



Annual Report 2019



THE CARPATHIAN FOUNDATION-HUNGARY

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.

THE MAIN PROGRAMMES OF THE YEAR 2019

Fred Robey – Carpathian Equal Opportunities Programme

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. *The tools of the programme:* financial contribution – 30.000 HUF/ per month as a scholarship and implementation of a 10-month-long "In the Region for the Region" voluntary work programme at a specific civic organisation.

In the academic year of 2019/2020, **Ádám Rostás** was our scholarship holder, who is studying at **Eszterházy Károly University in undivided training to be a geography and history teacher**. His responsibilities include carrying out daily activities related to the Foundation and assisting Our Staff in the successful execution of the programmes. In the 2019/2020 school year, the program will be implemented thanks to the HUF 300,000 donation donation of **Normbenz Magyarország Kft.**, LukOil filling stations' operator.



Picture 1. Our scholarship holder, Ádám.

Training and capacity development programmes for NGOs

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.

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. For this, our staff and experts provide methodological assistance, mentoring and counselling; and cover the necessary travel, material and equipment costs.

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.

The 2019 implementation year went according to plan, projects were carried out until the spring and end of March 2019, then the second season of the project ended, started the last implementation cycle.

In the final season, we are working with the following small communities:

Abaúj Reménye Egyesület, Alsóvadász

Bátor a Bátraké, Bátor

Béke-telep Rehabilitációjáért Egyesület, Eger

Csereháti Roma Önszolgálat Egyesület, Tomor

Opál Tehetséggondozó Alapítvány, Eger

SZETA Egri Alapítványa, Eger

Egri Egészség- és Környezetvédők Egyesület, Eger

Falu(sz)építők Bükkszentmártoni Egyesülete, Bükkszentmárton

Forrás Fogyatékkal Élő Fiatalok Alapítványa, Eger
Kaptárkő Természetvédelmi és Kulturális Egyesület, Eger
Közoktatásról Kritikai Köntösben (visszalépett), Tiszaújváros
Laskó Forrás Egyesület, Hevesaranyos
Miskolci Autista Alapítvány, Miskolc
Tarnagyöngye Egyesület, Szajla
Benczúrfalváért Kulturális, Hagyományőrző és Faluszépítő Egyesület, Szécsény-
Benczúrfalva
Karc Kulturális és Művészeti Egyesület,
Pro Musica Balassagyarmat Alapítvány, Balassagyarmat

In the summer of 2019, we held several meetings for them: two kick-off meetings (project launching events) , one in Eger and the another one in Balassagyarmat. In small groups, the small communities and non-governmental organizations joining the project received training through the three-day training. The trainings covered the topics, of needs assessment, project planning, project implementation and evaluation with practical tasks and many discussions and through many discussions. By the autumn of 2019, almost all trainings and preparatory activities, and with the support of their mentors, the small communities and non-governmental organizations cooperating in the project were able to start the implementation and further planning of their mini-projects.

On November 21, 2019, we also held a professional conference, a regional professional meeting for representatives of CSOs operating in the Northeast-Hungarian region. Nearly 80 people attended the event. The purpose of the event was to create a meeting place for CSOs organisations operating in the region, promoting their cooperation facilitating the sharing of their experiences.



Picture 2. Conference entitled "Strengthening and activating small communities of Northeast Hungary".



Picture 3. The conference

In addition to this, we aimed to present successful networking initiatives, jointly reviewed their results and experiences. During the afternoon, Judit Oprics conducted a fundraising

training for those who were interested, at which participants could learn more about grant seeking, retail and corporate grants gathering and the potential in service revenue. Pictures from the conference can be viewed [here](#).

Civil Map project

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. Primarily, we strive to map and address all rural non-governmental organisations and actors, who have not yet actively participated in Hungarian civic life. Our Foundation performs the tasks undertaken in the project in the north-eastern part of Hungary, and, among other things, we support the establishment and construction of partnerships between rural and metropolitan NGOs. The project is sponsored by the Civitates Fund, and financially supported of the Network of European Foundations.

At the beginning of 2019, we contacted all those NGOs (CSOs) and actors personally and electronically that we thought might be interested in this initiative. We also prepared a questionnaire to assess their willingness to cooperate, and their cooperation needs, requirements and training needs. In April 2019, the program started with a two-day meeting in Budapest and then we worked with our partners on a **new call for small-scale grant project proposals**, which we announced among the previously visited non-governmental organizations.

