



S4C Science for the Carpathians  
**Newsflash November 2008**

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 THE S4C NETWORK  
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**Progress report**

*Astrid Björnsen Gurung, MRI Europe/IGF*

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It has become autumn in the S4C network. It is rustling and it keeps moving, collecting, dispersing and searching for an organizational structure and identity. Since the official launching workshop in Krakow (May 2008), the science community has become larger and more tangible although an institutional body has not been formed so far.

The "S4C list" keeps growing and includes 270 scientists with research interests in the Carpathian region. With the emergence of new and adjusted EU funding programmes (e.g. Central2013 or South East Europe Program, see below) sound knowledge of "who's who" gets more important and is essential for the efficient development of new consortia. Please make use of the "S4C list" if you are searching for research partners and let the MRI Europe programme manager know if you are planning to submit a proposal. Download the updated "S4C list" from the MRI website:

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-carpathians/who-is-who-in-carpathian-research.html>

In the last issue of the S4C Newsflash (September 2008) you were informed about our intention to discuss possible ways to further the institutionalization process of S4C with representatives of the Science Academies of Eastern and South Eastern European countries during a side event at the International Conference "The Role of National Academies in the 21st Century" (10-12 October 2008, Podgorica, Montenegro). The side event was cancelled on short notice, as the remaining time did not allow appropriate preparation. With the support of the Swiss Academy of Science, a separate meeting is anticipated for the year 2009.

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 FUNDING  
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**Central2013 as a funding opportunity**

*Astrid Björnsen Gurung, MRI Europe / IGF*

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I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming Partner Search Forum (Poznan, Poland, 16-17 Dec 2008) organized by the Central Europe Programme

(<http://www.central2013.eu/event-calendar/poznan.html>). It addresses regional development professionals interested in getting involved in EU-funded cooperation projects. Such projects could be developed for the next Central Europe Call to be launched in early 2009 (target 7th January) under the four headings: Innovation, accessibility, environment and competitiveness. The deadline for proposal submission will be 10 weeks after the launch, i.e. around mid-March 2009. Proposed projects should have both components, a strong implementation approach but also a research orientation.

A total of 231 Mio. Euros funded by the European Regional Development Funds is available for project budgets ranging between 1-5 Mio. Euros. Projects need minimum 3 partners in at least 3 countries with at least 2 partners from EU member states. The recommended length is 30-36 months.

The geographic coverage of the Central2013 programme suits well with the Carpathian region including Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovak Republic, and the Ukraine. Romania, Serbia and Montenegro are not included.

We would be very happy if many of you could attend the event in Poznan and start developing project ideas for the Carpathian region. Please let me know if you plan to do so!

### **South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme**

*Astrid Björnsen Gurung, MRI Europe / IGF*

*<mailto:astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at>*

The South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE Programme) is the second programme that emerged from the former Interreg IIB CADSES

Programme: <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/>

It includes 16 countries including the following Carpathian countries: (Austria), Hungary, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovakia, and some regions of Ukraine (Cjermovestka Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast and Odessa Oblast):

[http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about\\_see/participating\\_countries/](http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/participating_countries/)

The first call was closed in October 2008. I could not find out when the 2nd call is expected. If you are interested, please register for the newsletter not to miss the next opportunity: <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/registration/>

In regard to the Carpathians, several topics could be of interest:

Priority Axis 2: Protection and Improvement of the Environment

AoI 2.1: Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention

AoI 2.2: Improve prevention of environmental risks

AoI 2.3: Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas.

However, also under the Priority Axes 1, 3 and 4 you can find further topics.

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PROJECTS  
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### **Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe (SAVE) Foundation**

*SAVE Foundation, Elli Broxham, Head Office, Konstanz, Germany*

*<mailto:elli.broxham@save-foundation.net>*

SAVE relaunches the Carpathian project for conservation of agrobiodiversity with a pilot project in collaboration with the Agricultural Institute, Bakta, Ukraine (Zakarpatskji Institute APV). This project includes search tours for local fruit varieties, which will be recorded and scions taken to establish a comprehensive variety collection at Bakta. The variety names will be entered into a synonym register, designed to improve crossborder communication and collaboration. Further steps in this project include the establishment of variety gardens. SAVE aims to increase work in the Carpathian region in the next years, expanding the project to other countries. The full scale project will also include local domestic animal breeds to provide a stakeholder network for Agrobiodiversity in the Carpathian region as well as concrete small projects for conservation. For more information please see the SAVE website: <http://www.save-foundation.net/> or contact <mailto:office@save-foundation.net>

## **Alarming situation in the Tatra National Park, Slovakia!**

*Juraj Svajda, Zilinska University, Slovakia* <mailto:juraj.svajda@gmail.com>

Development projects are destroying the ecosystem of the park, threatening its status as National Park.

