mining	38
7.1.2	Manufacturing	40
7.2	Policy recommendations for the industry of the Carpathian area	42
7.2.1	The “brown-fields” problem.....	42
7.2.2	Conversion	45
7.2.3	Industrial diversification and the problem of the “one-factory-towns”	45
7.2.4	Promotion and support of SMEs	47
7.2.5	The Carpathian motor car industry cluster	48
8	Urban Network in the Carpathian area	50
8.1	The situation and problems.....	50
8.1.1	Small towns	50
8.1.2	Large and medium cities	53
8.2	Policy recommendations concerning the urban network of the Carpathian area	56
8.2.1	Establishing a new urban-rural relationship	56
8.2.2	The role of the chain of “market cities” in the external and internal forelands of the Carpathians and the task of ‘revitalisation of the “market line”	59
8.2.3	The future of the EU and the Carpathian cities	62

9	Cultural and natural heritage in the Carpathian region	64
9.1	The situation and problems.....	64
9.1.1	Cultural heritage	64
9.1.2	Natural heritage	66
9.2	Policy recommendations concerning some specific problems of the cultural heritage in the Carpathian area	69
9.2.1	National bias in the management of cultural heritage	69
9.2.2	The “heritage” of the socialist period	71
9.2.3	Military cemeteries and monuments of World War I. and II.....	71
9.2.4	Sites of pilgrimage in the Carpathian area.....	72
9.2.5	Recommendations for the management of the natural heritage	74
10	Transport in the Carpathian Area	76
10.1	Situation and problems	76
10.1.1	The main transport indicators of Carpathian countries.....	80
10.2	Policy recommendations for transport development for Carpathian countries	82
10.2.1	Recommendations for local transport.....	82
10.2.2	Recommendations for regional and interregional transport in the region.....	83
10.2.3	Recommendations for international (cross border) transport in the region.....	83
11	Environment	85
11.1	Situation and problems	85
11.2	Policy recommendations for environmental protection	86
11.2.1	The preservation of primeval virgin forests.....	86
11.2.2	Waste and hazardous materials disposal.....	87
12	Tourism in the Carpathian area.....	90
12.1	Situation and problems	90
12.1.1	The main indicators of tourism in Carpathian countries are the following	90
12.1.2	Winter sports tourism	91
12.1.3	Rural (village) tourism	92
12.1.4	“Nostalgia” tourism	93
12.2	Policy recommendations for tourism in the Carpathian region.....	94
12.2.1	To create conditions for sustainable tourism in the Carpathian region.....	94
12.2.2	The Via Carpathica.....	96
12.2.3	Reconstruction or development of Forest Railways for tourism purposes.....	96
13	European Territorial Cooperation within the Carpathian area.....	99
13.1	Situation and problems	99
13.1.1	Bottom-up initiatives	99
Top-down initiatives: the Structural Funds Interreg and Territorial cooperation programmes	103	
13.2	Policy recommendations in respect to territorial cooperation and common programmes	106
Appendix	107	
References	111	