



**Annual report
2020**

Carpathian Foundation-Hungary

The Foundation deals with donations through tenders and the implementation of development programs and projects aimed at supporting disadvantaged rural areas and communities, as well as with scholarship granting.

The Carpathian Foundation-Hungary is a member of the **International Carpathian Foundation Network** for the development of the Carpathian region, that consists of three independent foundations:

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

The **strategic goal** of the Foundation is to develop the human resources of the region (individuals, organizations, communities) for the development of lagging rural areas, disadvantaged communities and minorities, thus indirectly reducing poverty and social exclusion.

Our strategic goals:

- we support sustainable development initiatives by local communities and NGOs;
- we strive to reduce the lagging and exclusion of rural areas and communities by supporting local development initiatives;
- we encourage and help local communities addressing and solving local problems;
- we support and develop organizations working with disadvantaged and excluded people living in poverty, in order to strengthen the advocacy capacity of the people they represent and to have a more effective say in the decision-making process that affects them, making them full members of society;
- we strengthen social attitudes, mainly by disseminating the practice of volunteering and increasing the opportunities for disadvantaged young people;
- we encourage cross-border cooperation, the transfer of knowledge, the exchange of experiences and the presentation and dissemination of good practices of people living in the countries of the Carpathian region;
- we strengthen the willingness to donate in Hungary by developing, presenting and supporting good examples and sample projects;
- we support the nurturing and utilization of cultural and natural heritage values and the promotion of multiculturalism.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS OF 2020

Fred Robey - Carpathian Equal Opportunities Scholarship Program

The program provides disadvantaged students living in Northeast Hungary with the successful completion of university / college, as well as the opportunity for students to remain in the region after completing their studies. Its aim is to educate European-level intellectuals with expertise and profession who remain in the field and are struggling to improve the region. The scholarship is announced at all universities in the region. *The tools of the program:* financial benefit - 30 thousand HUF / month scholarship and the implementation of a ten-month voluntary work program called “In the Region for the Region” at a non-governmental organization.

Our scholarship holder was **Ádám Rostás** in both the 2019/2020 and the 2020/21 academic years, who is a **student of the undivided teaching department of Geography and History at Károly Eszterházy University**, and conducts his volunteer program at our foundation, mentored by the executive director. This is the fourth time Adam has won a scholarship that allows for long-term collaboration. Ádám's responsibilities include carrying out day-to-day activities related to the Foundation, assisting employees in the successful implementation of their programs, and is also responsible for the implementation of some smaller projects. In the 2020/21 school year, the program was implemented from donations from individuals and 1% PIT donations.



1. picture: Our scholar, Adam

Our trainings and development of civil society organizations

Within the framework of our training program, we provide training opportunities primarily to foundations, associations, informal groups and communities dealing with equal opportunities and rural development. **We strive to establish professional relationships and networks between the participants, so that the organizations do not treat each other as competitors, but as partners, and to attract resources more effectively in order to improve the quality of life of the communities they represent, and to use them in the most optimal and useful way.**

Our project named „**Strengthening and activating small communities of Northeast Hungary**” (EFOP-1.3.5-16-00915), launched on 1 May 2017, fits within the framework of the program. **The aim of the project is to activate and, through voluntary activities, to develop the communities** of the (mostly) disadvantaged (small) settlements and the more disadvantaged parts of larger settlements **in the region of Northern Hungary, as well as to promote the activation and active cooperation of all community members.**

The direct **target group of the project includes the (small) communities of the municipalities of the region**, whose members carry out voluntary activities during the project, in order to develop their own communities by involving other members of the community.

The epidemic caused by the emergence of the new coronavirus has temporarily halted the project, which has been extended until October 30, 2020. Since the project ended in 2020, this year our work focused mainly on the implementation of mini-projects, mentoring, as well as the **closing event** and [study trip abroad](#).



2. picture: Study trip in Slovakia 1. day



3. picture: Study trip in Slovakia 2. day

We organized our two-day-long **professional study trip abroad** in Slovakia near Košice. On August 24, 2020 we visited the community garden of the Association for a Better Life in Rankovce and got acquainted with the activities of the association, while the other day we visited the SOSNA Civic Association ŐkoCentrum in Hernádszentistván. It was a great opportunity to build both inter-community collaborations and cross-border relationships and partnerships, and we even had some time to explore Košice.