We support the establishment of a **Food Rescue Network in Heves County**, the establishment of youth and student self-government in **Nógrád County** through mini-projects and a community **building project in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**. All initiatives are implemented in a broad partnership of NGOs (CSOs), within which Our Staff mentor and provide professional support to build and strengthen collaborations. NGOs selected in the program, could **also participate in professional trainings three times**.



Picture 4.: Communication training.

On October 10, 2019 we organized a communication training course for them in Eger, On November 8, 2019, another training course entitled “Basics of Community Development” in Budapest, and then a regional civil professional meeting in Eger on November 21, 2019 was followed by a fundraising training session that afternoon.

More information about the project: https://www.okotars.hu/civil_terkep

Early childhood development program

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.

This programme contributes to early childhood development for nearly 300-400 children under 8 years of age, living in difficult conditions, in disadvantaged settlements or areas. Within the granted projects, regular skill development programmes, excursions and camps are organized for children, which are unavailable or hardly available to them in these rural areas. In addition to this, project implementers facilitate parents to access childcare information and services, working on breaking discriminatory and exclusionist stereotypes.

The granted organisations receive additional support, mainly in the form of professional trainings and other events (workshops, conferences, etc.) In addition to these, a professional study trip to Slovakia, as well as, a closing conference will be conducted within the framework of the program. Thanks to the members of International Carpathian Foundation Network (www.carpathianfoundation.org) this programme runs parallel with an East Slovakian and from 2019 a West Ukrainian one. Cooperatively efficient organizations may be invited to the programme in the coming years. Therefore, from 2019, we intend to support an active cross-border exchange of experiences.



Picture 5: Our training in Noszvaj led by Éva Szomor

We started the Year of 2019, with evaluation and preparation then we issued the new call for project proposals. **On March 26-27, 2019, we organized a two-day training in Noszvaj, led by Éva Szomor, on the topic of early childhood development.** This training session was attended by the representatives of the granted organisations, mainly colleagues who lead children's sessions in certain settlements.

On the 1st day, participants could hear about development of communication in early childhood, early correction of communication difficulties in preschool age, and the collection of age-appropriate, group games. On the 2nd day, the topic was the role of parents in the

development of the young child, learning and catching-up opportunities for young parents, and the organisation of programs for toddlers and their families.

Participant could share and discuss their experiences and new ideas, discussed and assigned small group tasks.

On May 6-7, 2019, we attend a two-day professional study tour in Slovakia to include members, colleagues and volunteers of civil society organisations participating in the programme. During the two days, the Hungarian group visited VelkeIdara, Dobsina and Rankovce / Kecerovce, where we got to know organisations and initiatives aiming at promoting Roma integration.



Picture 6: Study tour in Slovakia

On 10 May 2019, for the second time, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, decided to grant nearly HUF 40 million to 12 projects. As we had an applicant with

whom we did not enter into a contract, on September 8, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation awarded a total of HUF 3.2 million in non-refundable grants to two other NGOs the Opal Talent Foundation (az Opál Tehetséggondozó Alapítvány,) and the 21st Century Roma For the National Association of Women. XXI. századi Roma Nők Országos Egyesülete). **A detailed list of granted organisation is available [here](#). A short presentation of granted projects and organizations is available [here](#).**

By the end of the summer, our publication summarizing the first season and presenting its good practices was published, which we also sent all the main institutions and organisation interested in the topic (early childhood development). **The publication and the collection of good practices on the topic can be found [here](#).**



Picture 7: The cover of our publication.

On September 23-24, 2019, we held another two-day professional meeting and training in Eger. During the meeting, the results of the program's previous season, and the experiences of the participants were expressed and shared; all granted projects and organisations could be introduced to one another, everyone presented their work in the field of early childhood development in the form of short lectures.



During the meeting, the participants also discussed the difficulties of involving with the target group, motivational challenges, and of the difficulties of cooperating with parents and social, educational, health care institutions and services.

With the help of Éva Szomor, an expert in early childhood development, participants could learn more in depth on the stages of childhood development, the professional assessment in all the different stages, and identified the age characteristics of the children. There were also talks about different effective forms of community development, techniques and methods for measuring child development.

Carpathian Civil Society Platform

Civil platform of the Carpathian region

• A platform for cross-border cooperation between NGOs supporting social inclusion and innovation

Its background: 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.

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

The implementers of the program:

The Carpathian Foundation Hungary www.karpatokalapitvany.hu

ETP Slovakia www.etp.sk

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

Carpathian Gate Foundation (Poland) www.bramakarpat.pl

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

Within the framework of our project entitled Civil Platform of the Carpathian Region, we work to establish a civil cooperation network in the regions of North-Eastern Hungary and later a Cross-Border, Transnational and Interregional Cooperation with organizations from Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine. At first, we addressed all those active local organisations operating in rural areas, who are interested and wish to join the cooperation network, and then we invited them to a workshop.

