



Integrated Infrastructure Planning & Safeguarding the Functionality of Ecological Corridors in the Danube Region

EU Green Week 2020: Green Carpathians – Webinar on Transnational Cooperation to address the biggest threats to the Biodiversity of the Carpathian Mountains, 25 September, 11.00 CEST, online

Threats to nature & benefits to people



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Turnul Sfatului

Increase of traffic and transport infrastructure due to development cause

- Landscape fragmentation
- Land use change
- Wildlife barriers
- Accidents

Benefits: boost of rural development, better access to education and health centers, and markets

Why is ecological connectivity important?

- Biodiversity
- Movement of animals
 - for mating, food and shelter
- Resilience and stability of ecosystems
 - related to natural fluctuations & climate change
- Provision of ecosystem services we all depend on



Javornik © Rastislav Stanik



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Challenges



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

SaveGREEN

- To balance people's needs for safer and better infrastructure while conserving nature
- To make authorities and people understand the importance of safeguarding ecological connectivity for healthy livelihoods
- Lack of experience of authorities and engineers in proper planning procedures
- Lack of accessible, scientifically sound biodiversity data
- Low performance of environmental law implementation

(ERDF)

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TRANSGREEN

Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature



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TRANSGREEN in a nutshell

Duration: 1 January 2017 – June 2019, 2.4 Mio EUR

The project aims at contributing to an environmentally-friendly and safer road and rail network in the Carpathians by integrating Green Infrastructure elements into TEN-T related transport infrastructure development at the local, national and transnational level across relevant sectors.

NGOs

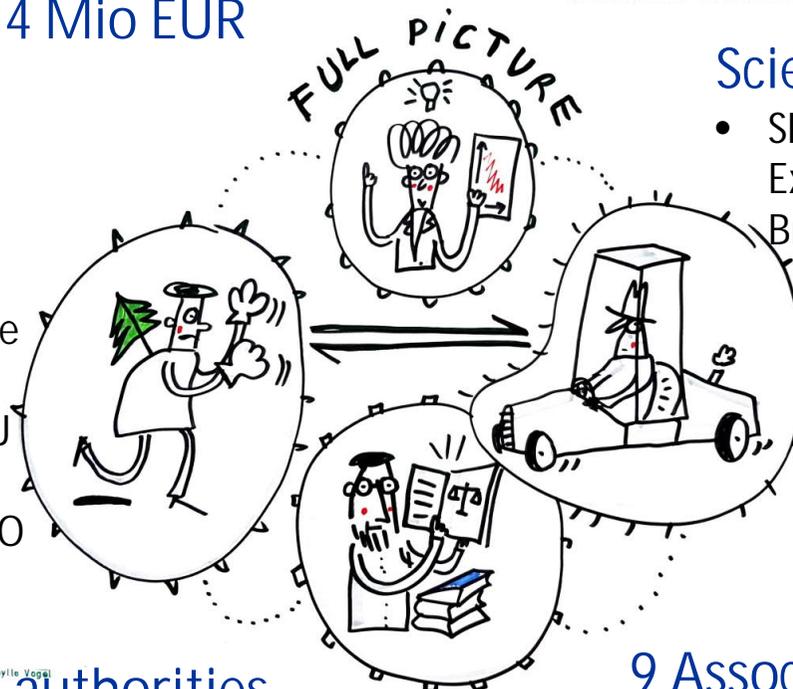
- Friends of the Earth – CZ
- CEEweb – HU
- Milvus – RO
- WWF – AT, RO

