

**Cluster Forest for Society**  
**Lesy pre spoločnosť - Ліси для суспільства**  
**Annual report 2018**

**I. Identification data:**

**Name** in slovak: **Lesy pre spoločnosť**, abbreviated name: **LES**

in ukrainian: **Ліси для суспільства**, abbreviated name: **ЛІС**

**Seat** in Slovakia: Južná trieda 11, 040 01 Košice

in Ukraine: Мynajcka 27/39, 88000 Užhorod

**Date of establishment:** June 6, 2016 by signature of Cluster Charter

**Number of Cluster members at December 31, 2018:** 21

**II. Cluster mission and objectives:**

**Cluster** was founded as a part of the project No. CBC01013 Forests for Society - Forests Without Barriers, implemented through Norwegian Grants within the Cross-Border Cooperation Program. Cluster was founded by four project partners from Slovakia and two partners from Ukraine, who are members of the Cluster Board, as well.

**Cluster** is an association of equivalent members based on the mutual trust and cooperation.

The main objective of the cluster is to improve the development of cross-border cooperation within the Slovak-Ukrainian region and the promotion of sustainable development, tourism and the interpretation of natural values through intensive information exchange and counseling. Cluster enables to improve the potential of individual members and to promote common procedures in the development of the Slovak-Ukrainian region. It establishes a network of cooperating entities operating in concerned areas in order to create mutual cooperation among members of the cluster, supports and develops the cross-border cooperation of the Slovak-Ukrainian region among the members of the cluster, ensures information exchange, increases the potential of individual members in the field of development of regions and tourism through cluster membership. Membership in the cluster is free of charge.

### **III. Cluster Board**

The members of the Cluster Board are the founding members of the cluster as follows:

#### **National Forest Centre**

T. G. Masaryka 22, 960 92 Zvolen, Slovakia

In representation: Ing. Milan Sarvaš, PhD. – Chairman of the Cluster Board

#### **Forza, Agency for Sustainable Development of Carpathian Region**

Mynajska 27/39 88000, Užhorod, Ukraine

In representation: Lesya Loyko – Vice-Chairman of the Cluster Board

#### **Municipal Forests Košice, s.c.**

Južná trieda 11, 040 01 Košice, Slovakia

In representation: Ing. Miroslav Tököly

#### **Pro Populo Poprad, Ltd.**

Obrancov mieru 329, 059 34 Spišská Teplica, Slovakia

In representation: Ing. Peter Petrik

#### **Secondary Forestry School Prešov**

Kollárova 10, 080 01, Prešov, Slovakia

In representation: Ing Miroslav Fuchs, PhD.

#### **Slovak Disability Council**

Heydukova 25, 811 08, Bratislava, Slovakia

In representation: Mgr. Tibor Köböl

#### **National Nature Park "Zacharovanny kray"**

Zakarpatská obl., Iršavskij reg., Ilnitsya, Partizanska ul., 90130, Ukraine

In representation: Vasil Fennich

#### **IV. Cluster activity during the period of January - December 2018**

The cluster activity followed the previous period on the base of individual cluster members cooperation through exchange information and advice.

- In April 2018, the event Regional Forest Days was held in Košice aimed at raising awareness of forestry and nature conservation in the region, which will contribute to the development of tourism. The organizers of the event were the Municipal Forests of Košice, s.c., which in cooperation with the National Forest Centre Zvolen prepared a program of forest pedagogy for the public.
- In May 2018, the second year activity of program. „To the Forest with Forester” has took place for 100 primary school pupils from Spišská Belá town and its surroundings, in cooperation with members of the cluster - National Forest Centre and Municipal Forests of Spišská Belá, Ltd.
- Cluster members from Ukraine, including FORZA agency, Uzhlis, Zacharovany kraj national nature park and representatives of other forest enterprises from the region, have been actively cooperating on the preparation and organization of the Forest Fest in Berehovo, Zakarpattya, which took place in September 2018. The event was held for the third time and perceived by the citizens of Berehovo with great enthusiasm. It contributes to development of tourism, to the spread of cultural traditions and raising protection awareness of natural resources.
- FORZA agency has actively promoted forest pedagogy goals and activities during this period. The principles of forest pedagogy were presented and promoted during many events for foresters, pedagogues, employees of educational institutions, representatives of non-governmental organizations of the Zakarpattya region in Ukraine. During this period, the Agency organized educational activities focusing on forestry as follows:
  - Introductory Forest Rangers Meeting, Zakarpattya, September 2018 (34 participants) to support cooperation among school pedagogues and local forest rangers

