

FUTURE VISION

The Carpathian Foundation-Hungary is determined to continue and extend the “On this side of the borders and beyond the borders”- Integration and Migration in the Carpathian Basin’ Programme.

The objectives of the Foundation

- To carry on achieving our goals and spread the best practices by gaining access to further funds for the continuation of the Programme;
- To carry out scientific researches in the fields of integration and migration focusing on the link between interethnic conflicts and migration; examples and problems of reintegration of homecomers, etc.;
- To approach and involve the business sector and make that interested in the co-operation with the two other sectors;
- To increase the geographic area covered by the Programme and lift it up to an international level;
- To widen the target group of the project, especially involving youth and marginalized groups;
- To raise social consciousness and social awareness in this topic;
- To link integration and migration to successful intervention areas and methods such as environment protection, corporate social responsibility, community development.



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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Eszter Juhász-Daragó – financial assistant
Julieta Lakatos – volunteer

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US:

Carpathian Foundation-Hungary
HU-3300 Eger, Mekksey Str. 1.
Tel.: +36 36 516 750
Fax: +36 36 516 751
cfhu@cfoundation.org
www.karpatokalapitvany.hu
www.carpathianfoundation.org
TAX number: 18584642-1-10

Bank account number: 10918001-00000004-70120008

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*On this side
of the borders
and beyond
the borders*



*Integration and Migration
in the Carpathian Basin*

SERVING THE REGION
FOR 15 YEARS



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THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAMME

One of the main objectives of the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary is to draw public attention in the Carpathian region to the consequences of migration. Although we realize how difficult it is to decrease the amount of the young and qualified part of the population leaving the region, we would like to mitigate the negative effects of these migratory tendencies through our dedicated projects and the involvement of the local communities.

We attempt to make local communities and other participants (governmental, municipal & civil organizations, companies) conscious of the advantages and disadvantages of migration and integration. We support initiatives that could serve as outstanding examples for other communities as well to fight against migration successfully.



MIGRATION IN THE REGION

As a result of Hungary's accession to the European Union and the Schengen Treaty, local communities with low mobility have suffered significant damage in recent years. Migration among the young and the qualified, especially from North-Eastern Hungary, Transylvania, Eastern Slovakia and the Sub-Carpathian part of Ukraine has increased considerably. The triggers of migration in Hungary are mainly the economic and social differences within the country.

In Eastern Hungary unemployment is a growing problem that makes local people, especially the young and qualified, want to relocate mainly to the Central parts of the country. The number of people choosing to leave in 2007 was 529,000 which is 8% more than it was in 2006 and 22% more than in 2005. (Central Statistics Office, Hungary 2007.)

Migration trends curb regional development as they remove the best asset: people who could generate real progress in the region. Due to this phenomenon, the region's development appears to be slowing down.

It is also a serious problem that funds aimed to help Eastern Hungary are hard to gain access to due to the fact that qualified people tend to use their skills outside the region, maybe abroad.



Taking into account that the main problem in North-Eastern Hungary is migration of the youth, the Foundation has launched the following programmes:

- **Equal Opportunities Scholarship Programme**

The Programme aims to help talented students who are either of limited means, or have disadvantageous social backgrounds to complete their university studies and also to encourage them to use their skills locally later on. As part of the Programme these students are obliged to elaborate and implement a one-year long voluntary workplan at one of the local civil organizations which also helps them to obtain work experience and to build professional contacts, relations and to have a faster access to the labour market.

- **Volunteer and Internship Programme**

For a few years now we have been offering internship positions to young people at our organization to help them gain professional experience and later, possibly, access to jobs.

- **Community Centres Development Fund**

The Fund supports the areas that are hit the worst by migration. It provides support for local communities to stay attractive for their own population and to be able to offer better opportunities to the

new generation by helping elementary and secondary schools to become community centres.

Beyond these Programmes the Foundation takes every chance to emphasize the importance of the topics of integration and migration at conferences, and by organizing workshops and reconciliation meetings for relevant stakeholders in order to raise awareness of the public as how to fight against the negative tendencies of migration.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2008/2009 the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary organized two conferences on the issue of migration for experts representing the interested municipalities, civil and business organizations from Heves County and also from its twin towns from abroad. 175 people altogether from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine attended the two conferences where field experts, sociologists, economists and council representatives shared their views on the phenomena of integration, migration, their advantages and disadvantages. The participating civil organizations, public institutions and companies also gave an account of the work they had done to counter the effects of migration. As a look into the future the attendees agreed on closer co-operation in order to decrease migration and the 17 represented organizations ratified a Memorandum that summarized the experience and suggestions of the three represented sectors: municipal, civil and entrepreneurial.



„The first stage of efficient action against the socially and culturally damaging effects of migration is the assessment of the situation in order to clearly be aware of the causes and the effects of migration. Regardless of which region, country or sector they were coming from, the attendees agreed that in dealing with migration successfully vocational, secondary and higher education have to play key roles; that quality in education needs to gain ground against quantitative and quota thinking; that the education system need to be restructured according to the requirements of the labour market.

The State also needs to play its part in the efforts to curb migration paying special attention to the education and welfare policies, vocational and adult education, and economic development. More help needs to be given to those who are made redundant to drive them back to the labour market as soon as possible, and the welfare system needs to be further developed to reach more efficiency. The State and Municipalities can help to achieve this by reducing the taxes on labour; by providing more support to the creation of new jobs; by efforts to stabilize the labour market.

Local municipalities also have to make efforts to reduce migration by remaining attractive for the young and qualified and by creating a business friendly and more liveable environment. They need to find the way to co-operate with neighbouring municipalities to think together on regional level and create a shared vision of the future. To tackle the problem the primary means is a successful economic policy which will help the welfare system as well. Migration is a result which means that all the three key players (the State, civil and business sector) need to focus on prevention.

Responsibilities of the civil organizations: to promote the values and traditions of the communities; to improve local identity and solidarity; to represent the problems of the community to the other sectors; to improve social consciousness and the sense of co-operation; to set examples by implementing and promoting best practices.

The business sector also has its own responsibility as to how it takes advantage of the good sides of migration and how it takes its share from the downside of it as well. In Africa it is said: if you want to walk fast, go on your own; if you want to get far, go with others. In the long run we need to think in strategies; to grow responsible for our closer and wider, natural and built environment and need companies that share these ideas. We need to fight the mentality still common in the state and municipal sector which only sees short term economic interests.” (Extracts from the Memorandum)