Public authorities

- Nature Conservation Agency - CZ
- State Nature Conservancy - SK

Science

- SPECTRA – Centre of Excellence for EU, TU Bratislava – SK



9 Associated Strategic Partners from AT, CZ, HU, PL, RO, SI, UA

TRANSGREEN Pilot areas & Objectives

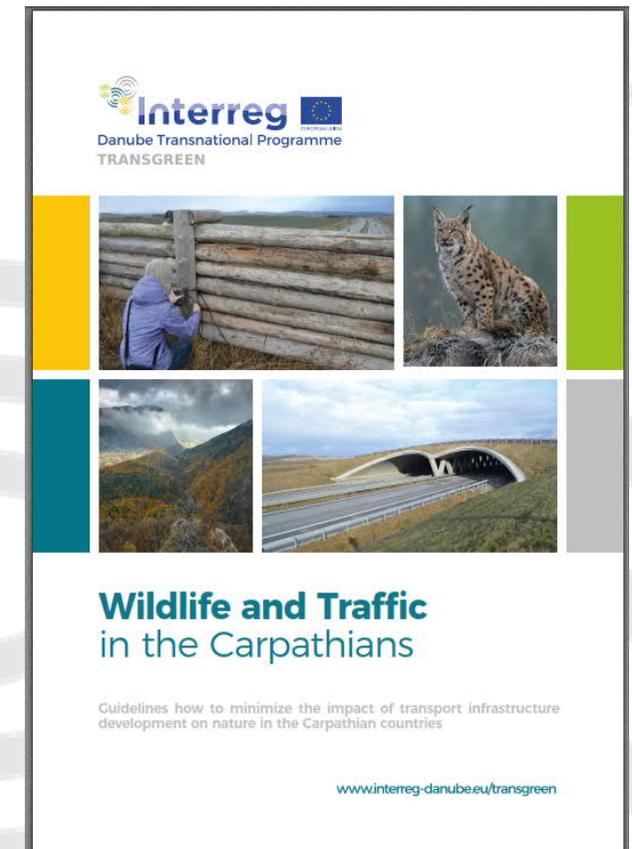


Objectives

1. Cooperation among relevant partners from transport, spatial planning and environmental sector is improved.
2. Scientific knowledge base for sound decision-making is created.
3. Conflicts between transport planning and Green Infrastructure objectives are minimised.

TRANSGREEN achievements

- Improved collaboration between the sectors and across the target countries, awareness raised among relevant stakeholders - over 460 organisations were involved!
- Guidelines on Wildlife and Traffic endorsed by 7 Parties to the Carpathian Convention and adapted to national needs in Romania
- EIA Training Package successfully increases capacity in Ukraine & Romania
- Catalogues of measures provide good solutions for existing and planned motorways in the pilot areas, uptake into Defragmentation Programme in the Czech Republic, good basis for future planning of A8 highway in Romania
- Draft Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2023 for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport - Carpathian Convention



TRANSGREEN Final Conference



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Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

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SaveGREEN

KICK-OFF MEETING

8-9 SEPTEMBER 2020

HILDEGARD MEYER

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- PILOT AREAS IN:
- AUSTRIA
 - HUNGARY
 - SLOVAKIA
 - BULGARIA
 - ROMANIA
 - UKRAINE

- PUBLIC AUTHORITIES
- SECTORIAL AGENCIES
- NGO's
- other interest groups

CROSS-SECTORAL & TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION

NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

SAFEGUARDING THE FUNCTIONALITY OF TRANSNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS IN THE DANUBE BASIN

WE ALSO NEED SPACE.

WE ALL DEPEND ON OUR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.

IMPROVE ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN BOTTLENECK AREAS



OUTPUTS:

- LOCAL MONITORING
- CROSS-SECTORAL OPERATIONAL PLANS
- WORKSHOPS
- CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM
- CONFERENCE

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIELDS OF:

- AGRICULTURE
- FORESTRY
- TRANSPORT
- SPATIAL PLANNING

POLICY CONTEXT IS A BACKBONE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- POLICY ENGAGEMENT
- ADVOCACY
 - STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT
 - CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & BEST PRACTICES

MONITORING

CAPACITY BUILDING

BUILDING ON ALREADY EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS



 www.visualive.eu

IN NUMBERS:

- DURATION: 1 JULY 2020 - 31 DEC 2022
- 13 PROJECT PARTNERS FROM 6 EU COUNTRIES
- 20 ASSOCIATED PARTNERS FROM 4 MORE COUNTRIES
- LEAD PARTNER: WWF CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE
- PROJECT VALUE: ~2.7 Mio EUR, ~2.3 Mio EUR ERDF FUNDS

