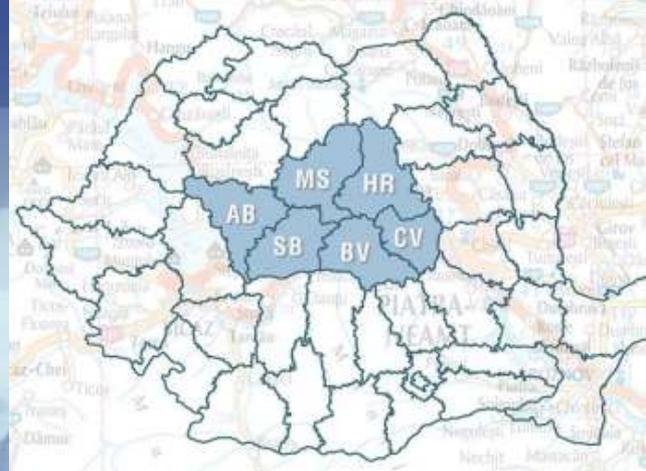




Centru Region in the context of Sustainable Development of Carpathians

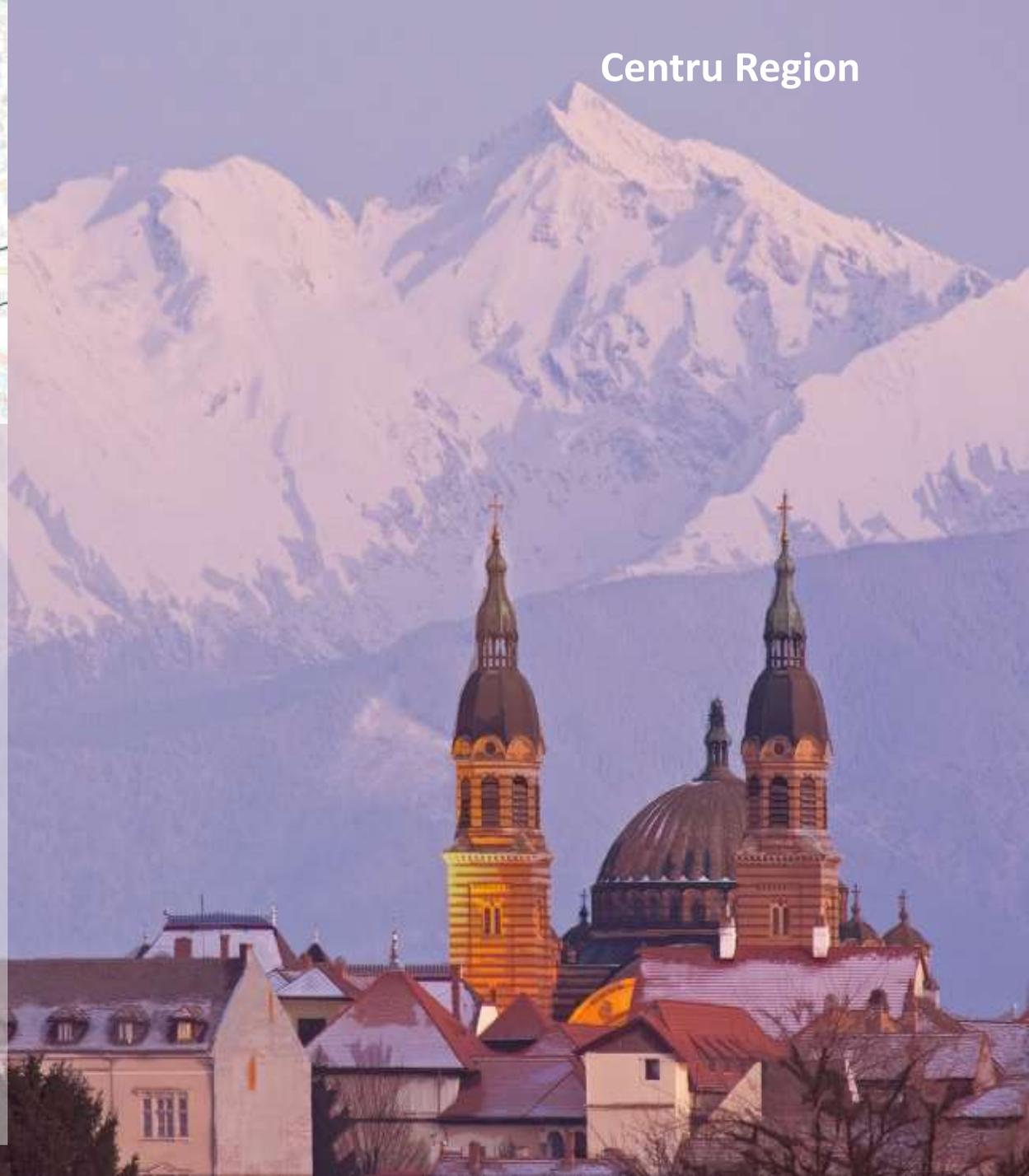
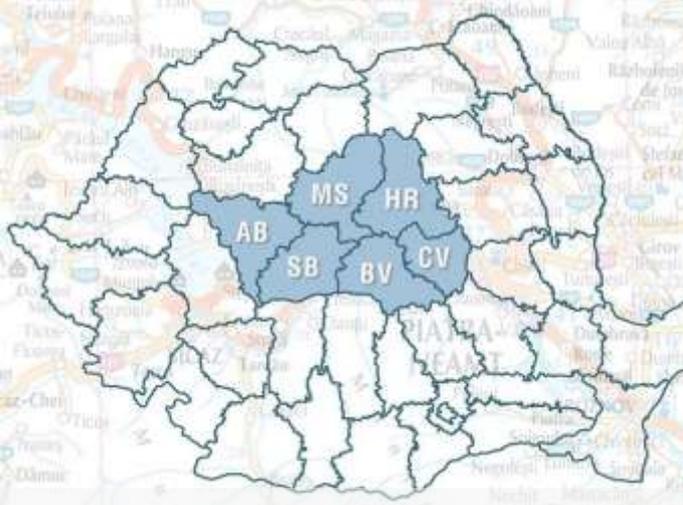
Braşov,
March 10, 2020

