



CARPATHIAN FOUNDATION-HUNGARY

The Carpathian Foundation-Hungary is an independent, non-profit, civic organization improving the quality of life of the communities living in the Carpathian region, preserving and utilizing the social, economic, ethnic, cultural and environmental values of the region.

As a unique cross-border organization the Foundation provides financial and professional assistance to NGOs, local-self-governments and communities for implementing their local development initiatives primarily in the Hungarian part of the Carpathian region (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Hajdú-Bihar, Heves, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Counties) and all over Hungary.

The Carpathian Foundation-Hungary encourages co-operation among NGOs, governmental and profit-oriented organizations in the following main areas:

- Rural community development;
- Human resource development;
- Preservation of cultural and environmental values;
- Development of social integration.

Our goal is to strengthen social consciousness and regional identity by highlighting inherent values of the region.

The Carpathian Foundation-Hungary is the member of the Carpathian Foundation Network (consisting of foundations from Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine) that contributes to the development of the Carpathian region by providing grants and professional assistance to NGOs and local-self-governments operating in the bordering area of Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

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THANKS TO OUR MAIN DONORS AND PARTNERS:

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RomaNet Programme



*Supporting roma
organisations
and communities*

SERVING THE REGION
FOR 15 YEARS



www.karpatokalapitvany.hu

THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAMME

The Programme supports projects that aim to solve the problems of Roma communities in the Carpathian region, to reintegrate these communities and to preserve their unique culture.



To achieve this we aim to

- improve local Roma communities' abilities to represent and act in their interests
- assess the main issues and problems in Roma communities and organizations and suggest ways of solutions
- support the organizational development of the participating organizations and foundations so that they can work more efficiently
- promote successful internal and external communication and the exchange of information
- organize conferences on a regular basis to promote co-operation and team spirit among Roma civil organizations
- promote partnership among the participating organizations, municipalities and companies

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

We launched the RomaNet Programme in 2002. So far it has funded projects that served the regional co-operation, network building and development of Roma organizations.

- We have organized exchange events and training sessions to advertise successful initiatives and best practice projects

- We have built a network of Roma organizations with similar aims
- We supported co-operation among Roma organizations to promote the representation of Roma communities' interests
- We funded economic development projects that aimed to reduce unemployment rate among the Roma and improve standards of living in Roma communities
- We organized events and programmes across the borders

Conferences RomaNet 1 and RomaNet 2 (focused on) learning and training. Leaders of Roma organizations in the Carpathian region discussed the ways of co-operation and the intention to establish a civil representative network as well.

In 2006 the Programme was the subject of an external evaluating analysis by field experts. The result was a study called the Evaluation Study of the Carpathian RomaNet Programme which was published in 5 languages (English, Hungarian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, and Romanian) and circulated in 1000 copies with the support of the Open Society Institute (Budapest). (www.karpatokalapitvany.hu/romanet)



In 2006/2007, based on what the study established and with the help of the Open Society Institute, the National Civil Fund and other local organizations, we organized a training course to improve the capabilities of the participating organizations.

In 2008 the RomaNet Representative Network was set up with the purpose of improving regional Roma communities' capabilities of representation of their own interests.

In 2008 in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Hajdú-Bihar, Heves, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Nógrád, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Counties, we launched a programme of training courses and forums in order to improve and develop the Network, with a completion date in 2010. In 2009, halfway through the programme, we published an analysis for the years 2008/2009 in which the participants voiced their views and suggestions.

The participants of the forum shared the view that the main problem of the Hungarian Roma communities is that it is deeply divided this problem can only be solved if the Roma minority and the majority work together towards common aims. Without joint efforts and communication the Roma communities cannot manage their low self-esteem so they will hardly be able to stand up to express their interests efficiently.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Programme has been working for 7 years
- Co-operation with more than 500 Roma organizations (in 4 countries)
- More than 1000 participants at conferences, trainings and forums
- 16 projects funded in Hungary
- 54 projects funded in Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania
- Self-evaluation and analysis
- RomaNet Representative Network

As a result of the training programmes, the project planning and managing skills of the disadvantaged non-profit Roma organizations have improved significantly. Since the establishment of the training programme these organizations have successfully managed the resulting projects nearly 20 times.



FUTURE PLANS

- To encourage Roma organizations and communities to seek co-operation with each other to discuss problems, share experience and suggestions
- To improve the Network
- To promote co-operation among the participating civil Roma organizations
- To organize further trainings for non-profit Roma organizations that have been working for the development of Roma society and for the creation of equal opportunities