

Introduction to the Agenda of the Meeting of CERI National Networks

Wednesday, 5 December 2007

Proposed agenda:

1. *Election of a National Focal Point (NFP) for next 2-year period*
2. *Contribution to CERI Development Strategy – the core activity*
3. *Other business*

1. Election of a NFP

According to the Statutes, Art. 4 (see also www.carpat.es.org), National Focal Point is the country representative in the Board, coordinates organisations responsible for CERI activities on the national level with a mandate to represent CERI at the national level. Being a liaison between the country and the international scene, CERI NFP must fulfill the following conditions:

legally registered organization working on Carpathian environmental issues

technical communication tools, computer skills

two staff persons fluent in English

the Board can decide on the election of National Focal Points earlier than 2 years, if the above conditions are not fulfilled

In case you plan to elect NFP in your countries prior to General Assembly, please, prepare a report on this process and this agenda item is irrelevant for your group.

2. Contribution to CERI Development Strategy

This is the core activity for the meeting of the national networks. Its aim is, to discuss the development of CERI within the national networks, to give space to members to express their views on the future development of our organisation.

This strategic document is crucial for the development and strengthening of every organization. It sets the direction in which the organization will grow in the long term view. The strategy identifies the mission, vision, main objectives and priorities for the network functioning. During the year 2006 CERI focused on mobilization and motivation of its members to join the network activities actively and what more, to have their own voice in discussions on the future steps which the network will undertake. Therefore the last year was crucial for the identification of capacity, potential, experiences and skills of NGOs and research institutes in the CERI network. Based on this knowledge, improved contacts with individual members and initial discussions, CERI can start to work on the identification of its development goals. CERI needs to set the priority areas of work in order to clearly define its role and position in the region and to prevent overlap with other existing networks active in the environmental field in Carpathians and whole Europe.

CERI will decide in 2007 the extent to which it wants to focus its work in specific geographic, specific scale and ecologically thematic areas. Regardless of where and how CERI decides to focus its work – both as a network and in support of individual or joint members' projects, these decisions will also have major implications for CERI's branding and communications and cooperation with other partners.

The long-term sustainability of organization is crucial for successful implementation of its activities and fulfilling its overall goals. Therefore this aspect will also be reflected in the strategy. It will define the main focus, possibilities and principles of fundraising, as the basic precondition for the survival and grow of each non-governmental structure.

The CERI Secretariat and Board took the lead in this activity, prepared the draft document based on internal discussions. The draft will be discussed, commented and approved during the CERI General Assembly, in order to ensure the democratic process and enable the individual members to influence not only this important document, but through it also the future of CERI. The CERI Development Strategy will set the direction of CERI development in upcoming years based on defined long-term network development vision.

The process of preparation of the Development Strategy was initiated during the CERI Board meeting, held on 17-18 May 2007 in Bratislava. The task for the Board was to outline the core of the Strategy, following the above mentioned approach:

Bodies to be involved in the process:

CERI Secretariat, Board, WG Coordinators, Members

Approach

1. Identification of the main objective of CERI (overall, long term)
2. SWOT Analyses of CERI with relation to the main objective/objectives identified SWOT analyses will form the bases for elaboration of the DS, but will not be part of the final document)
3. Identification of the needed CERI responses to results of the SWOT analyses
4. Defining the development objectives/steps/milestones of CERI in order to fulfill the main objective and to respond to SWOT results (possible use of Logical Framework Approach).
5. Elaboration of the CERI Development Strategy.

Table of Contents of Strategy

1. Background
2. Mission
3. Vision
4. Strategic objective/objectives (overall, long term)
5. Stakeholder related objectives (main stakeholders and CERI relations with them)
6. CERI Structure
7. CERI Development Objectives (where the CERI will be in eg 5 years? If it is not part of the vision)



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There are several items which need members' feedback. The discussions will be under the leadership of the country National Focal Point, who participated at the Board meeting and is familiar with the aspects of preparation of the document. The expected outputs of the meeting will be comments to the draft of the Strategy, collected by a rapporteur and also handed over to the CERI Board. The summary of the national meeting will be done during the plenary session next day.

The draft of the Development Strategy is enclosed.

Czech Republic ● Hungary ● Poland ● Romania ● Serbia ● Slovakia ● Ukraine

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