



Workshop 3/4:

Cooperation in European Mountains on the example of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions

Moderator: **Harald Egerer** (A-Vienna)

Panel: **Regula Imhof** (A-Innsbruck), **Jazek Kozak** (PL-Krakow), **Gianfranco Tamburelli** (I-Roma), **Marc Zebisch** (I-Bozen/Bolzano),

Concept:

Background

From 1991 to 2003, the Alpine Convention was the only multilateral international agreement for sustainable development in transborder mountain regions. In addition, mountain Conventions have been established at the national level, such as e.g. in France and in Italy. The early phase of the Carpathian Convention has been facilitated and supported by the sharing of the experience of the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention was adopted and signed in the year 2003. The growing cooperation process between the two mountain regions has subsequently inspired other transboundary mountain regions in Europe, and in particular of the South East Europe mountain region, to engage into sub-regional consultations on developing areas of cooperation. On 13 December 2006, the cooperation between Alpine and Carpathian Conventions has been cast into a Memorandum of Cooperation. The Europe Initiative of Mountain Partnership is providing the context for the further development of such cooperation.

Topic

Not only countries with transborder mountain regions are developing areas of cooperation, but also partnerships among such regions are increasingly used as tools for the development of innovative approaches for local and regional sustainable development. However, the cooperation between and among the conventions and their actors is still lacking in some instances. For instance, problems have been experienced in meeting the demand of expertise by some mountain regions, while there is actually plenty of supply of expertise in other mountain regions. The Workshop will address the issue of what are the main substantive areas bearing potential for cooperation, and what kind of partnerships could be facilitated in which way.



Questions addressed (to the Panel participants)

- 1) What are the main benefits of trans-border co-operation created by Conventions, what are the main challenges in developing trans-border co-operation? What are successful co-operations, what co-operations are blocked within the present Conventions?
- 2) What could be the added value of cooperation between existing mountain Conventions in Europe? How to enhance networking of European mountain Conventions and create a forum for improved experience exchange?
- 3) What are the main substantive (research) areas in need of / with potential for cooperation? How to catalyze the building of partnerships between mountain regions? What are possibilities for public-private partnerships and possible funding sources?