

# **Science for the Carpathians (S4C)**

## **An interdisciplinary research network for the Carpathian Mountains**

### Memorandum of the S4C Scientific Steering Committee

The Science for the Carpathians (S4C) initiative is organized as an active network of mountain researchers interested in interdisciplinary and international research collaboration, in developing the scientific community and in building research capacity in the Carpathian region. The network strongly relies on the input and participation of all its members. To guide the development of the S4C, the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) was established at the planning meeting in Bratislava (10<sup>th</sup> June 2009) and confirmed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum Carpathicum on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in Kraków.

#### **I. Aims and Objectives**

1. The S4C initiative is a regional science network targeting at mountain research in the Carpathians. The aims and objectives of the S4C initiative are:

- to develop a research strategy for the Carpathian region covering both natural and social sciences that will be topically prioritized. Among the main topics currently identified for the Carpathian region are: climate change, land use and land cover change, cultural landscapes, tourism, sustainable forest management, biodiversity & nature conservation, sustainable development, and water management;
- to promote applied research generating knowledge on mountain systems under global change;
- to strengthen the research capacity and to make Carpathian science more prominent in the European and global science community;
- to facilitate the development of new research projects by means of networking and a targeted information strategy, to initiate and facilitate communication and cooperation between research institutions dealing with the Carpathian mountain system;
- to design and implement research aiming at the support of sustainable development in the Carpathian region.

#### **II. S4C Scientific Steering Committee**

2. The S4C initiative is guided by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) whose members should represent the major natural and socioeconomic disciplines in the global change research in the Carpathians. The authority for all S4C policies and activities resides with the S4C SSC.

3. The primary functions and responsibilities of the S4C SSC are:

- a. to provide scientific guidance to and oversee the development, planning and implementation of the S4C aims and objectives;
- b. to demonstrate progress and achievements of the S4C aims and objectives through setting and monitoring of milestones and results;
- c. to network with the larger international community and promote the coordination of the international activities that constitute the S4C aims and objectives;
- d. to encourage national, regional and local governments and regional and international funding agencies to support the implementation of the S4C aims and objectives through the provision of adequate funding;
- e. to prepare S4C meetings, workshops, and conferences including the Forum Carpathicum;
- f. to develop activities with regard to training, networking and institutional support;
- g. to disseminate the outcomes using information tools for different target audiences and platforms for effective science-policy-practice dialogue;
- h. to foster long-term funding for an S4C coordination office;
- i. to meet annually to review progress in the development and implementation of the S4C aims and objectives and to advise the S4C SSC Chair on future activities.

4. The S4C SSC has up to forty members, selected based on their standing in the international scientific community with due consideration to scientific expertise and national representation. For each Carpathian country (Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Romania and Serbia) at least two members should be chosen as the main contact node in their respective countries. In addition to these national representatives, members from other countries or international bodies can be nominated to the S4C SSC.

5. S4C SSC members elect Chair and Co-Chair of the S4C SSC. The term of the appointments as the Chair and Co-Chair of the S4C SSC is two years.

6. New S4C SSC members are proposed jointly by the Chair and Co-Chair to the S4C SSC members and have to be approved by the majority of the S4C SSC members.

7. The S4C executive board consists of Chair, Co-Chair and three members of the S4C SSC. The members of the S4C SSC executive board are proposed and elected by the S4C SSC members. Members of the executive board support the Chair and Co-Chair in their activities. The term of the appointments to the executive board is two years.

8. Members of the S4C SSC are expected to:

- a. actively attend meetings of the S4C SSC;
- b. expend considerable effort outside of S4C SSC meetings;
- c. provide the best possible scientific information and advice concerning their field of expertise as it relates to the objective of the S4C aims and objectives;
- d. provide scientific advice to the Chair of the SSC on the development and implementation of the S4C aims and objectives;
- e. represent the scientific interests of the S4C aims and objectives at relevant scientific meetings;
- f. provide a two-way channel of communication between the S4C SSC and the national and where possible, regional or international research communities;
- g. keep the Chair and Co-Chair of the S4C SSC informed of actions directly or indirectly related to the S4C aims and objectives.

9. The Chair of the S4C SSC is expected to:

- a. represent S4C, and implement the S4C goals and objectives;
- b. organize, chair and conduct the meetings of the S4C SSC;
- c. work closely with the S4C SSC Members in implementing agreed activities between meetings of the Committee;
- d. lead the meetings and activities of the executive board.

10. The Co-Chair of the S4C SSC is expected to:

- a. organize, chair and conduct the meetings of the S4C SSC and the executive board in the absence of the Chair of the S4C SSC;
- b. assist the Chair and the S4C SSC Members in implementing agreed activities between meetings of the S4C SSC.

11. The Chair of the S4C SSC may invite observers to attend meetings of the S4C SSC.

### **III. S4C Thematic Working Groups**

12. S4C actively promotes and develops Thematic Working Groups (TWG) in various research fields relevant to the Carpathian region. The TWGs consist of scientists from a broad range of disciplines who like to actively participate in the S4C activities.

13. The TWGs are open to new members and organize themselves.

### **IV. Forum Carpaticum**

14. Forum Carpaticum is an international meeting of scientists interested in the research in the Carpathian region and practitioners representing various domains and working in the Carpathian countries.

15. Forum Carpaticum is the S4C open meeting. The S4C SSC members are expected to act also as the Forum Carpaticum Scientific Committee.

16. Forum Carpaticum objectives are to link research and practice related to coupled human-environmental systems in the Carpathians, to support actions leading towards sustainability, and to increase the visibility of the Carpathian region in the global change research agendas for mountain regions.

Stará Lesná, Slovakia, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Accepted by the S4C SSC members