Centru Region



- **Area: 34 100 km²**
- **Located in the middle of Romania's territory, bordering 6 out of the other 7 Romanian regions**
- **Population: 2.32 million inhabitants**
- **6 counties: Alba, Braşov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureş, Sibiu;**
- **57 urban settlements (out of which 20 municipalities); 357 rural communes**
- **Urbanization degree: 58%**
- **Two metropolitan areas: Braşov and Târgu Mureş**
- **Ten regional universities**
- **No. of staff in universities: 2400**
- **Over 56 000 enrolled students**

Centru Region



- **Employment: 1.05 million people**
- **Employment by economic sectors: services (45.2%), industry (30.6%), agriculture (16.9%) construction (7.3%)**
- **GDP/capita (at purchasing power parity, 2017): € 17 900, 60% of the EU28 average**
- **GVA by sector: services (60.6%), industry (30.4%), construction (4.9%), agriculture (4%)**
- **FDI stock in 2018: €7.33 billion**
- **Regional exports in 2018: €10.8 billion**
- **3.1 million tourist arrivals in 2018 (1st region in Romania)**

- NGO of public utility, established in 1998 according to the Law no. 151/1998
- Elaborates and updates the strategic planning documents (Regional Development Plan, Regional Innovation Strategy)
- Conducts studies and regional analyzes on various topics about regional development
- Manages at regional level the current Regional Operational Program, co-financed by the European Union, with a 828 million Euro budget
- Ex-post monitoring of the previous operational programs (2007-2013 ROP and the Competitiveness Program)
- Develops, promotes and implements international partnerships and cooperation projects
- Promotes together with the local authorities the regional business environment and implements policies in order to attract new investments in Centru Region



Carpathian Mountains – main geographical features

- ❑ **Second mountain range in Europe, stretching over 7 countries:** The Czech Republic (3%), Slovakia (17%), Poland (10%), Hungary (4%), Ukraine (11%), Romania (53%) and Serbia (2%).
- ❑ **By length, the Carpathians ranks second in Europe,** behind the Scandinavian Mountains
- ❑ **By area, the Carpathians ranks the second,** behind the Alps
- ❑ The Carpathian Mountains shelter some of the few **virgin forests in Europe** and **one third of all plant species in Europe**
- ❑ The Carpathians provide a habitat for the largest European populations of brown bears, wolves and black goats (one third of all plant species in Europe)
- ❑ One of the **pretty populated areas** in Europe, with a large variety of settlements, ranging from small hamlets to capital cities such as Bratislava. The largest European cities located in the Carpathians are: **Bratislava and Košice** in Slovakia; **Krakow** in Poland; **Brașov, Cluj-Napoca and Sibiu** in Romania, **Miskolc** in Hungary, **Ujgorod** in Ukraine.



Carpathian Mountains in Romania

- ❑ Carpathian Mountains in Romania can be divided into **3 major parts**: Eastern Carpathians, Southern Carpathians and Western Carpathians
- ❑ The Carpathians cross the territories of 27 counties that belong to 7 Romanian Development Regions
- ❑ Total area of Carpathians in Romania: 66,300 km² (i.e. 27.8% of the territory of Romania)
- ❑ Total length of Carpathians in Romania: cca 910 km



- ❑ 64 urban cities and towns within the territory of Carpathians (excl. Transylvanian Plateau)
- ❑ Around 2500 rural settlements

Carpathian Mountains in Centru Region

Regiunea Centru - Principalele unități de relief



- ❑ Carpathian Mountains cover approx. **47%** of the Centru Region's territory
- ❑ The territory of Centru Region includes large parts of all three divisions of the Romanian Carpathians
- ❑ Carpathian Range lies across all 6 counties of Centru Region
- ❑ The main cities of our region lie in or near the mountain areas
- ❑ The Carpathians impose **significant limitations** to the territorial and socio-economic development of the Region
- ❑ Mountain characteristics impose **considerable limitations** to the development of transport network and connectivity to other regions

