

**Terms of Reference of the  
Environmental Policy and Rural Development  
Working Group  
(EPRD WG) of the CERI**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The EPRD WG is an expert working body of the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI).
- 1.2 The ToR define the mandate for the EPRD WG to take action in the subject areas described below. The ToR also provide guidance for the work that the EPRD WG is expected to undertake, and to its general working arrangements. The work of the EPRD WG shall be based on the overall strategic goal of CERI and should contribute to fulfillment of its mission.
- 1.3 Proposed activities and budget of EPRD WG must be approved prior to its realisation by the CERI Board.

## **2. Objective**

The Working Group will assist Board in developing and implementing long-term, comprehensive and integrated environmental policies and measures that are supportive to sustainable (rural) development in the Carpathians. Such environmental policies' measures and sustainable development practices should affect international and/or national authorities to improve and/or promote sustainable development in the Carpathian/mountain region as well as to aim better livelihood of local inhabitants in the region.

## **3. Responsibilities**

- 3.1 The EPRD WG is responsible for successful implementation of its ToR.
- 3.2 The EPRD WG will select among the members the coordinator of the WG for the period of 2 years.
- 3.3 The coordinator of EPRD WG will coordinate the preparation and implementation of the WG's work plan and will report regularly to the CERI Board and its General Assembly on the implementation of ongoing activities, on proposed activities and the results achieved. The coordinator will maintain the communication with CERI Secretariat.
- 3.4 The EPRD WG will select among the members the chair of the WG for the period of 2 years. The chair will lead and facilitate the work of the BDWG and will chair all its meetings.
- 3.2 The EPRD WG will report regularly to the CERI Board and its General Assembly on the implementation of ongoing activities, proposed activities and results achieved.
- 3.3 Where issues are also addressed by other WGs, the topics/tasks will be consulted and agreed with the other WGs before submission of workplan/reporting to the CERI Board and General Assembly.

## **4. Main tasks of the EPRD WG**

The EPRD WG will carry out the following main tasks:

- 4.1 To define role of CERI in the frame of the Agenda 21 in the Carpathian region
- 4.2 To share experience in the field of implementation of existing instruments, programs and projects relevant for development in the region with focus on Carpathian Convention
- 4.3 To collect and examine existing documentation on environmental policies as well as to analyze existing practices and produce their comprehensive and comparative review.
- 4.4 To determine key principles that will be supported and promoted by CERI and to prepare recommendations for CERI Board regarding advocating and lobbying for these principles.
- 4.5 To investigate, analyze, inform CERI Board and GA and/or alarm other relevant international and national authorities concerning all treats to nature in Carpathian region.
- 4.6 To investigate and analyze opportunities for rural development in Carpathian region.
- 4.7 To define principals for rural development in Carpathian region.
- 4.8 To develop project proposals about rural development in Carpathian region and apply with them at relevant donors and programs.

- 4.9 To foster capacity building for national and regional subjects of rural development.
- 4.10 To disseminate relevant information on rural development opportunities and best practices and promote their values.
- 4.11 To contribute to the CERI Business Plan.
- 4.12 To cooperate with BD WG on commenting the Biodiversity Protocol of the Carpathian Convention.
- 4.13 To develop yearly plans and budget for the Working group and harmonize them with other WGs.
- 4.14 To perform other tasks related to the objective of the WG in the frame of CERI Statute and Carpathian Convention.
- 4.15 To cooperate with CERI Secretariat on management and updating of CERI website
- 4.16 To review its ToR on a regular basis and propose amendments for approval by the CERI
- 4.17 To identify threats and obstacles in sustainable development of the Carpathians.

#### **5. Cooperation with other CERI Bodies**

The EPRD WG will collaborate closely with CERI Secretariat, CERI Board and all other WGs. The EPRD WG shall invite the Executive Secretary or a nominated representative of the relevant WGs to their meetings to ensure the necessary coordination.

#### **6. Membership**

- 6.1 The Working Group consists of CERI member representatives interested and/or involved in the Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development issues.
- 6.2 Members will be nominated or approved by the National Focal Points or by any other members of the EPRD WG.
- 6.3 If it is necessary, WG will involve other individuals (CERI members or other experts) in their work.

#### **7. Working Arrangements**

The general working arrangements for the EPRD WG are provided by the CERI Rules of Procedure adopted at the 3rd General Assembly of the CERI in 2006.