



Annual Report

2018



The Carpathian Foundation

The Carpathian Foundation provides grants and scholarships, implements development programmes and projects in order to support disadvantaged rural areas and communities.

The Foundation is a member of the prestigious **International Carpathian Foundation Network** which serves the Carpathian region's development and which consists of 3 independent Foundations. :

- **Kárpátok Alapítvány** – Magyarország, Hungary – www.karpatokalapitvany.hu
- **Karpatská nadácia**, Slovensko, Slovakia – www.karpatskanadacia.sk
- **Карпатський фонд** – Україна, Ukraine, Ukraine - www.carpathianfoundation.org.ua

The **mission** of the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary is to improve the quality of human resources (persons, organizations, communities) living in the marginalized, rural areas in order to improve the development of disadvantaged communities and minorities thus indirectly to contribute lowering poverty and social exclusion.

Strategic objectives:

- we support the sustainable development initiatives of local communities and civic organizations;
- we intend to fight off lagging behind and exclusion of rural areas and communities through supporting local development initiatives;
- we encourage and support local communities in handling and solving local problems;
- we support and develop organizations working with disadvantaged, vulnerable people living in poverty, in order to strengthen the skills and efficiency of their advocacy power so they can have a voice in the concerned decision-making processes that contributes to them becoming a full member, citizens of the society;
- we strengthen social awareness especially through promoting volunteering and increasing the chances of disadvantaged youth;
- we enhance cross-border co-operations, knowledge transfer, experience exchange and presentation of best-practices about people living in in the Carpathian Region's countries;
- we strengthen local philanthropy in Hungary through elaborating, presenting and supporting best practices and pilot projects;
- we support the reservation and utilization of our values of cultural and natural heritages and the promotion of multiculturalism.



MAIN PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS IN 2018

BRIDGE Programme

In 2005, we launched the Carpathian BRIDGE Programme to support the implementation of local, innovative and sustainable development initiatives of NGOs and local governments operating in North-East Hungary: *Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Hajdú-Bihar, Heves, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Nógrád és Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Counties*, by which means WE:

- develop their project planning and implementation skills
- to improve their resource-picking and fundraising skills
- support their organizational development role.

Our BRIDGE Programme is based on three pillars:

we provide *technical assistance; own contribution support; and quality assurance* services to the winning projects.

There was no significant development or event in the programme during the abovementioned period. **We continue to provide information to the NGOs that contact us.**

Fred Robey – Carpathian equal opportunities Scholarship Program

This programme ensures successful completion of university/college studies for disadvantaged students living in Northeast Hungary, giving opportunities for the students to stay in the region after their graduation.

Its aim is to grow European intellectuals for the region, who have professional expertise, and give boost to the development of the region.

The scholarship is announced for the students of University of Miskolc and Eszterházy Károly University in Eger.

In spring, selected from several candidates, **Carpathian Equal Opportunity Scholarship** was awarded to **Ádám Rostás**, who is studying at **Eszterházy Károly University** to be a geography and history teacher. In the academic year of 2018/2019, he carried out his volunteer programme at Our Foundation. His mentor is the Executive Director of the Foundation.



Picture 1: Ádám Rostás as scholarship holder



Volunteer and internship programme

The aims of the programme are to increase the chances of young university students by providing professional experience and internship opportunities, to promote social awareness and spread the concept of volunteering in Hungary. The time they spent at Our Foundation strengthen the commitment to the civil sector, and it also serves as a job reference.

In the spring of 2018, we announced this programme both among the NGOs and the university. Altogether, nine NGOs registered for the programme:

Six host organizations responded to the call and six students applied to volunteer or spend their internship at them. We aimed to reach the students through University's advertising boards (bulletin board, Neptun, Paletta).

After making an appointment with academic lecturers, we visited the classes and addressed the students by a brief presentation. We were delighted to be able to mobilize so many young people for the programme, and we organized a kick-off meeting **on April 12, 2018** where host organisations and students could meet, have formal discussions on the details of the collaboration and sign their contracts. Subsequently, the joint work of these organisations and students has already begun.



Picture 2. April meeting

Improvement of our training programmes, NGOs (for professional development)

Within the framework of our training programmes, we provide training opportunities for foundations, associations, informal groups and communities primarily working in the field of equal opportunities and rural development. **We strive to establish professional partnerships and networks among participants. Some of our objectives are to ensure that organizations treat one another as partners rather than competitors; they invest resources more effectively in order to improve the quality of life for communities they serve; and they use the resources as optimally and fully as possible.**

Our project called "**Strengthening and Activating Small Communities of Northern Hungarian Settlements**" (EFOP-1.3.5-16-00915), which was launched on 1 May, 2017, is implemented within the frames of this programme.

The aim of the project is to mobilize and develop communities living in (mostly) disadvantaged (small) settlements or underprivileged areas of larger settlements in the Northeast-Hungarian region through voluntary activities, as well as to promote the mobilization and active cooperation of all members of these communities.

The direct target group of the project includes (small) communities living in settlements of the region, whose members carry out voluntary activities during the project in order to develop their own communities with the involvement of other members of the local community. Volunteers' involvement will be implemented in 3 cycles (15 communities per a year) in the involved settlements. We expect applications mainly from youngsters aged between 14 and 35 – especially unemployed and young people looking for their first job – and – people over the age of 60, we do not make any condition that may violate the principle of equal opportunities.

Within the framework of this project, Our Foundation intends to co-operate with at least 9-15 small communities ((formal: operating as an NGO; under the auspices of an institution; or with non-formal communities) **every year.**

Volunteer recruitment takes place through a call for proposal process with the help of collaborators. At the beginning of the project and then once a year (three times altogether), we organise **a kick-off meeting** in which our project staff and the representatives (1-3 persons/organization) participate to discuss project-related tasks.

At the beginning of each year, **we hold a one-day preparatory training session** for the cooperating organizations **on volunteer management.**

The preparation of volunteers and small communities takes place through training sessions aimed at supporting them in learning more about the role and importance of volunteering, strengthening their motivation to develop their community. During the training sessions, we enable the participants to plan and implement a local programme aimed at meeting the needs, solving the common problems, and promoting togetherness and collaboration in their communities.



For all these reasons, **the participating communities must develop and implement so-called local mini-projects**. Mini projects are expected to consist of a 7-8 event series and be implemented by the involved communities themselves. For this, **our staff and experts provide methodological assistance, mentoring and counselling**; and cover the necessary travel, material and equipment costs.



Pictures 3 and 4: Project meetings

However, we also intend to promote collaboration between the communities participating in the programme, so we can ensure them to attend at least one action or event organised by another involving community. In addition to this, we strive to communities find and recognize one another as “twin settlements” and “twin communities” and cooperate more closely in couples, promoting their learning and development. It is planned that involved volunteers and cooperative organizations **will jointly organise a bigger event at the end of the year to draw attention to the results (outcomes) of their work** and to engage and mobilize more communities. The most active participants **may attend a study tour abroad in order to get to know such underprivileged communities in which the collaboration is significant, and to familiarize themselves with the best practices that they can also use later.**

In 2018, the implementation of the project was extremely busy. The implementation of first year’s mini projects were completed by the end of March, and then the first period was closed. The first period of the project was assessed by using a variety of evaluation tools: two questionnaires were prepared to collect data on the main processes and results of the project from collaborating organizations and mentors. Beside this, the joint work was also evaluated through a series of events where we thanked all the participants (organisers, helpers and volunteers) for their active participation.

In the second period, altogether 25 small communities applied for the project, 16 of which were selected as collaborators. Volunteers’ recruitment is the task of the selected collaborators, which they carry out by invitation and personal calling in their municipalities and small communities. Most of the selected collaborators, small communities and CSOs are operating in the counties of Heves and Nógrád. In order to minimize their costs, we organised an event for them at two different locations: a kick-off meeting (a launching event) and a workshop on volunteering in Eger and

Balassagyarmat. Then, during that summer, we organised nine training days total in counties of Heves and Nógrád.

The trainings were conducted around the same theme with the aim of preparing the delegates from the cooperating institutions and organisations as well as the involved **volunteers to identify local needs and focusing on them being able to plan and implement their local development initiatives.** In October, we organized a large-scale regional, professional conference titled **“On the situation of small rural communities and NGOs.”** The event - sponsored by the Civitates Fund- also served as a professional exchange between community organizations in the region. **In 2018, 29 mini project events were organized by the collaborating organisations.** Mentors provided help, guidance and assistance small communities involved in the programme to plan and run their mini-projects.