- A series of trainings of Young Forest Rangers in Zakarpattya, Lvivska and Ivano-Frankivska regions - in total 6 trainings for 108 boys and girls during December 2018.
  - FORZA agency was a co-organizer of the International Hunter's Day (Vynohradovo, June 2018) and Forester's Day (Beregovo, September 2018) where fun and educational outdoor forest-related activities for children were organized for approximately 400 and 800 participants respectively
  - As the concept of forest pedagogy has been widely promoted by FORZA nationwide, the State Forest Agency of Ukraine has invited FORZA representatives to carry out a Workshop-training on forest pedagogy for representatives of forest administrations of Southern-Eastern and Central regions of Ukraine, responsible for educational activities, heads of forestry schools (Kiev, February 2018, 23 persons)
  - Certified pedagogues, who have completed the course under project FORSOC have shared forest pedagogy methods with their peers during the master class of biology teachers (Uzhgorod, October 2018, 15 persons)
- Cooperation of cluster members within the project activity:
    - Within EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism program (Call for Proposals 2018-1) an international consortium has been created (1 organization / country - NO, SK, GE, SI, RS, UA) and prepared the proposal for transnational project focusing on priority: energy, climate change and a low carbon economy. **Two members of the cluster were directly involved in the preparation of the project: National Forest Centre (Lead Partner) and FORZA Agency.** The project named „FOR CHANGE“ is focused on forests and climate change education, and the experience gained from the FORSOC project will be used. Other members of the cluster will also be invited to implement the project.
    - In the framework of cross-border cooperation of the HUSKROUA ENI 2014-2020 program (Call for proposals 2017), a project entitled "Roads to Healthy Forests: Resilient, Adaptive, Diverse and Sustainable Forests in Cross-border Region of Ukraine and Slovakia" was developed, the acronym: ROADSTOHEALTHYFORESTS. The project (HUSKROUA / 1701 / LIP / 009) was approved on June 7, 2018 and will be implemented in 2019 for 36 months in **Uzhgorod State Forest Enterprise in Ukraine - Lead Partner and Cluster**

**Member.** The project partners include **two other members of the LES Cluster - FORZA Agency from Ukraine and Municipal Forests Spišská Belá, Ltd., SR.** The priority of the program being met is the sustainable use of the environment in cross-border areas - the conservation of natural resources, measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and river pollution.

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- In 2018, several meetings were held between members of the cluster in Ukraine and Slovakia to promote tourism, forest pedagogy and raise awareness of forestry in the region through the exchange of information and advice:
  - Meeting of FORZA agency and Skolivski Beskydy National Park representatives on interactive learning materials and outdoor activities
  - Meeting of FORZA agency and Uzhhorod National University representative about close-to-nature demonstration and training plots
  - Meeting of FORZA agency and the Ukrainian Mountain Forest Research Institute representatives on Forest Management Research about research in watershed based approach in forest management
  - Meeting of representatives of National Forest centre and Municipal Forests Spišská Belá, Ltd. in May 2018, in the context of preparing forest pedagogy activities for children for further cooperation in the region's awareness of forestry.
  - Work meeting of representatives of National Forest Centre and Municipal Forests Košice, s.c. during the Regional Forest Days in Košice in May 2018, due to discussing the proposal of outdoor activities in the territory of Municipal forests Košice, s.c. in order to increase tourism with the use of forest pedagogy.

The number of cluster members was 21 at the end of 2018. The list is available at <http://www.forsoc.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Zoznam-%C4%8Dlenov-klastra-11.9.2018.pdf>.

The cluster is open to new members whose active participation will be welcome and contribute to the development of the border region.

## **Cluster Action plan for 2019**

- Cooperation during the event „Forestry day“ in the area of communication and public relations in Košice. Goal is to raise awareness of forestry and nature protection and promote tourism in the region.
- Promotion of the forest pedagogics approach among foresters and pedagogues of other regions of Ukraine.
- Cooperation among cluster members in case of international projects approval within Norway financial mechanism Program.
- Participation of representatives of cluster members from Ukraine at the opening ceremony of Forestry Days 2019 in Zvolen, organized by the National Forest Centre
- Participation at the program of forest pedagogy „To the Forest with Forester“ for primary school pupils from Spišská Belá town. Goal is to develop the region in the area of forest tourism.
- Meetings of the cluster members and effective communication on the issues of tourism, forestry, public relations and looking for solutions, that will contribute for better development of the region.