- ❑ **The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (abbrev. Carpathian Convention) was signed in 2003** by all 7 states crossed by Carpathian Range: **Ukraine, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania and Poland**
- ❑ **Romania ratified** the Carpathian Convention by Law no. 389/2006
- ❑ **The ad interim Secretariat** of the Convention is hosted by the city of Vienna
- ❑ **General Objective of the Carpathian Convention:** cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural and cultural heritage



- ❑ Carpathian Convention sets the **framework for cooperation in 8 thematic areas:** land management, integrated water management, conservation of biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, transport, tourism, industry and energy
- ❑ Conference of Parties (COP) is the **decision making body** of the Convention and its regular meetings are held every 3 years

Centru Region's efforts towards the implementation of the objectives of the Carpathian Convention: **actions**

- ❑ Organizing specific activities contributing to the effective implementation of the Convention and its additional Protocols
- ❑ **Inputs in preparing the Romania's Offer** for establishing in Brasov the Office of Coordination Platform for Sustainable Tourism in Carpathians
- ❑ **The Decision no. 15 of the Centru Regional Board** adopted on 15th of September 2015 expressing the support for Romanian candidacy for hosting the Office of Coordination Platform for Sustainable Tourism in the city of Brasov
- ❑ **Regional Development Board's official letter** to the National Ministries emphasizing the need for a increased involvement of Romania in all activities pursued under Carpathian Convention and the need for taking measures in order to host the Secretariat of The Convention
- ❑ Active participation of the official representatives of Centru Region at several **meetings of the working groups** in the context of intensifying the cooperation among Carpathian states

Centru Region's efforts towards the implementation of the objectives of the Carpathian Convention: **results**

- ❑ Official opening on May 10, 2017 of the **Office of the Coordination Platform for Sustainable Tourism**
- ❑ International meeting of the **Working Group on the Sustainable Tourism in Carpathians** organized by the Office of the Platform for Sustainable Tourism, in September 2017
- ❑ Creating a **database for sustainable tourism** in Carpathians
- ❑ Participation in the **“Carpathian Route”** – exploring, promoting and protecting the rich natural and cultural heritage of Carpathian Region



EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region

– common objective for the post-2020 period

Purpose: To increase the quality of life of the inhabitants, maintaining the cultural and environmental values. It would:

- ❑ contribute to achieving the fundamental objective of the EU: **strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of Europe**
- ❑ allow the **extension of cooperation on multiple levels**: regional, interregional and inter-states
- ❑ **multiply the strategic cooperation areas**: economy, infrastructure, environmental and landscape protection, cultural heritage, tourism
- ❑ allow the implementation of **common policies for sustainable development** in accordance with the specific needs identified
- ❑ create **synergies with other cooperation instruments** such as the Carpathian Convention
- ❑ facilitate the positive experiences of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region to be adapted to their own needs

Reasons for adopting a EU Strategy for Carpathian Macroregion

Benefits of adopting an EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region

- ❑ Creating a **political-institutional framework** that could better respond to the specific needs of this area
- ❑ **Strategic vision, better coordination** of different policies and programs, well-defined strategic objectives
- ❑ **Improved access to financing sources** by developing various programs that support the achievement of strategic objectives and avoid overlaps and misalignments caused by the lack of the Strategy (biodiversity vs. agriculture, forestry vs. combating climate change, etc.)
- ❑ Opportunity for implementing **projects with a wider territorial coverage** (projects for the development of sustainable transport, trans-Carpathian tourist routes, projects aimed at protecting biodiversity, etc.)
- ❑ Creating a favorable framework for **extended cooperation between the states, regions and communities** in the Carpathian Mountains

Reasons for adopting a EU Strategy for Carpathian Macroregion

Geographical, historical and cultural arguments

- ❑ The Carpathian Range is of **strategic importance to Romania** (located in the territory of 27 counties, 28% of the national territory) **but also to Europe** (2nd mountain range in length and area, 7 European states, of which 5 are EU member states)
- ❑ **Unique and invaluable ecosystems** that require well-coordinated policies and programs in the field of biodiversity conservation
- ❑ **High economic potential**, but also difficulties and limitations in using this potential given the topographic features
- ❑ **Cultural diversity**: seven European nations, but also local specificity of small communities living in this area, under increasing threaten of extinction



Reasons for adopting a EU Strategy for Carpathian Macroregion

Political arguments

- ❑ **Already existing strategies at macro-regional level as a tool for strengthening territorial cohesion** (4 macro-regional strategies, including the Strategy for the Alpine Region- EUSALP have already been adopted by the E.U.)
- ❑ **The experience gained in the last 15 years** by the governmental, regional and local authorities from all 7 Carpathian States
- ❑ Clear interest expressed by the official representatives from the Carpathian countries in a future Strategy for the Carpathian Mountains Region, involving local and regional actors from all 7 Carpathian states
- ❑ Testing the feasibility of a **cooperation mechanism** between the Danube Strategy and the Carpathian Convention
- ❑ **Declaration in favour of establishing the EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region** adopted in March 2018 by the Carpathian Interregional Group within the European Committee of Regions and subsequently the support decision issued by Centru Regional Development Board members



**Thank you
for your attention!**

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