Picture 5 and 6.: The conference

Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary

In February 2018, the Carpathian Foundation launched its small –grant programme called **‘Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary’** for a period of 18 months.

Within the framework of the above-mentioned programme, Our Foundation grant non-refundable subsidies (of approximately HUF 3.1 million (of cca. 10,000 EUR) per project) for 10-12 CSOs working to support Roma people and marginalised Roma communities through a restricted call for proposals.

Our Foundation invites only registered, active, locally powered, and actually efficient (with verifiable results) CSOs operating in the regions of Northern Hungary and North Great Plain to participate in this programme.

The chosen organizations may carry out a 12-month-long project in marginalised Roma communities. During the 12 months of project implementation, the chosen CSOs receive additional support for the improvement of professional capacities in the form of trainings. A



study visit to Slovakia and an international conference for exchange of experience also takes place within the framework of the programme.

List of granted projects:

Project ID	Name of organization	Registered seat of the organization	Project title	Grant awarded (HUF)
RECD_2018_01	Laskó-forrás Egyesület	Hevesaranyos	Játsszunk együtt, tanuljunk együtt	3 123 000 HUF
RECD_2018_02	Faluszépítők Bükkszentmártoni Egyesülete	Bükkszentmárton	Gyereksziget	3 123 000 HUF
RECD_2018_03	Igazgyöngy Alapítvány	Berettyóújfalu	Három az egyben: baba-mama, logopédia, tanoda - három program megvalósítás Toldon	3 122 200 HUF
RECD_2018_04	Szegényeket Támogató Alap Egri Alapítványa	Eger	Menjünk együtt! Felnémeti tanulói hálózat 5.	3 118 800 HUF
RECD_2018_05	Tarnagyöngye Egyesület	Szajla	Szajlai mesék	3 123 000 HUF
RECD_2018_06	Szomolyai Magyar- Roma Egyesület	Szomolya	"Ringatlak, kislányom!"	3 123 000 HUF
RECD_2018_07	Közösségfejlesztők és Helyi Társadalomkutatók Egyesülete	Eger	Roma fiatalok gyerekanimátor hálózata	3 123 000 HUF



RECD_2018_08	Add a kezéd az esélyegyenlőség megtermésének segítése az oktatásban és a munkaerőpiacon közhasznú Egyesület	Tiszavasvári	Közösségi Mese	3 117 000 HUF
RECD_2018_09	Vazdune Cherhaja Emelkedő Csillagok Roma Nők Egyesülete	Nagyecsed	Nagyecsed Jázmin Játéktár	3 122 200 HUF
RECD_2018_10	Abakusz Műhely Egyesület	Debrecen	Cháchi Ody (Tiszta szívvel)	3 123 000 HUF
RECD_2018_11	Nógrád Megyei Cigány Kisebbségi Képviselők és Szószólók Szövetsége	Bátonyterenye	Iciri-Piciri emberkék	3 117 000 HUF
RECD_2018_13	Csereháti Roma Önségítő Egyesület	Tomor	Gyerek Mosoly	3 123 000 HUF
Total:				37 458 200,00 HUF

During that period, granted projects were implemented with the support of Our Foundation Staff. On September 18-19, 2018, we organized a two-day training programme for the participants on early childhood development (ECD) in Noszvaj. **11 out of 12 granted organisations were represented at the training course led by Szomor Éva.** On the 1st day, participants attended lectures on the course of normal childhood development, and the development of language and communication. On the 2nd day, topics such as playful activities – effects on language and social skills, or community and individual games were discussed: participants became involved in situational practices, in which the emphasis was on situations in parental conversation, and professional discussion.

On October 4, 2018 we assisted our partner [Karpatska nadácia](#) (the Carpathian Foundation in Slovakia) in organizing a workshop on the importance of early childhood development (ECD). The aim of the event held in Kosice was to prepare the participating civic Roma and pro-Roma organizations (CSOs) from Slovakia for launching successful local development projects in their home country to support early childhood development.

28 representatives from 19 organizations attended the event and after the lectures, the participating NGOs from Slovakia could jointly plan the next year's proposed projects for the programme. **From Hungary, Dr. Zsombor Farkas** (Assistant professor, Department of Social Work of ELTE – Faculty of Social Sciences); **Éva Szomor** (Consultant at Berlin Brandenburg International School); and **Ágnes Kóka** (Chairperson of the 'Add a Kezed' Association, Nyíregyháza) gave lectures to the the participants.



