

14 The approach to tourism and natural/cultural heritage in the Carpathians region

14.1 Tourism

The economic impact of tourism, the role of tourism – the “business sector of the 21st century” – in economic and regional development has been a commonplace for a long time. In the 1990s the relatively rapid general growth of the world economy created favourable conditions for the growth of tourism. Presently tourism accounts for approximately 12% of the world’s GDP and employs over 200 million people worldwide. In 2005 the number of tourist arrivals reached 808 million, exceeding all previous figures.

The year 2007 has started with a very positive growth of global tourism. From January through April, international tourist arrivals worldwide rose by over 6% to 252 million, representing an additional 15 million arrivals as against the same period in 2006. Asia and the Pacific (+9%) achieved the strongest growth, followed by Africa (+8%), the Middle East (+8%) and Europe (+6%). Several positive factors contributed to the growth registered in the first four months of this year, and are likely to help sustain it through the coming months.

Continuing world prosperity has clearly been a main driver. Emerging markets and developing economies in general, and especially those of Asia, maintained their extraordinary strength. Meanwhile, in continental Europe, and in Germany in particular, economic growth has picked up substantially. With increasing disposable income and factors such as the continued development of low cost airlines making travel available for larger shares of population, international tourism has a development potential for another year of above average growth.

The growing recognition of tourism’s contribution to economic growth and job creation means that it is being given more and more attention by national governments, especially those in developing regions. Increased investment in infrastructure, marketing and promotion, development of domestic markets, liberalization of air transport, growing intraregional cooperation, and a growing number of public-private partnerships are key factors that have helped the tourism industry to expand.

Although Europe (+6%) is the world’s most visited and most mature destination region, its arrivals growth rates in 2005 and 2006 were not far short of the worldwide average. And growth continued even more strongly through the first four months of 2007 supported by the sustained boom in the world economy – a boom in which Europe is now sharing more emphatically, with notably higher rates of GDP growth in the eurozone (Source: World Tourism Organisation).

A social and economic phenomenon of this volume has a huge influence on the economic, social and cultural life of the concerned countries and greatly contributes to the alteration of the physical environment of the human kind.

The impacts of tourism can be classified as economic, socio-cultural and physical-environmental effects. The economic impacts of tourism can be taken as changes in the economic features and economic structure of places of origin and destinations, induced by tourism; the physical-environmental effects are changes taking place in the natural and the built environment of destinations as an effect of tourism; the social effects are changes that take place in the quality of life of the people of the destination (and to a lesser extent in the lives of the tourists) as a development of the tourism sector. While the economic impacts are visible in both the places of origin and destinations (although they are usually stronger at the destinations), the socio-cultural and the physical-environmental effects are much more striking at the destinations.

There are possible overlaps among the economic, physical and cultural impacts of tourism. E.g. the development of infrastructure needs in order to meet tourism demand or on the basis of revenues from tourism can be seen both as economic results and as factors improving the quality of life of the local population; on the other hand, the conditions of the natural environment are mostly negatively affected by the infrastructure investments.

If we concentrate on the socio-cultural impacts of tourism, the social effects are the changes in the everyday lives of the local population, the adaptation of the local citizens to the presence and operation of tourism, whereas the cultural effects are those changes in the value system of the local population which also influence the social relations and the material culture of the local community.

The social effects of development or transitions can be categorised in the following way (*Rätz, 1999*):

- Grouping of the social impacts of tourism:
- Impacts on the population.
- Change in the number of population.
- In outflow of temporary employees.
- Presence of temporary population (holidaymakers).
- Movement of individuals and families.
- Change of the distribution by age, gender, race and ethnic group.
- Urbanisation of the population.

Transformation of the labour market:

- Creation of new jobs.
- Growth of seasonal employment.
- Diversification of the economic activities.

- Increase in the economic disparities.
- Changes in the employment opportunities of the minority groups.
- Change of employment possibilities.

Transformation of the community features and structure:

- Emergence of new social classes.
- Change in the economic orientation of the community.
- Emergence of weekend (recreation) residents.
- Conflicts with those coming from the outside.
- Transformation of the political, social, religious and ethic value systems.
- Emergence of religious differences within the community.
- Changes in the infrastructure of the community.
- Changes in the access to land and disposition over land.

Changes at the individual and family level:

- Disturbance of the daily routine.
- Change of the family structure.
- Disintegration of the social networks.
- Change of the attitudes towards public health and public security.
- Changes in leisure activities.
- Transformation of the consumption patterns.

Impacts on the natural and cultural resources:

- Increased protection of resources.
- Damage or deterioration of resources.
- Crowdedness, over-exploitation, pollution.
- Commercialisation.
- Transformation of traditions and habits.

The regions of the Carpathian Mountain Range have usually many tourist attractions and relatively long traditions of tourism.

The following section is to illustrate the main tourism endowments of the countries constituting the Carpathians cooperation area, with special emphasis on the regions in the respective countries that are actually located in the Carpathian's physical geographical area.

14.1.1 General features of the tourism endowments in the cooperation area

Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine have relatively little in common, especially e.g. between Austria and Serbia, two countries that do not even have territories directly belonging to the Carpathian Mountain Range. Slovakia has practically its entire territory in the cooperation area (and much of the country in the actual mountain range), relatively large parts of Romania belong to the Carpathians, whereas in the Czech Republic and Poland it is a much smaller part of the country, in Ukraine a negligible part of the vast country is part of the cooperation region in question. Hungary has no direct physical geographical part on the Carpathians mountain range, either.

In Austria, Serbia and Romania the relatively more advanced region(s), in Hungary and Poland the less developed ones, in Ukraine definitely the poorest region make parts of the cooperation area, so the socio-economic development level across the Carpathian's area is varied. The facts that the mountain range is less suitable for intensive agricultural activities and in some cases they are the least developed parts of the respective countries make a large the Carpathians cooperation area suitable for the environmental conscious forms of tourism (ecotourism). The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) is a cooperation of seven of the eight respective countries (all but Austria), in which the development of tourism is an important activity. The CERI Tourism Working Group was established to support high quality tourism with special focus on ecotourism in the Carpathians, which has an enormous potential to bring together nature conservation and rural development. The working group consists of CERI members from all over the Carpathians. At their first workshop held on October 2-3, 2006, not only members of the CERI Tourism WG, but also interested people working in the field of ecotourism or in Protected Area Authorities, came together to actually set up the group and discuss future plans. The group elaborated the list of threats and obstacles for sustainable development in terms of sustainable tourism in the Carpathians. Furthermore, the CERI Tourism WG agreed to develop a Carpathian-wide ecotourism project, which will be its major task for 2008 and will help to strengthen the 'Corporate Identity' within the Carpathians.

14.1.2 Basic tourism endowments of the respective countries of the Carpathian regions

Austria

In Austria the most advanced areas of the country (Lower Austria including Vienna) are parts of the Carpathians cooperation area. Given the importance of the tourism sector in Austria (around the eighth-tenth position as regard international tourism revenues and the first place in the world as regards the tourism revenues per capita), the project area is also a very important tourism destination with many sorts of attractions (architecture, arts, events and festivals, skiing, water sports, hiking etc.) Lower Austria is a colourful mosaic of its counties, each with an individual attraction (huge pear tree fields, impressive wine terraces like in the Wachau valley, many wine cellars and cellar lanes in the country around Retz, wine taverns in the spa region and primeval forests like along the Danube, March and Thaya rivers.

Czech Republic

The White Carpathian's territory was established hundreds of years ago and has the character of an extensive English park. The forest areas (45%) alternate flowery meadows with solitary, ragged oaks and beeches. It is unique in Europe.