These are the most recent developments:

- 17 October: At a press conference in Tatranska Lomnica the Slovak minister of environment, Jan Chrbet, did not exclude the use of chemistry against bark beetle.
- The Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborca published a statement of Prof. Zbigniew Mirek, a member of the Polish TPN board and chief of the Committee for Nature Protection of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Prof. Mirek said that there are large scale interventions in the Slovak part of the national park. If all plans to develop ski resorts will be realized this can mean the end of the national park and will also endanger the Polish side.

We need voices from scientists, ministries of environment in EU, green political parties, strong individuals, important institutions (WWF, UNESCO, EHF, Europarc, Carpathian convention, CNPA, ...) to enforce pressure on our government and to inform Slovak media. Please address your concerns to the Slovak minister of environment (<mailto:minister@enviro.gov.sk>). Because we are also a biosphere reserve with the polish side of the park and a Natura 2000 site, it will be great to support us with organizing some conference or start with some research as support of nature conservation ideas against egoistic requirements of businessmen and politicians!

We will be happy and grateful for any kind of help!

Declaration of the Slovak National Committee for the Man and Biosphere (MAB) UNESCO Programme to the situation in the Biosphere Reserve of Tatry, the Tatry National Park

[http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Tatra\\_Declaration\\_Nov2008.pdf](http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Tatra_Declaration_Nov2008.pdf)

These are the links with short English information and pictures from Tatranska Lomnica:

[http://www.spectator.sk/articles/view/33047/3/tatras\\_under\\_scrutiny.html](http://www.spectator.sk/articles/view/33047/3/tatras_under_scrutiny.html)

<http://www.motylov.sk/tanap/>

## **New conservational system in the Carpathian basin**

*Csaba Vaszkó, Project Officer WWF Hungary* <mailto:csaba.vaszko@wwf.hu>

In the middle of the Carpathian basin, by the river Tisza that connects the Carpathians with the Balkans, a new conservational and economical system was brought to effect. The One Europe – More Nature (OEMN) market based landscape restoration program worked out by WWF helps to bring a power plant's the local people's and the nature's different interests together in order to restore floodplain grasslands, wetlands and forests.

The floodplain area was utilized in a very complex and sustainable way till the 19th century providing sufficient and diverse income for the communities along the Tisza. The river regulation, drainage of wetlands and the mismanagement of floodplains have led to economic and conservational problems. The disappearance of traditional land use caused the

degradation of these areas by the growing of exotic invasive species. OEMN realised that the invasive species (like *Amorpha fruticosa*) in the floodplain can be used for producing bioenergy in the power plant, harvesting and transporting the Amorpha to the power plant ensures recent income for the communities. Another milestone was reached with the (re-) introduction of water buffaloes and beavers into the OEMN Hungarian site, acting as ecological engineers/restorers and also keeping back the invasive shrub *Amorpha fruticosa*.

for more information go to: <http://www.panda.org/europe/oemn>

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## PAST EVENTS

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### **EuCaRe: Europe's Green Backbone - Post-Socialist Land use Change in the Carpathian Region**

October 9-10 2008, Berlin, Germany

*Astrid Björnsen Gurung, MRI Europe / IGF*

*mailto: astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at*

The abbreviation of the ESF-funded EuCaRe workshop can be read as "you care". In this sense, Prof. Patrick Hostert, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, invited twenty European scientists who "cared about" a better understanding of human-environmental systems in the Carpathian Mountains during two intensive days targeting at the development of new project ideas. To learn more about the topics, speakers and discussions visit the MRI webcast or read the background documents at:

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/media/webcasts/>

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/hu-geomatics/projects/ESF.php>

### **Water in protected areas**

*Joanna Pociask-Karteczka, Jagiellonian University, Poland*

*mailto:j.pociask@geo.uj.edu.pl*

12-14 June 2008, castle Pieskowa Skala (the Ojcow National Park), Poland

The event was convened jointly by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management – Jagiellonian University, the Hydrology Commission of the Polish Geographical Society and the Ojcow National Park. The conference focused on the amount, type and quality of water resources in protected areas (national parks, nature reserves, regional parks, Natura 2000 areas). Go to the MRI website to read the Conference Report by Joanna Pociask-Karteczka and Joanna Plenzler, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

[http://www.mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Pieskowa\\_Skala\\_report.pdf](http://www.mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Pieskowa_Skala_report.pdf)

### **The S4C Kraków Workshop in a Nutshell**

*Astrid Björnsen Gurung, MRI Europe / IGF*

*astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at*

The presentation of Marc Zebisch and Jacek Kozak during the EuCaRe Workshop in Berlin (9-10 October 2008) summarizes the ideas and objectives of the S4C initiative as they have been developed during the launching workshop in Kraków. To get a (first) impression and to feel the spirit of the Carpathian science network find the link to the webcast at:

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-carpathians/>

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## EVENTS

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### **Mountain Hydrology and Climatology: Present State and Future Scenarios**

(Cryospheric Sciences CR8.1, co-listed Hydrological Sciences HS13.05), convened by Daniel Viviroli (Bern, Switzerland), Carmen de Jong (Chambéry, France) and Wouter Buytaert (Bristol, UK).