The granted organisations submitted their mid-term reports at the end of 2018, which were processed by the Foundation Staff.



„Roma gyerekek korai képességgondozásához szükséges helyi kapacitások fejlesztése”



Picture 7.: Training in Noszvaj

Training in Noszvaj - ‘Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary’

Carpathian Civil Society Platform

The Carpathian region, the meeting point of five countries: Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine is a mountain region in Central Europe with a focus on the Carpathian Mountains and the Tisza Valley. All these country regions are characterized by economic backwardness, underdevelopment, peripheral location, poor infrastructure and similarities - linguistic, religious, ethnic diversity, history and rich cultural and natural heritage, as well as diverse resources.

Social problems are the same or similar, such as increasing poverty, increasing social exclusion of disadvantaged groups and stigmatization of poverty. However, civil society, which is designed to respond to these challenges, is still weak, but unfortunately civil society organizations do not have effective tools for eradicating poverty and exclusion, mainly because of their financing difficulties, poor local support, infrastructure problems and lack of development opportunities.



Picture 8: Illustration of Kosice conference





The aim of this project is to establish a cross-border cooperation network in order to support the cooperation of rural NGOs serving equality target groups (ETGs: Roma, people with disabilities, other vulnerable or socially excluded groups) increasing their efficiency. A further aim is to strengthen the role of the civil sector in society and to enhance the capacity of organizations by establishing a platform for networking, exchange of experience, knowledge and good practices.

Duration of the project: 26 March 2018 - 25 September 2019 (18 months)

Main activities:

- Project kick-off meeting
- Inviting and involving participants in all countries
- Conducting local workshops in all countries to set up civil cooperation platforms
- Interregional workshop to share experiences
- Conducting workshops in all countries to involve additional NGOs
- Organizational development (through mentoring and mini projects)
- Capacity building trainings
- Establishing a closing conference and cross-border cooperation network
- Creating a virtual civilian platform
- Final evaluation and closing meeting
- Continuous media presence and communication activities

Our partners:

ETP Slovakia www.etp.sk

Carpathian Foundation-Ukraine <http://carpathianfoundation.org.ua/>

Carpathian Gate Foundation (Poland) www.bramakarpas.pl

Project sponsors: International Visegrad Fund, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Robert Bosch Stiftung and Open Society Foundations.

The project started as planned. **On April 5, 2018**, the project implementation partners met in **Eger**, where the main details and activities related to the successful implementation and the launch of the project were discussed during that kick-off meeting. Then the work began with mapping NGOs and experts work in all countries.

After that, programme launch workshops were held on the following occasions:

- **Uzhgorod, Ukraine** - May 16-17, 2018, represented by 12 participating NGOs,
- **Eger, Hungary** - June 5 and June 28, 2018, representing a 22 participants from 13 NGOs,



- **Kosice, Slovakia** - June 27, 2018, representing 23 participants from 15 NGOs,
- **Poland** - September 16-17, 2018 a total of 16 participants from 11 NGOs.

The events were organised around the same theme, the participating organisations could be familiarised with one another's activities, considering internal and external challenges of their organisations and collectively proposed solutions to the problems they encountered. Following each regional workshop, an inter-regional conference was held. Nearly sixty participants representing forty NGOs from Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine and Hungary came to the meeting **in Kosice on 2-3 October 2018** to get acquainted and jointly explore the possibilities for future cooperation. The meeting was a significant milestone in the Carpathian Civil Society Platform programme.



Picture 9. The participants of the conference

After workshops mobilizing NGOs had been conducted, the inter-regional meeting was an important step towards international cooperation. The meeting was opened by **H.E. Henk Cor van der Kwast**, then the participants were welcomed by **Rastislav Trnka**, the Chairman of Kosice Self-Governing Region. Following the keynote speech by **Peter Huncik**, writer and psychiatrist, **Sándor Köles** (Chairman of the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary, gave a presentation on the project. In a panel discussion on country-specific topics, participants of the meeting learned about the experiences of workshops conducted in four countries. On the second day of the meeting, participants discussed the possibilities of inter-regional cooperation in group sections and started planning the operation of the Civil Platform. Further details (photos, attendance list, final agenda, etc.) can be found here: <http://www.karpatokalapitvany.hu/iras/inter-region-lis-tal-lkoz-kass-n-2018-okt-ber-2-3>

Shortly afterwards, further events in 2018 (workshops, training, etc.) to be organized were prepared by the Foundation Staff in order to expand the platform.