This is the southwest end of the Carpathian Mountain range, which includes highlands and mountainous areas in the Moravian part of the White Carpathian Mountains, in the regions of Zlín, Hodonín and Uherské Hradiště. The White Carpathians are orchid flower meadows in the vicinity of Čertory, the picturesque landscape of Kopanice, with scattered settlements and an area of beech groves in the surrounding area of the Vlárský Pass. The mountain range of the White Carpathians extends over the border between the Czech Republic and Slovakia at a length of over 80 kilometres.

The Czech part of the protected landscape area is 70 kilometers long. The White Carpathians represent an exceptional area among large-scale protected areas in the Czech Republic, above all because this area is the highest mountain range in the southwest border of the actual Carpathian Mountains.

The White Carpathians are a European biosphere reservation in terms of the Man and Biosphere program (MAB) implemented by UNESCO.

The White Carpathians have become known for being a territory with the highest level of diversity and greatest number of orchidaceous plants (orchids) in Central Europe.

Poland

Poland has one of the most varied tourism assets in the cooperation area. Mountains, forests, sandy beaches, culture and more than a thousand years of history – all that can be found here and the country is becoming more and more popular as a holiday destination.

The Carpathian and Sudety Mountains form Poland's southern boundary with the highest summit in the country, the Rysy (2,499 m), located in the Tatra Mountains. Probably one of Poland's greatest attractions is nature, coming from the variety of breathtaking natural landscapes. Wild, untouched, more diverse than in most countries either in Europe or the world and, what is more, easily accessible. Tourists value this greatly and their number is constantly increasing.

Zakopane, Poland's premier mountain resort and one of the country's most popular holiday destinations, both in the winter for skiing, and in the summer, for hiking and camping, can be found in the Carpathian part of Poland. The town called the Winter capital of Poland lies in the southern part of the Podhale region, at the foothills of the Tatra Mountains, with the exception of the Karkonosze mountains the only Alpine mountain range in this part of Europe. Zakopane is the biggest Polish centre of mountain hiking and skiing. The town is visited by about 2,000,000 tourists a year.

The Carpathian area of Poland is home to several national parks of which the tourism value is ever increasing. These national parks are the Babia Gora National Park (region of Malopolska), on the border with Slovakia; the Bieszczady National Park, the third largest national park in Poland, also located at the border with the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. The Park is populated by a relative high number of species, which are considered to be threatened or rare in other parts of Europe (particularly large carnivorous mammals such as bears, wolves and lynxes); the Gorce National Park in the central and north-eastern part of Gorce mountain range, in southern Poland (region of Malopolska), where forests, most of which exceed 100 years of age, cover almost 95% of the Park's area; the Góry Stolowe National Park, spreading over the Polish part of the Stolowe Mountains, which create the central part of Middle Sudety range, in south-western Poland (region Lower Silesia) of on the border with the Czech Republic. The Park has huge and dense forests; the Karkonosze National Park (in Dolnoslaski region in south-western Poland at the border with the Czech Republic. Karkonosze), the highest mountain group of the Sudety range; the Magura National Park (located in Podkarpackie and Malopolskie regions), the river head of the Wisloka, a typical mountain river which together with its many tributaries is a significant element of the landscape, forming picturesque gorges and bends and often changing directions. The Park is one of the richest animal mainstays in the Beskid Niski range; the Ojców National Park (in Malopolskie region), the smallest National Park in

Poland, with a surface built of Jurassic limestone, where karst waters sculpted in the valleys peculiar landscape forms, steep canyons and various rocks and mogotes; the Pieniny National Park in the Pieniny Mountains in Malopolskie region at the border with the Slovak Republic, formed of various types of limestone, the hardest of them, called cornstone, forming picturesque, almost vertical white cliffs over the Dunajec river; and finally the Tatra National Park, located in Malopolska region, at the border with the Slovak Republic, founded in 1954 to protect the Tatra Mountains. The Park is founded on the area of the youngest, highest and Poland's only Alpine mountains with diverse relief and height differences reaching up to 1700 m. The highest peak in the Polish part of the Tatras is Mt. Rysy (2,499 m). The Park has more than 650 caves, 6 of which are open for tourists. The Park has numerous streams and about 30 lakes, which are an important element of the landscape of the High Tatras.