Our project closing conference was organized on September 19, 2020 in Eger, Szépasszonyvölgy, in the framework of a professional conference with the participation of 39 people.

The coronavirus epidemic also caused difficulties for several of our collaborators who, due to quarantine and other constraints, eventually did not complete their planned mini-projects. The automatic extension of the project allowed us to handle all planned events, but we should mention that in the spring after the epidemic period, the planned numbers were lower, people were afraid or rather refrained from community events.

We made a [publication](#) and an infographics about the results of the project.



4. picture: Project closing conference



5. picture: Infographics

Civil Map project

The project is carried out in cooperation with Ökotárs, Autonomy and Civil College Foundations, its main goal is to strengthen the existing civil cooperation and networks in Hungary. On the other hand, we want to map and address rural non-governmental organizations and actors who have not yet actively participated in Hungarian civic life. Our foundation carries out the tasks undertaken in the project in the north-eastern part of Hungary, and we also support the establishment and construction of partnerships between rural and capital NGOs. The project is sponsored by the Civitates Fund, which is supported by the Network of European Foundations.

In 2020, the implementation proceeded as planned, due to the coronavirus, the planned meetings and trainings were held online for the non-governmental organizations participating in the project, and the contact with the mentored organizations was also online or on telephone. The Carpathian Foundation mentored three organizations in Heves, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Nógrád counties within the framework of the project. We closed the project with a professional conference in September 2020 in Szépasszonyvölgy, which was named „[Does it strengthen or weaken us?](#)”

The meeting was attended by nearly 40 people, volunteers, members and staff of non-governmental organizations from the North-Eastern Hungarian region. With the participation

of our invited speakers, Réka Makula (21st Century Roma Women's Association), Melinda Vartik (Lamenda Foundation) and Tibor Csathó (Eger Civil Roundtable) talked about the emergency situation caused by the new corona virus epidemic. We discussed how NGOs active in the Northeast Hungarian region responded to the crisis situations caused by the coronavirus epidemic, how they organized their communities, continued their activities in the changed circumstances, and how they prepared for the upcoming second wave. What have they learned from all this and what will they do differently in the future based on their experiences. Further information about the project: https://www.okotars.hu/civil_terkep



6. picture: Réka Makula, director of 21st Century Roma Women National Association

Early Development Support Program

We launched our small donation program called “Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary” in February 2018. Within the framework of the program, our Foundation provides non-refundable support (in the amount of more than HUF 3-4 million per project) to 10-13 registered, non-governmental organizations supporting marginalized Roma communities in Northern Hungary and the Northern Great Plain.

The Foundation invites non-governmental organizations with local capacities with active, verifiable results to participate in the program. Selected organizations can carry out 12-month projects for the early childhood development of Roma children in marginalized (Roma) communities.

Organizations receive special support for the development of their professional capacities in the form of professional trainings. In addition, a professional study visit to Slovakia and a closing conference will be held as part of the program.

The program runs in parallel in Eastern Slovakia and, from 2020, in Western Ukraine, due to the members of the Carpathian Foundation Network (www.carpathianfoundation.org). Collaborating, successful organizations may also be invited to the program in the coming years, during which we intend to support an active cross-border exchange of experience.

We started the year 2020 with a two-day professional training **on March 4-5**, for professionals working in the field of early childhood in Eger, who work in disadvantaged communities, with families and small children in the North-Eastern region of Hungary.

On the first day **dr. Szilvia Gyurkó, a children's rights expert** and the head of the Hıntalovon Children's Rights Foundation, gave a training to the participants, while on the second day of the training, **Éva Szomor, a key expert in the field of early childhood**, gave a lecture on the stages of childhood, the main characteristics of each stage, and after that the participants identified the age characteristics of the children.

On March 27, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation awarded nearly two million forints non-refundable, so-called additional financial support to the 13 non-governmental organizations participating in the program, which could be used by the beneficiaries for the development of children. More information and result list are available [HERE](#).

