

## **Summary and conclusions of a meetings on the strategy of WP4 implementation at the Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (Lviv) and in the Ukraine**

*Lviv, IEC, May 26, 2011*

### **Participants of meetings at ICE:**

Kozlovsky, Mykola – Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (ICE), the Director, the Chairman of the Specialised Board for Doctoral Defences at ICE, the contact person for ICE  
Shkaruba, Anton – Central European University (CEU), a member of the EnGo Coordination Team and the Steering Committee  
Shpakivska, Iryna – Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (ICE), the Secretary of the Specialised Board for Doctoral Defences at ICE

### **Participants of a meeting at the Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Sciences and the Ministry for Education and Science:**

Kozlovsky, Mykola – Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (ICE), the Director, the Chairman of the Specialised Board for Doctoral Defences at ICE, the contact person for ICE  
Shkaruba, Anton – Central European University (CEU), a member of the EnGo Coordination Team and the Steering Committee  
Shpakivska, Iryna – Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (ICE), the Secretary of the Specialised Board for Doctoral Defences at ICE  
Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Science and the Ministry of Education, the Director  
Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Science and the Ministry of Education, the Academic Secretary

### **Participants of a meeting with PhD students at ICE:**

*Academic Staff:*

Kozlovsky, Mykola – Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (ICE), the Director, the Chairman of the Specialised Board for Doctoral Defences at ICE, the contact person for ICE  
Shkaruba, Anton – Central European University (CEU), a member of the EnGo Coordination Team and the Steering Committee  
Shpakivska, Iryna – Institute of the Carpathians' Ecology (ICE), the Secretary of the Specialised Board for Doctoral Defences at ICE

*PhD students:*

### **The purpose and the organisation of the meetings**

The meeting was set up in order to hold a discussion about the ICE's contribution to the project, in particular to the WP4 implementation in Ukraine and beyond. The meeting was called by Dr. Anton Shkaruba of CEU and hosted by Prof. Mykola Kozlovsky of ICE. In the course of the meeting the capacity of ICE and the existing institutional arrangements for PhD studies at ICE and in Ukraine in general were reviewed and discussed.

The ideas for PhD training organizations were also discussed at the Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Science and the Ministry of Education, and later on also with PhD students from ICE and other Lviv – based research institutes and universities.

### **Summary of the discussions**

*Meeting at the ICE*

The Institute runs a PhD program in Ecology (the awarded degree is *biological sciences*) and also hosts a Specialized Board for PhD Defenses (ecology, biological sciences); many of the Institute's

staff are also involved in teaching and PhD supervision in Lviv – based universities and research institute. That said, the Institute has a capacity, interest and incentive to work on the PhD package, and in the event of the lack of capacity at other PC EnGo partners, the Institute is also ready to take over the co-leadership in WP4 (currently performed by ISEU (BY)).

The Institute is ready to host internships and research stays by PhD, MSc students and academic staff from other EnGo partners, in particular it can offer a stay at its Mountain Field Station in the Carpathian Mountains. The Field Station also can be used for summer schools and shorter training sessions, and it was preliminary agreed that in late July-early August 2012, the Field Station can be used for a summer school on biodiversity and water resources, possibly in a cooperation with OSENU (e.g. it can include one week in the Carpathians and one week in Odessa).

The ICE has developed proposals (presented by Dr. Iryna Shpakivska) for a pilot initiative supporting the development of PhD research training under WP4. The idea is to take the model of doctoral school and offer the Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Science and the Ministry of Education to host it. The Centre is co-supervised by the national Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Educations, and its mission is to coordinate research and innovations (this also includes PhD studies). In total, there are 5 Regional Centers in Ukraine. This particular Center brings together research institutes and universities located in Western Ukraine (including all the L'viv-based research institutes and universities). According to the initiative, all the institutes and universities coordinated by the Centre would make a common pool of PhD training courses potentially useful for PhD students working on environmental topics, and all the PhD students studying in these universities and institutes will have an access to the courses; moreover, they will be obliged to register for a certain number of them in order to get a minimum number of credits to be agreed between the institutes and the universities. This scheme is new for Ukraine, and there are no legal provisions and/or regulation supporting it. However, the new Higher Education Act (currently being debated by the Ukrainian Parliament) recognises the three-cycle organization of tertiary education, and therefore the existing system of PhD studies will need to be re-designed to have a stronger emphasis on research training. This makes the proposed initiative timely and potentially sustainable, and the Western Research Centre might be interested to take a lead in this pilot. While we first offer the Western Research Centre to start this, we will also approach with the same proposal the North-East Research Center that coordinates research development in the Region of Kharkiv.

#### ***Meeting at the Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Sciences and the Ministry for Education and Science***

On the meeting the doctoral school initiative (outlined in the previous section) was presented and explained by Prof. Mykola Kozlovsky and Dr. Iryna Shpakivska to the Director and to the Academic Secretary of the Center. After a short discussions, the Director and the Academic Secretary preliminary agreed to support the initiative. It was agreed that a detail proposal will be formulated by mid September 2011 by Prof. Mykola Kozlovsky, Dr. Iryna Shpakivska and Dr. Anton Shkaruba with a support of the EnGo partners (most of all Andreas Mayer of IFF Social Ecology Wien coordinating WP4 and Prof. Maria Kozova). Then the proposal will be circulated to the institutions coordinated by the Center and discussed by a dedicated work group during early fall 2011. Dr. Anton Shkaruba has committed to discuss the proposal with key EnGo partners and, if time allows, to take part in the work group meeting.

#### ***Meeting with PhD students at ICE***

The meeting has brought together PhD students and young researchers from ICE, and also from other L'viv-based research institutes and universities with graduate or/and postgraduate programs in the field of environment. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Mykola Kozlovsky and had in agenda keynote speeches by Dr. Anton Shkaruba (information about EnGo and an overview of environmental governance as an overarching concept and a source of research methodology), Dr. Iryna Shpakivska (the doctoral research training initiative), Viktor Kireyeu (CEU PhD experience), ... (ICE PhD experience; constraints and opportunities for PhD studies in Ukraine), a question-answer session and a discussion. The issue discussed included problems with publishing

research results (e.g. most Ukrainian journals charge page fees; publishing in international peer-reviewed journal was discussed as an alternative), raising conference money (in particular for conference trips outside Ukraine), low PhD scholarships and internship, low support for research under PhD projects (a suggestion was to take PhD students only for work in a specific project, so the student uses in their thesis the research findings they produce in the project), research and study opportunities abroad, in particular at EnGo partners and abroad (e.g. Visegrad scholarship scheme was suggested to try in order to support guest research visits to EnGo partners in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia). The idea of PhD training as presented by Dr. Iryna Shpakivska was largely supported, with a particular reservation that some of the existing PhD training courses (e.g. philosophy or/and IT) need to be replaced with courses relevant to their PhD theses.

## **Conclusions**

- ICE will contribute to WP4 (and effectively to WP1, 2) by co-organising intensive summer training sessions, hosting internships and research visits, providing opportunities for joint supervision
- ICE offers the Western Research Centre of the National Academy of Sciences and the Ministry for Education and Science to coordinate a pilot on PhD research training in the field of environment, and develops detail proposals to be discussed at the Center by the early fall 2011