Romania

The National Tourist Office of the country does not specifically list the Carpathians among the main tourism attractions of Romania on their official website, but some attractions among the special interests contain a Carpathian elements. These elements are listed in the pages below.

The Dracula Legend

Many "Dracula Tours" are being offered throughout Romania, including the most important historical places related to Vlad Tepes, such as 14th century town of Sighisoara – Vlad's birthplace; the Snagov Monastery – where, according to legend, Vlad is said to be buried after his assassination; Castle Bran (Castle Dracula); the Poenari fortress; the village of Arefu – where many Dracula legends are still told; the city of Braşov – where Vlad led raids against the Saxon merchants; and, of course, Curtea Domneasca – Dracula's palace in Bucharest.

German (Saxon) Heritage

Romania's significant German (Saxon) heritage is obvious in Southern Transylvania; Transylvania is home to hundreds of well-preserved Saxon towns, villages and fortified churches built between the 13th and 15th centuries by Saxons. Saxons came to Transylvania during the mid 1100s from the Rhine and Moselle Rivers' regions. The result of almost nine centuries of existence of the Saxon (German) community in Southern Transylvania is a cultural and architectural heritage, unique in Europe. Besides the well-known Sighisoara, Sibiu and Braşov the following towns also feature a unique Saxon Heritage: Biertan, Saschiz, Medias, Sebes, Bistrita, Cincu, Prejmer, Harman, Rupea.

Arts & Architecture

Romanians' vivid imagination and intense spirituality have always been expressed through their architecture. Fortunately, they also have strong preservation instincts, resulting in village museums that display bygone ways of life through found and restored peasant houses, elaborately carved gates, barns and other architectural elements. Such a museum in the cooperation area is the Museum of Peasant Techniques (Muzeul Tehnicii Populare) in Sibiu, with collections of early farm tools and household implements.

Romania's most renowned architectural treasures in the Transylvanian region are Black Church (Braşov), Bran Castle (Bran), Brukenthal Palace (Sibiu), Hunedoara Castle (near Deva), Sighisoara Medieval Town, Sibiu – Old Town, Braşov – Old Town, Fortified Churches in Biertan, Harman and Prejmer; in Maramureş the most interesting places to visit are the Wooden Churches, Wood Museum, Sighet Synagogue (Sighetu Marmatiei), and Satu Mare Synagogue, as well as the traditional villages of wooden houses, many with sculpted designs on balconies and around the entrances, towering carved wooden gates, attached to fences half their size, rising even in front of modest dwellings. Popular motifs include grapevines, acorns, twisted rope, sun symbols, crosses and forest animals. The villages of Barsana and Oncesti have, perhaps, the greatest number of impressive gates.

Hardly a village lacks its own small wooden church dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. These are exquisite, high-steepled jewels with multiple gabled roofs, all of the pattern, yet each distinctly unique. Seeing at least a few interiors is a must as many frescoes remain in good condition.

While the main tourist activities in Maramureş are gate-, church- and people-viewing, the town of Sighetu Marmatiei has a few attractions worth visiting. The outdoor village museum, on the road into town, boasts of dozens of homes and farm buildings assembled from around Maramureş County.

Slovakia

Tourism in Slovakia began to develop in the mid-19th century, when travellers started to visit the High Tatra and Low Tatra Mountains. The first accommodation and catering facilities were built in the late 19th century and this development was accelerated after 1918 with the creation of Czechoslovakia. After the fall of Communism in 1989, Slovakia's tourism began to adapt to the conditions of market economy. The facilities were gradually privatised and new facilities were built.

