

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH HUNGARIAN PEOPLES IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

AGREEMENT

We the undersigned, the *Government of Hungary* and the *representatives of Hungarian Peoples in the Carpathian Basin*, in harmony with:

- Hungary's Constitution,
- the Final Declaration of the Hungarian Permanent Conference,
- the natural demand for national unity,
- the experiences of a millennium-long cohabitation within the region,
- the fact that, the basis of Hungarian-Hungarian relations has been the mutual responsibility, since 2010, when the present Government took office,

do hereby conclude the following *Agreement*, confirmed with our signatures on this day, February 7, 2012.

We agree with and wish to cooperate in the realisation of the National Rural Development Programme, as determined in the Chapter of Hungary's "*National Rural Strategy 2020*" entitled "*Cross-Border Cooperation on Rural Development with Hungarian Peoples in the Carpathian Basin*", which is an integral part of this agreement. The majority of Hungarian peoples within the Carpathian Basin live in rural communities, thus their survival is greatly dependent on the state of villages, small towns, and the landscape, and within that on the state of agriculture. For this reason, the development of regional areas is also a basic strategic issue of national policy for the survival of the Hungarian people.

We believe that with mutual responsibility and our harmonised actions, we serve the advancement and development of the Hungarian nation. A leading role within this strategy is the development of the natural, social and economic fields in the Carpathian Basin, including rural areas.

We, the representatives of signatory organisations operating in the countries of the region, hereby express our intention that we are ready to cooperate with Hungary, its farming organisations, and other Hungarian organisations affiliated with this *Agreement* operating in the countries of the Carpathian Basin – Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Ukraine – in order to enforce the interests of Hungarian peoples.

We hereby acknowledge and accept that following the signing of the Agreement, other Hungarian organisations that express their readiness to cooperate in accordance with the Strategy may become affiliated with this Agreement, and to the Carpathian Basin Cooperation Programme of the National Rural Strategy, in order to further strengthen national unity and in the interests of realising the strategic goals. Subsequent affiliation may only occur after consultation with the present signatories, and when agreed upon by the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the State Secretariat for National Policy of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary.

Considering the fact that the majority of states within the region share similar positions as former members of the soviet block, the problems we face and which require solutions are similar as well. Through our strategy, we also hope to win the support of neighbouring countries, so enabling us to formulate and find common solutions to our common problems in unity, and to prepare and adopt a *Common European Regional Strategy*.

The bedrock for our agreement has been laid by the accession of the region's countries to the European Union, or in certain cases by upcoming membership being on the agenda, which provides the opportunity for the enforcement of regional interests within this community. For this reason, we support the formulation of a long-term development strategy for the Carpathian Basin, the priority of which is the enhancement of the economic space within the Carpathian Basin, including rural areas.

The *Hungarian Government* shall convene a plenary meeting every two years with participation of the *signatories of the Agreement*, at which it will take part in the joint assessment of results, determine further measures, and support the realisation of goals with the resources available. The Hungarian Government will hold separate talks with the representatives of the various countries, signing this agreement if required.

The *undersigned Cross-border Hungarian Organisations* are committed to supporting the endeavours of Hungary in their own Governmental policies with relation to extending the "*National Rural Strategy 2020*" into a *Carpathian Basin Strategy*, and furthermore harmonise the preparation and realisation of their own rural development projects with this strategic plan.

Signatories to the *Agreement* at time of publication:

Hungary:

.....
Zsolt Semjén
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister without portfolio
responsible for foreign affairs

.....
Sándor Fazekas
Minister for Rural Development
Ministry of Rural Development

.....
Zsolt Németh
Parliamentary State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

.....
István Jakab
President
Hungarian Farmers' Association

Cross-Border Organisations:

AUSTRIA

.....
Hungarian Cultural Association of Burgenland

CROATIA

.....
Democratic Union of Hungarians of Croatia

ROMANIA

.....
National Assembly of
Transylvanian Hungarians

.....
Hungarian People's Party
of Transylvania

.....
Hungarian Civic Party

.....
Democratic Union of
Hungarians in Romania

.....
Romanian Hungarian Farmers' Association

SERBIA

.....
North Vojvodina Union of
Agricultural Associations

.....
Democratic Party of
Vojvodina Hungarians

.....
Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians

SLOVAKIA

.....
Party of the Hungarian Coalition

SLOVENIA

.....
Prekmurje Hungarian Self-Governing
National Community

UKRAINE

.....
Hungarian Cultural Association
of Transcarpathia

.....
"Terra Dei" Foundation

.....
Hungarian Democratic Federation
in Ukraine

Organisations Joined to the *Agreement*: