



Report of local dialogue on environmental issues and the importance of protecting natural resources

Organized by CoR member Csaba Borboly (EPP/Romania)

Title of the event:	"Up to the hill!"
Name of CoR Member claiming the outreach allowance:	Csaba Borboly (EPP/RO)
Organised by: (name of organisation)	Harghita County Council, Romania
Partners:	Harghita County Mountain Rescue Service
Date and time of the event:	Saturday, September 23, 2023
Event type: (choice of online, onsite, hybrid)	onsite
Location(s) of event (city / region / country) (if online, state main location of event hosts/organisers)	Suhardul-Mic, Lacu Roşu, Romania
Total number of participants: (if online, indicate followers/viewers by stream)	21
Type of participants:	The event's target audience likely consisted of individuals of all ages and backgrounds who shared an interest in nature, environmental issues, and sustainability. This event aimed to bring together the local community and people with a passion for the environment, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Participants were encouraged to engage in discussions, outdoor activities, and a scenic hike in the mountains surrounding Lacu Roşu. The event fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility for the environment, emphasizing the importance of protecting natural resources and raising awareness about environmental issues Speakers: president of Harghita County Council, CoR member, representatives of Harghita County Mountain Rescue Service, international relations department within the county council who organised the event.
Name of CoR Members participating:	Csaba Borboly (EPP/RO)

Name(s) of representatives from other EU institutions (MEPs, European Commissioners, etc.)	-
Name(s) of national ministers participating:	-
Name(s) of Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) participating:	Former YEP member: Fekete Örs (Romania), member of the Harghita County Mountain Rescue Service
Theme(s) covered during the event:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change and the environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A stronger economy, social justice and jobs <input type="checkbox"/> EU in the world <input type="checkbox"/> Values and rights, rule of law, security <input type="checkbox"/> Digital transformation <input type="checkbox"/> European democracy <input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, culture, youth and sport <input type="checkbox"/> Other ideas – please give details below:
Other ideas:	<p>-promoting the principles of environmental awareness and protection, sustainable practices and their impact on the environment, the importance of biodiversity and the role of different species in the ecosystem, learn about local bird species, fostering an appreciation for the region's biodiversity, provide information about the importance of trees in carbon sequestration and local ecology.</p> <p>-learn about mountain safety and rescue operations</p>
Recommendations/proposals from the event: (maximum 250 words per point)	<p>Community environmental education programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish regular community workshops and educational programs about environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and wildlife protection collaborate with local schools, community centers, and environmental organizations to spread awareness - encourage school partnerships and extracurricular activities that focus on environmental education and youth-led conservation projects
	<p>Rural waste management initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initiate a community-led waste management program, encouraging recycling, composting, and proper disposal of waste - advocate for the installation of recycling bins in public spaces and promote responsible waste disposal practices
	<p>Local eco-tourism development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eco-tourism initiatives that highlight the natural beauty of the region - collaborate with local guides, artisans, and businesses to create sustainable tourism experiences - emphasize responsible tourism practices to preserve the environment
	<p>Promotion of sustainable agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support local farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices. Encourage organic farming, permaculture, and agroforestry. Organize workshops and training sessions on sustainable farming methods, soil health, and water conservation <p>Implementing these recommendations and proposals can contribute to the long-term environmental sustainability of the community, fostering a culture of environmental consciousness and active participation among the residents.</p>

<p>Other relevant messages expressed by citizens or speakers during the event:</p>	<p>During the networking part of the event participants shared their personal experiences and likely expressed their gratitude for the natural beauty of their surroundings and emphasized the importance of preserving it for future generations. Some participants had concerns about local pollution issues, such as water contamination, air quality, or waste disposal, and called for collective efforts to address these challenges.</p> <p>Also, participants shared their interest in adopting sustainable practices at home, such as recycling, energy conservation, and eco-friendly gardening, and sought guidance on how to implement these changes effectively.</p> <p>Others expressed a need for more educational initiatives, workshops, and awareness campaigns to inform the community about environmental issues and conservation methods.</p> <p>Speakers emphasized the need for supportive policies at the local and national levels, for stricter environmental regulations and policies promoting renewable energy and conservation efforts. Also they have stressed the significance of community involvement in environmental initiatives.</p> <p>They encouraged the formation of local environmental groups, neighborhood clean-up efforts, and tree-planting campaigns, emphasizing that small-scale grassroots initiatives collectively make a significant impact. They have highlighted the benefits of supporting local farmers and businesses that engage in sustainable practices. Encouraging the community to buy local products can reduce carbon emissions associated with transportation and promote regional sustainability.</p>
<p>Hyperlinks to web / press / social media coverage:</p>	<p>Social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://m.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=725520472926032&id=100064042563270&set=a.261051339372950&eav=Afau8SDkmJTF4YPdP-WHy3tH5H9dmqFsIswXWRGKsvgI6QMRRcMOEfV9RfdZkV81Vlc&paipv=0&source=48 - https://www.facebook.com/100064042563270/posts/pfbid0En6yAag8e8dqJ63gPxzWU8gCnTLhEcqvyK9wnKUxcN67fepAtzGUJ6HwTnej5jBl/?d=n - https://twitter.com/borbolycsaba/status/1706184938121314788 - https://www.linkedin.com/in/borboly-csaba-10530295/recent-activity/all/

Pictures:
(these may be used by the
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