Tourism in Slovakia offers natural landscapes, mountains, caves, medieval castles and towns, folk architecture, spas and ski resorts. The most attractive destinations are the capital of Bratislava and the High Tatras. Some 40% of Slovakia is covered with forests which, contain a wide biodiversity and animals. Slovakia

features a high percentage of wildlife included in protected areas. There are hardly any mountain ranges and areas not protected in some way. Among Slovakia's main tourist attractions we find the Tatra Mountains, particularly the High Tatras), the highest part of the Carpathians. They feature many rare plant and animal species and offer numerous ski, hiking and mountaineering opportunities.

Rivers and streams in the mountains of Slovakia are often used for rafting and other white-water based activities and sports. The use of rafts has a very long tradition and especially rafts on the spectacular Dunajec river are very popular among tourists.

Slovakia contains numerous mineral springs and spas. Slovakia's spas, including Balneological spas (Bojnice, Brusno, Dudince, Lúčky, Piešťany, Sklené Teplice, Sliač, Smrdáky, Trenčianske Teplice, Turčianske Teplice), climatic spas (Nový Smokovec, Štós, Štrbské Pleso, Tatranské Matliare, High Tatras) and mixed spas (Bardejovské Kúpele, Číž, Nimnica, Rajecké Teplice and Vyšné Ružbachy).

New water parks are mushrooming throughout the country (for example Tatrallandia in Liptovský Mikuláš, Aquacity in Poprad, and Aquathermal in Senec).

Slovakia's karst areas offer an extremely high number of caves and their list is being expanded every year due to new discoveries. The number of caves per capita is among the highest ones in Europe. Thirteen caves are open to the public, the longest one being 9 kilometres long. Some of them have been proclaimed UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Among them, Ochtinská Aragonite Cave is one of three aragonite caves in the world.

Slovakia has a lot of castles, most of which are in ruins. The best known castles include Bojnice Castle (often used as a filming location), Spiš Castle (the largest fortified castle in Europe, on the UNESCO list), Orava Castle, Bratislava Castle, and the ruins of Devín Castle. Čachtice Castle used to be home of the world's most prolific female serial killer, the 'Bloody Lady', Elizabeth Báthory.

Due to Slovakia's central position in Europe and the country's past, most cities and towns are similar to the cities in the Czech Republic (such as Prague), Austria (such as Salzburg) or Hungary (such as Budapest) and are rather cosmopolitan. A historic centre with at least one square has been preserved in almost every town in Slovakia. Large historic centres can be found especially in Bratislava, Košice, Banská Štiavnica, and Levoča. Some towns have their own castles (for example Kremnica, Bratislava, and Banská Štiavnica). Most town centers have been rearranged in recent years.

Ancient stone churches can be found in virtually any village and town in Slovakia. Most of them are built in the Baroque style, but there are also many examples of fine Romanesque and Gothic architecture. The St. James Church in Levoča (with the highest wood-carved altar in the world) and the Church of the

Holy Spirit in Žehra (with precious medieval frescos) are UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

Very precious structures are the complete wooden churches of northern and northern-eastern Slovakia. Most were built from the 15th century onwards by Catholics, Lutherans and members of eastern-rite churches.

Slovakia is also rich in songs, dances, folk art, folk costumes and folk architecture.

The national parks of the country are Vysoke Tatry, Nizke Tatry, Mala Fatra, Slovensky raj, Pieniny, Poloniny and Muranska planina.

Ukraine

The region of Transcarpathia is one of the most picturesque places in the country and has particularly pleasant conditions for tourism and recreation development. Transcarpathia is considered to be one of the best ecological regions in the country.

The diversity of landscape, unspoiled countryside, and a temperate climate create favourable conditions for recreation and skiing in winter. Mineral and thermal water resources contribute to the development of tourism and leisure activities as one of the main fields in the regional economy.

Nowadays the regional system of sanatoria and tourist-recreation institutions is one of the biggest in Ukraine, numbering 17 sanatoria, 19 sanatorium-preventive clinics, more than 70 tourist centres, leisure centres, and medical and health care institutions. The system can cater for more than 12,000 people at any time.