Please submit your contributions through EGU's online system at

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2009/abstractsubmission/1119>

Deadlines:

- 07 December 2008 for financial support applications

(see <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009/requests/index.html>)

- 13 January 2009 for abstract submission

(<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2009/abstractsubmission/1119>)

For more details on the session, visit

mri, cd 11/27/2008S4C\_Flash\_Nov08.doc

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PUBLICATIONS  
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Challenges and potential responses towards sustainable mountain development and nature conservation in the Ukrainian Carpathians", by M. Nijnik, I. Soloviy, A. Nijnik and A. Deyneka are now published in the book (Chmielewski eds.) "Nature Conservation Management: From Idea to Practical Results", pp. 133-150, and is available at:  
[http://www.alter-net.info/POOLED/articles/bf\\_docart/view.asp?Q=bf\\_docart\\_301152](http://www.alter-net.info/POOLED/articles/bf_docart/view.asp?Q=bf_docart_301152)

Hostert, P., Kuemmerle, T., Radeloff, V., Müller, D. (2008). Post Socialist Land-Use and Land-Cover Change in the Carpathian Mountains. IHDP Update October 2008, issue 2 "Mountainous Regions: Laboratories for Adaptation", pp 70-73

The magazine's pdf is available at the following link:

<http://www.ihdp.unu.edu/file/IHDP+Updates/IHDP+Update+2008+2?menu=60>

**Latest scientific publications of the Association for Nature "Wolf"**

*Robert Mysłajek*

*<mailto:rwm@autograf.pl>*

Jêdrzejewski W., Jêdrzejewska B., Zawadzka B., Borowik T., Nowak S., Mysłajek R. W. 2008. Habitat suitability model for Polish wolves *Canis lupus* based on long-term national census. *Animal Conservation* 11: 377-390.

Nowak S., Jêdrzejewski W., Schmidt K., Theuerkauf J., Mysłajek R. W., Jêdrzejewska B. 2007. Howling activity of free-ranging wolves (*Canis lupus*) in the Białowieża Primeval Forest and the Western Beskidy Mountains (Poland). *Journal of Ethology* 3: 231-237.

Popiolek M., Szczêsna J., Nowak S., Mysłajek R. W. 2007. Helminth infections in faecal samples of wolves *Canis lupus* L. from the western Beskidy Mountains in southern Poland. *Journal of Helminthology* 81: 339-344.

Mysłajek R. W., Szura C. 2008. Bats of the Jaskinia Miecharska cave. *Zacisk* (special issue), 9th International Symposium on Pseudokarst 24-26th May 2006 Bartkowa, Beskidy Mts., Poland: 13.

Mysłajek R. W., Kurek K., Szura C., Nowak S., Orysiak P. 2007. Bats (Chiroptera) of the Silesian Beskid Mountains. *Fragmenta Faunistica* 50 (1): 77-85.

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CALL FOR PAPERS  
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### **Journal of Tourism Challenges and Trends**

*Editor-in-chief: Prof. Mihaela Dinu, Romanian-American University in Bucharest, Romania  
mailto:jtct.office@gmail.com*

Journal of Tourism Challenges and Trends invites manuscripts for publication consideration in the next issue of the journal, dedicated to mountain tourism.

The objective of this issue is to present state-of-the-art research and practice in the field.

#### **Submission deadline: March, 1st 2009**

Please submit an electronic version of the manuscript, together with the "Manuscript Submission Form", to Dr. Mihaela Dinu <mailto:mihaeladinu2003@yahoo.com>

Further details on the submission procedure are included in the "Instructions for authors" document, available at: <http://journaltct.wordpress.com> or by contacting the editorial office.

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The Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Newsflash is sent out every 2 months to the 270 addresses of the S4C Network.

The next Newsflash is planned for January 2009, please send us any information you want to be distributed to the network. If you have documents to share please send us the web link rather than the document.

Please send questions and comments to Claudia Drexler <mailto:drexler@giub.unibe.ch>. If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please reply with the subject "unsubscribe".

yours sincerely

Claudia Drexler

The Mountain Research Initiative

Astrid Björnsen Gurung

MRI Europe/FS Gebirgsforschung: Mensch und Umwelt, Austrian Academy of Sciences

website S4C: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-carpathians/>