Support for program participants, projects of our local civil partners would have ended on 14 May 2020 (as the sponsor postponed the launch of the new program). However, the Foundation's management has decided to continue to support the activities of its key local partners during the summer through its own resources (at the expense of unimplemented events). To this end, these NGOs were able to submit extraordinary grant applications to us, which were judged by the Foundation's Board of Trustees on 11 May 2020 and awarded nearly HUF 5 million in grants to 10 NGOs. More information and result list are available [HERE](#).

Several events of the program (closing event, on-site counseling, study trip abroad) had to be canceled due to the coronavirus epidemic, and several of our activities that support capacity building of participating organizations (mentoring, professional counseling, monitoring visits, etc.) were transferred to the online space. **Nevertheless, the project was successfully completed in the fall of 2020.**

7. picture: dr. Szilvia Gyurkó on the first day of the training



8. picture: Éva Szomor on the second day of the training



Chance for disadvantaged children

The project was implemented between 01.02.2020-01.31.2021. in consortium with our sister organization Karpatska nadácia in Košice, with the support of the European Union, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, with the support of the Slovakia-Hungary Interreg V-A Program Small Project Fund.

The long-term goal of the project is to contribute to the improvement of the life chances of disadvantaged (Roma) children by developing the system and participants of early childhood interventions in the Slovakian-Hungarian border region.

The direct objectives of the project are to:

- to present the available early childhood (public) services, participants and, in part, the situation of those involved in the Slovak-Hungarian border region;
- to promote the expansion of the competences and cross-border exchange of experiences of civil, educational and social professionals working in the field of early childhood development of disadvantaged children in ten communities in eastern Slovakia and ten in north-eastern Hungary;
- encourage the identification and wide-ranging adaptation and dissemination of good practices in professional circles that support the early development of skills for disadvantaged (including Roma) children.

Project activities, output results:

- A [professional study in English, Slovakian and Hungarian](#) on early childhood interventions in the border region has been published.
- Two professional trainings were conducted for professionals working in the field of early skills care, one in [Hungary](#) and one in [Slovakia](#).
- A [cross-border professional round table](#) was held to raise awareness of the importance of early skills development and to facilitate the cross-border exchange of experiences between the professionals involved.
- An on-line professional portal with versatile professional content (odperinky.sk and karpatokalapitvany.hu/koragyerekkor) has been created in Hungarian and Slovakian, which promotes the cooperation of the involved actors and professionals and increases the efficiency of their work as a knowledge base and communication platform.
- Numerous professional contents have been published on the topic, a [short video](#) and [11 professional articles](#).
- A [collection of good practices](#) on the early childhood interventions of disadvantaged children will be completed and disseminated to professional circles.

Further information about the project: <https://karpatokalapitvany.hu/koragyerekkor/en>

Carpathian Civil Society Platform

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

Background: The Carpathian region is the meeting point of five countries, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine, the mountain range of Central Europe, the center of which is the Carpathian mountain range and the Tisza Valley. The regions are characterized in all countries by economic backwardness, underdevelopment, peripheral location, poor

infrastructure; and similarities in these countries include linguistic, religious, ethnic diversity, history and rich cultural and natural heritage, as well as diverse resources.

Social problems are also the same or similar, such as increasing poverty and increasing social exclusion of disadvantaged groups, stigmatizing poverty. However, civil society designed to respond to these challenges, is still weak, and unfortunately, mainly due to funding difficulties, weak local support, infrastructural problems and lack of development opportunities, NGOs do not have effective means to eradicate poverty and exclusion.

The aim of the project is to set up a cross-border cooperation network to support cooperation and increase the effectiveness of rural NGOs working with equal opportunities target groups (people living in poverty, exclusion, Roma, people with disabilities, etc.).

Another goal is to strengthen the weight of the civil sector in society, to increase the capacity of organizations by creating a cooperation platform for networking, exchange of experience and knowledge, and good practices.