The pride of the region is "The Centre of Europe", Lake Synevyr, Narcissus Valley and many others. The Biosphere reserves, national and regional parks, which cover an area of more than 130 hectares, are also major tourist attractions.

Some 62 agencies and enterprises provide tourism services in the region.

Construction of new modern hotels, tourist and skiing centres continues apace. In the last few years the following centres and complexes were opened: tourist centre Podobovetz' (Mizhgyrya district); tourist and health care complex Vojvodyno (Perechyn district); hotel complex At Taras's Place (Svalyava district); motel Nadiya (village of Volovetz); and the hotels Duet, Eduard and Atlant (Uzhhorod).

About 600 tourist itineraries and routes facilitate the development of internal tourism throughout the region by way of hiking, bus, train, skiing routes and children's excursions.

Transcarpathia is famed for its landmarks. There are several notable historical, archeological and architectural heritage sites in the region. The best known among them are: Fortress of Uzhhorod (16th century); Castle Palanok in Mukachevo (14th-17th centuries); Palace of the Counts Schönborns in the village of

Chynadiovo; fortifications (castles) in Khust, Korolevo, Serechnye, and Nevits'ke villages. There is much to see of preserved local folk heritage.

Recently the countries of Central and Western Europe have started showing particular interest in non-traditional types of tourism and recreation in the region, e.g. rural, bicycle and ecological tourism. At present many locals are eager and able to be hosts to visitors from other regions and abroad.

Many tourist and recreation services in Transcarpathia are based on natural resources. Top place belongs to mineral waters, whose medicinal characteristics were mentioned in the ancient archive documents of the mid-15th century. Some deposits are unique, and their water is effective and valuable for sanatorium treatment and preventing diseases of the digestive organs, vestibular and locomotion systems, and cardio-vascular and peripheral nervous systems. The most popular among the sanatoria are: Svalyava district – Sonyachne Zakarpattya, Polyana, Kvytka Polonyny'; Mukachevo district – Karpaty, Synyak; Mizhhirya district – Verhovyna; Khust district – Shayan.

Ecological and rural tourism is a significant development factor in the mountain areas of the region, especially in Rakhiv district, supported by the Carpathian Foundation. There, an ecological route has been created through Chornohirya virgin forests to as far as Hoverla, Transcarpathia's highest summit.

Hungary

Although most foreigners only acknowledge the capital city, Budapest and the Lake Balaton, and perhaps the "puszta" (Great Hungarian Plain) as the tourism destinations in Hungary, there is much more in Hungary than these. Despite repeated historical disasters which devastated both the people and their heritage, much remains of great value that is worth visiting and getting to know, including 2000-year-old Roman ruins and 400-year-old Turkish monuments (which can sometimes be found side-by-side), beautiful churches from the Romanesque period, stately castles, magnificent palaces functioning as hotels awaiting tourists. Hundreds of therapeutic mineral springs gush up from the depths, helping many thousands to recover their health (Hungary is among the world's richest countries in thermal and mineral waters); the rich Hungarian folk art also attracts a number of tourists.

Among the physical geographical endowments of Hungary with a special value for tourism are the ten national parks in Hungary. In addition to the visit to national parks, several other nature-based activities can be pursued in many places in Hungary, including hunting, angling, horse riding etc. Gastronomy and the historic wine producing regions (and the established wine roads) are also attractions of international recognition.

Hungary is becoming a more and more popular MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, events) tourism destination (congresses, arts festivals, summer universities, international fairs and exhibitions, sports events etc.).

In those areas of Hungary where the favourable physical geographical conditions are matched by cultural and economic assets, contiguous tourism regions were born. The most important of these is the Selected Holiday Region of the Lake Balaton, but there are other significant tourism regions such as the Danube Bend, the Velence Lake, the Mátra and Bükk Mountains, Sopron–Közszeghegyalja and the Mecsek–Villány region.