The events of the project were held on 15 January 2019 in Eger and on 17 January in Miskolc, with altogether 32 participants of 21 NGOs from the counties Heves, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Hajdú-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg. The participating NGOs could get to know one another's activities, receive information about the events events that have taken place in the project so far and the upcoming activities. Participants made offers on behalf of their organisations to help build collaborations as well.

On 23 February 2019, 25 representatives from 17 organisations participated at the training entitled "Effective Communication of Civil Organizations" in Eger. The training was given by Gábor Bakos, an expert in Communication. The training supported the capacity building of civil society organizations based in the North East Hungary region, working for equal opportunities target groups. The aim of the training was to support the organizations to be able to communicate their activities, results more effectively. The hands-on training primarily focused on online communication, helping organizations develop their conscious communication strategies **Organizations participating in communication training got chance to submit an application within the frame of our capacity building focused small grant program.** The training contributed to the elaboration of their development ideas. Out of the 10 applications received within the framework of the program, the Foundation supported the applications of the following **8 organizations in the total amount of HUF 701,000.** A detailed list of grants is available [here](#).



On 4-5 February 2019, the project implementers met in Ustrzyki Górne, Poland, to evaluate the activities and processes implemented so far. Experts and coordinators shared

recent experiences from the local workshops held in January, worked on the finalization of the platform strategy and discussed the upcoming activities, such as the capacity trainings, mini-grant scheme and the international conference to be held in June 2019.

Altogether 123 members from 72 NGOs attended the closing conference, in Eger on June 12-14, 2019, who came from Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The main purpose of the event to promote cross-border cooperation between the participating NGOs. At the end of the conference, the participants laid the foundations for their long-term cooperation by drafting and signing a [cooperation protocoll](#).

A summary of the event is available [here](#). Photos from the conference can be viewed [here](#).



The **project ended on 9 September 2019 with a joint close and evaluate meeting** in Eger, where the partners agreed on the continuation of the project and took stock of the results achieved. **A feasibility study was also conducted**, which summarizes the process of the project, participants and their opinions, and the main results of the project. Within the framework of the project, **an on-line communication interface** and platform was completed, which is available here, and it is intended to support the communication and cooperation between the non-governmental organisations participating in the project.

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 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 Carpathians Foundation became a member of the network in 2012.



More information about TGE:
www.transnationalgiving.eu

10. kép: TGE logó

Picture 10. TGE LOGO

Our Foundation was still a member of the Network in 2019. The Staff of the Foundation developed a **new Promotion Plan to promote TGE in Hungary, in 2019-2020**. As part of the communication plan, in 2019, we sent a letter introducing the programme to non-governmental organizations, embassies, accounting firms and businesses (for potential stakeholders) in the form of a newsletter, which resulted in many interested people contacting us by e-mail and telephone.

In 2019, we negotiated donations to be provided for the Georges Pompidou Cultural Center (Paris), both with the representatives of the Center and potential Hungarian donors on several occasions. In 2019, Notre Dame's reconstruction has been funded by a large donation (EUR 9,500) from the Municipality of Székesfehérvár, which was mediated by Our Foundation.



Financial balance of the programs and projects in the Year of 2019	
Name of the programs, and projects	Amount (HUF)
Strengthening and activating small communities in North Hungarian municipalities EFOP-1.3.5-16-2016-00915	6 775 005
Complex Development of NGOs in Northern Hungary NEA- TF-18-SZ-0827	77 724
Carpathian Civil Society Platform	11 741 298
‘Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary’	58 918 114
Civil Map Project	3 510 296
Total	81 022 437
Carpathian Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program	270 000
Transnational Giving Europe	11 182 512
Total	11 452 512
All programs and projects	92 474 949



The Board of Directors in 2019

Sándor Köles– Chairman of the Board of Directors

Zsolt Szekeres– Board Member

Boglárka Bata– Board Member

Staff in 2019

Boglárka Bata– Executive Director

Norbert Havasi– Programme Coordinator

Márta Rakusz– Programme Coordinator

Melinda Vartik– Administration and Finance Manager

Judit Tomik– Program Assistant, Office Manager

János Buella– Volunteer Coordinator

Ádám Rostás– Scholarship holder, Intern

Hereby we would like to thank our supporters, partners and volunteers for their help!

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