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

Main activities:

- Kick-off meeting
- Invitation and involvement of participants in all
- Conducting 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 implementation of mini projects)
- Capacity building trainings
- Closing conference and establishment of a cross-border cooperation network
- Creating a virtual civil platform
- Final evaluation and closing meeting
- Continuous media coverage and communication activities

Implementers of the project:

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, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Robert Bosch Stiftung and Open Society Foundations, and the Norwegian Embassy in Budapest.

Throughout 2020, we have been constantly working to attract new resources to continue implementing the program. We won the support of the Visegrad Fund and launched the new project on November 1, 2020.

Transnational Giving Europe

Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) is a network of leading European foundations and associations that aims **to facilitate cross-border donations within Europe by providing tax benefits to donors (companies, individuals) based in TGE countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria,

United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Poland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Romania, Switzerland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Its members have outstanding relations with the majority of non-profit organizations in their country and also enjoy the trust of national authorities. The Carpathians Foundation became a member of the network in 2012.

Further information: www.transnationalgiving.eu

The foundation was also a member of the network in 2020. The staff of the foundation has developed a **promotion plan through which TGE was promoted in Hungary in 2019-2020**. As part of the communication plan, in 2020 we sent a letter introducing the program to non-governmental organizations, embassies, accounting firms and businesses (for potential stakeholders) in the form of a newsletter, as a result of which many people interested about the project and contacted us by e-mail and telephone.

In 2020, we negotiated donations to the Pompidou Center in Paris on several occasions, both with representatives of the center and with potential Hungarian donors (EUR 27,875).

The Public Benefit Foundation for the Military Hospital received a donation of EUR 1,400 from Germany, the transfer of which was assisted by us.

Other cooperations

In 2019/2020, the foundation actively participated in the establishment and operation of the **Heves County Food Rescue Network**. The aim of the participants is to deliver food that is to be thrown away from the catering and grocery stores to those people in need. The activities of the network were mentored, facilitated and assisted by Bata Boglárka during several personal meetings.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has established the [COVID-19 Fund](https://covid19responsefund.org/en/), through which the WHO leads and coordinates global efforts to prevent a pandemic, and supports affected countries in detecting and responding to it. „At present, the greatest need is to promote preparedness in all countries concerned, especially those with the weakest health systems. The donations support the work of the WHO in its efforts to monitor and understand the spread of the virus; and also to ensure that patients receive the care they need and that workers in line of fire have access to the tools and information they need; in addition, efforts to develop vaccines, tests and treatments will be supported through this fund.”- the WHO stated in its announcement. Website of the Fund: <https://covid19responsefund.org/en/>

The Fund is managed in Europe by the Geneva-based Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, whose Hungarian partner, the **Carpathian Foundation**, can provide tax benefits to the fund through the Transnational Giving Europe network.

The LEGO Group has donated high-value toy donation to the foundation several times. First, we implemented the program called “[Game is our everything!](#)”, after that, [5000 play sets were distributed](#) to disadvantaged children before Santa Claus and Christmas.



9. picture: Children playing with LEGOs in Nyíregyháza



10. picture: Children playing with LEGOs in Szomolya



Financial statement of the projects and programs of the year 2020	
Name of programs, projects	Amount (HUF)
Strengthening and activating small communities of Northeast Hungary (EFOP-1.3.5-16-00915)	6 985 903
Carpathian Civil Society Platform	17 600
Building Capacities for Effective Early Childhood Development of Marginalized Roma in Hungary	28 829 461
Civil Map project	1 831 099
Chance for disadvantaged children	5 433 382
Projects altogether	43 097 445
Carpathian Equal Opportunities Scholarship Program	300 000
Transnational Giving Europe	9 676 365
Programs altogether	9 976 365
All projects and programs	53 073 810

Board of Trustees of the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary in 2020

Sándor Köles – Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Zsolt Szekeres – Board member

Boglárka Bata – Board member

Staff of the Carpathian Foundation in 2020

Boglárka Bata – Executive director

Norbert Havasi – program coordinator

Márta Rakusz – program coordinator

Melinda Vartik – financial manager, accountant

Anett Kalotai – communication and project assistant

Judit Tomik – office assistant

János Buella - volunteer coordinator

Ádám Rostás – scholar, trainee

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

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