14.2 Heritage sites in the Carpathians area

14.2.1 Culture as a driving force of economic development

Culture used in the most comprehensive approach covers practically all fields of life from the mother language, education, sports, arts, public collections, cultural heritage, media, higher education, science, moral life and faith. Nevertheless in the public thinking it is usually only a narrower definition of culture that is frequently used: mostly arts, cultural heritage and media.

It is meaningless to put a sharp division line between traditional, “economic” products and cultural products. The economy cannot function efficiently and cannot be competitive in the long run without continuously absorbing culture, both as regards the methods of production and the final products, and – above all – the human communities, the individuals that create and operate the systems of productions and the physical goods themselves. Culture and economy are thus interrelated and mutually depend on each other. This also means that culture cannot exist without the financial support of the economy; the different forms of arts cannot exist without state support, or sponsorship.

Many studies have been carried out so far on the economic impact of cultural industry. The earnings in the cultural or creative industry are usually above the average; also, culture is a powerful tool to strengthen urban or regional identity which can be a valuable development asset of any territory.

There is a very tight correlation between culture and knowledge based society, for the creation of which many efforts have been made in many countries of the world. Although much of the literature and survey on the economic impact of heritage and culture is connected to the Anglo-Saxon countries of other parts of Western Europe, the growing interest in the countries involved in the Carpathians area is also indicated by the fact that culture is no longer considered as a “side-product” in these countries but as an import economic development tool.

14.2.2 Heritage sites in the Carpathian's area

Within culture, heritage is one of the most important assets on which development in general can be built on. In tourism, the role of natural and cultural heritage is even more important.

In this respect the regions in the Carpathians area are in a relatively good position, as most of the world heritage sites of the respective countries can be found in the regions of the Carpathians Mountain Range (*Table 37*).

A specific feature of the Carpathian area is that there are several areas inhabited by more than one nationality with distinctive cultural heritage and there are areas which were inhabited in the past by national and religious groups which do not live there any more. Several churches, synagogues, monuments and buildings became victims of national ideologies. These ideologies promoted and cared for the protection of national cultural heritage supporting their interpretation of national history, and neglected those elements of cultural heritage, which did not fit into this conception. Therefore, in all countries of the region legal and professional arrangements are needed to preserve the respect for and memory of all nations and nationalities, language and religious groups, which created a specific cultural heritage.

Table 37

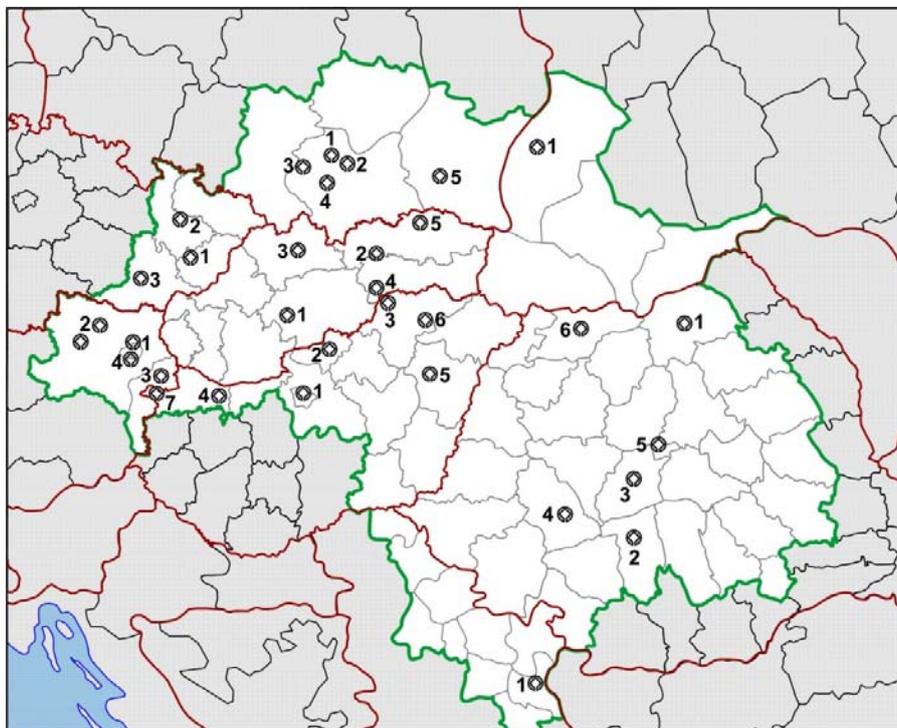
*Total number of UNESCO world heritage sites in the countries
of the Carpathian area and number of world heritage sites in the respective
Carpathian regions in our survey*