Transnational Giving Europe

A Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) network of leading European foundations and associations whose main objective is to **enable donors, both corporations and individuals, resident in one of the participating countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria, UK, France, Netherlands, Ireland, Poland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Romania, Switzerland, Slovakia and Slovenia), to financially support non-profit organisations **in other member countries, while benefiting directly from the tax advantages provided for in the legislation of**



their country of residence thus to enhance cross-border donations within Europe. Members of the Network maintain contacts with the majority of civic organizations operating in their countries and enjoy the confidence of national authorities. The Carpathian Foundation became a member of Our Foundation was still a member of the Network in 2018. The Staff of the Foundation **have developed a new Promotion Plan to promote TGE in Hungary, in 2018-2019.**



Picture 10.: TGE LOGO

Other collaborations

Our “Civil Map” project was launched in 2018 and is being conducted in a partnership with Ökotárs, Autómia and Civil Kollégium Foundations. The aim of this project is to find (“map”) and activate rural NGOs or groups that do or would do important and successful work, but are not affiliated members, partners, co-workers of other organisations. They may have limited access to increase their efficiency.

Stationary donation from Tesco

In the spring , we again received a large donation (**the total value of the donation was about 200.000 HUF.**) from Tesco Department Store of Eger. Scrolls, pamphlets and toys were donated to children and families living in extreme poverty by NGOs that have a direct relationship with this target group.



Picture 11. Stationary donation from Tesco

At the start of the programme, an external expert conducted a background study for Our Foundation to present the Hungarian background, data, statistics and strategies related to early childhood care and education for Roma children. The study also addresses the results of major domestic development programmes and organisations and provides methodological guidance for conducting group



discussions. We contacted all the major development organisations involved in the field and the Director of Our Foundation conducted five interviews with the representatives of these organisations and other relevant experts in preparation of the programme.

On 27 February, two preparatory focus group meetings were held in Eger, with the participation of potential applicant organisations. Altogether 28 people attended the meetings moderated by the external expert who had been invited and then he summarized the main recommendations and conclusions. The meeting also provided an excellent opportunity to get to know organisations we had never been in contact with before. Following the approval of the Board of Trustees - on March 14, 2018, the Call for Proposals and Guidelines was sent to the representatives of the invited organisations to develop and submit their application. Question arose in the meantime were answered by Our Foundation Staff via telephone calls and emails. By the deadline, 15 out of 16 invited organisations had submitted their applications to us, which were evaluated by an internal and external expert. **Shortly afterwards, the Carpathian Foundation Board of Trustees made their grant decisions on April 30, 2018 and June 9, 2018 based on experts' suggestions. As a result, 12 applicants received 37,458,200 HUF in grants.**

Financial balance of the projects and programmes in 2018	
Name of the programmes, projects	Amount (HUF)
Strengthening and activating small communities in North Hungarian municipalities EFOP-1.3.5-16-2016-00915	6 891 574
Complex Development of NGOs in Northern Hungary NEA-TF-18-SZ-0827	1 322 276
Carpathian Civil Society Platform	5 039 146
'Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary'	38 768 338
Carpathian Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program	300 000
Transnational Giving Europe	6 833 004
Total of projects and programmes	59 154 338





Board of Directors of the Carpathian Foundation – Hungary in 2018

Sándor Köles–chairman of the Board of Directors

Zsolt Szekeres– member of the Board of Directors

Boglárka Bata– member of the Board of Directors

Staff of the Carpathian Foundation in 2018

Boglárka Bata– Executive Director

Norbert Havasi– Programme Coordinator

Márta Rakusz-Programme Coordinator

Melinda Vartik – Administration and Finance Manager

Orsolya Mészáros– Programme Assistant

János Buella – Volunteer Coordinator

Ádám Rostás – Scholarship holder, Intern

The Carpathian Foundation – Hungary would like to thank its supporters,

partners and volunteers for their help!

Contact info:

The Carpathian Foundation - Hungary

Member of the International Carpathian Foundation Network

53 Felvégi Str., 3300 Eger, Hungary

Tel.: (36) 516 750 Fax: (36) 516 751

cfhu@cfoundation.org

www.karpatokalapitvany.hu/en

www.carpathianfoundation.org