Country	Total number of UNESCO world heritage sites	Number of UNESCO world heritage sites in the Carpathian regions
Austria	8	4
Czech Republic	12	3
Hungary	8	7
Poland	13	4
Romania	7	6
Serbia	3	0
Slovakia	5	5
Ukraine	3	1

Source: UNESCO.

Figure 14

The World Cultural Heritage Sites of the Carpathians



Legend: *Austria:* (1) Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn (1996); (2) Towns Krems, Melk; (3) Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (2001); (4) Historic Centre of Vienna (2001). *Czech Republic:* (1) Gardens and Castle, Kroměříž (1998); (2) Holy Trinity Column, Olomouc (2000); (3) Tugendhat Villa, Brno (2001). *Hungary:* (1) Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (1987, 2002); (2) Old Village, Hollókő (1987); (3) Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (1995, 2000); (4) Millenary Benedictine Abbey, Pannonhalma (1996); (5) Hortobágy National Park – the Puszta (1999); (6) Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (2002); (7) Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (2001). *Poland:* (1) Cracow's Historic Centre (1978); (2) Wieliczka Salt Mine (1978); (3) Auschwitz (Oswiecim) Concentration Camp (1979); (4) Kalwaria Zebrzydowska: the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park (1999); (5) Wooden Churches of Southern Little Poland (2003). *Romania:* (1) Churches of Moldavia; (2) Monastery, Horezu; (3) Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania – Extension of “Biertan and its Fortified Church” (1993, 1999); (4) Dacian Fortresses of the Orastie Mountains (1999); (5) Historic Centre of Sighișoara (1999); (6) Wooden Churches of Maramureș (1999). *Slovakia:* (1) Historic Town, Technical Monuments, Banská Štiavnica (1993); (2) Spišský Hrad, Associated Cultural Monuments (1993); (3) Vlkolinec (1993) – Zilina Region; (4) Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (1995, 2000); (5) Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve (2000). *Ukraine:* (1) L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (1998). *Serbia:* (1) Ravanica monastery.

Source: Author's construction, UNESCO.

In the Carpathian region deliberate destruction of cultural heritage – experienced in the Balkan wars – did not occur. But some bias in favour of national heritage occurred. UNESCO World Cultural Heritage nominations serve for it as an example.

There are 36 registered UNESCO World Heritage items in the Carpathian area (*Figure 14*).

Poland signed the agreement with the UNESCO in 1976. Until 1997 no heritage site was nominated in the new territories, belonging formerly to Germany.

Romania signed the agreement in 1990. The first Saxonian city, Sighisoara was nominated in 1999.

A large part of Ukraine's valuable architectural heritage – the countries only renaissance castles, palaces are in the Carpathian area which was part of Poland, Austria and Hungary at that time. So far only the inner city of Lviv is nominated.

The Carpathian area had 4 million Jewish inhabitants before World War II. No Jewish quarters or buildings (synagogues) are nominated so far from the region.¹⁰

After 1999, this attitude changed significantly and more nominations were made from the formerly neglected types of heritage.

¹⁰The Jewish Quarter of Třebíč in the Czech Republic is registered as World Heritage, but it is outside the Carpathian area in the region of Vysocina.