SaveGREEN in one sentence

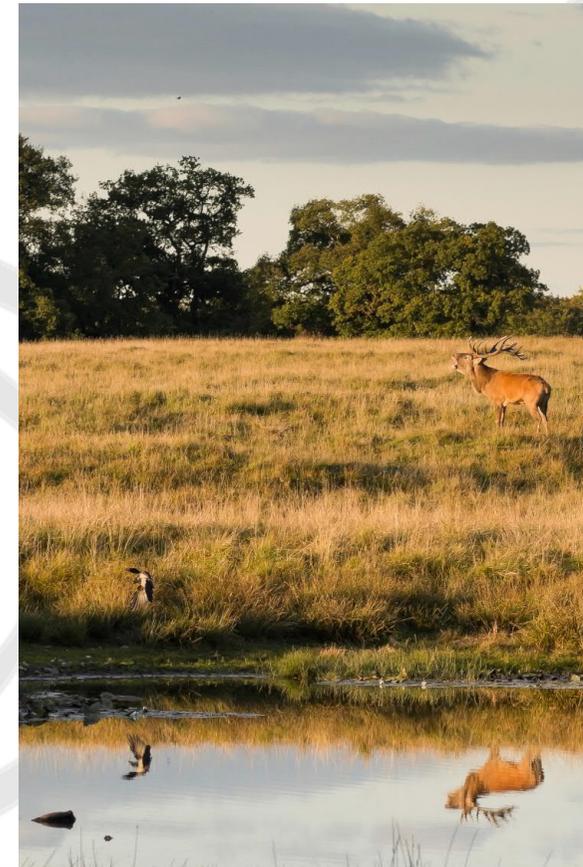


SaveGREEN will achieve improved structural and functional ecological connectivity in bottleneck areas by adapting land use and management in the surroundings involving stakeholders from different fields of experience in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.



Objectives

- Knowledge/experience among relevant authorities and key stakeholders increased
- Cross-sectoral practices improved relevant to Green Infrastructure for integrated mitigation measures, implementation and monitoring
 - Agriculture, forestry, water & protected area management, transport infrastructure, spatial planning
- International and national governance framework strengthened
 - National, EU, EUSDR, Carpathian Convention



13 Project Partners



Austria: Environment Agency, WWF Central and Eastern Europe

Bulgaria: Black Sea NGO Network, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

Czech Republic: Friends of the Earth, Transport Research Centre

Hungary: CEEweb for Biodiversity, Szent Istvan University

Romania: Association Zarand, EPC Consulting Ltd, WWF Romania

Slovakia: Slovak University in Bratislava – SPECTRA, WWF Slovakia

8 NGOs
3 Research institutions
1 Environmental authority
1 Company

20 Associated Strategic Partners



Austria: Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Bulgaria: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; SW State Enterprise SE – Blagoevgrad

Czech Republic: Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation Agency

France: Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe (IENE)

Germany: Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection

Greece: Egnatia Odos S. A.

Hungary: National Infrastructure Development Ltd., Ministry of Agriculture, Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate

Romania: Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests; Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration; Ministry Transport, Infrastructure and Communications

Slovakia: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transport and Construction, National Motorway Company, State Nature Conservancy

Ukraine: M. P. Shulgin State Road Research Institute State Enterprise – DerzhdorNDI SE, Zarkarpattia Oblast Administration

10 Ministries of

- Environment
- Agriculture
- Forestry, Waters
- Transport
- Public Works

3 Environmental and local authorities

1 National Park

4 Road & forest companies

1 Research institution

1 International Expert Network

Pilot areas



Danube Transnational Programme

SaveGREEN

Austria

1 Kobernausser forest
2 Pöttsching (Alpine-Carpathian Corridor)

Czech Rep./Slovakia
3 Beskydy mountains

Hungary/Slovakia
4 Ipoly – SW Slovakia (Lucenec)

Romania
6 Mures valley (Arad-Deva)

Ukraine
5 Zakarpatska region

Bulgaria
7 Struma valley



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Target Groups

- Public authorities at the local, regional and national level
- Sectoral agencies
- Infrastructure and (public) service providers
- Interest groups incl. NGOs
- General public



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Expected Outputs

- Standardized methodology for monitoring structural and functional connectivity incl. application toolbox for fieldwork & analysis
- Local cross-sectoral operational plans for each pilot area including preparatory actions for its implementation
- International on-site workshops to develop solutions & exchange experience held in the pilot areas
- Capacity building program for authorities & training events for public authorities and key players on cost/benefit analysis, SEA, EIA, etc.
- Joint political declaration on maintaining and restoring Green Infrastructure with a focus on spatial planning
- Recommendations towards the integration of mitigation measures into the national and EU level policy processes (GI funding measure)
- International conference in coordination with IENE 2022 Conference

Reaching out for synergies



- Centralparks
- ConnectGREEN
- Horizon 2020 BISON
- ReVerSE
- Open Borders for Wildlife in the Carpathians
- Dare2Connect
- LIFE Safe-Crossing
- LIFE Euro Large Carnivores
- BearConnect
- Etc.

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Contacts



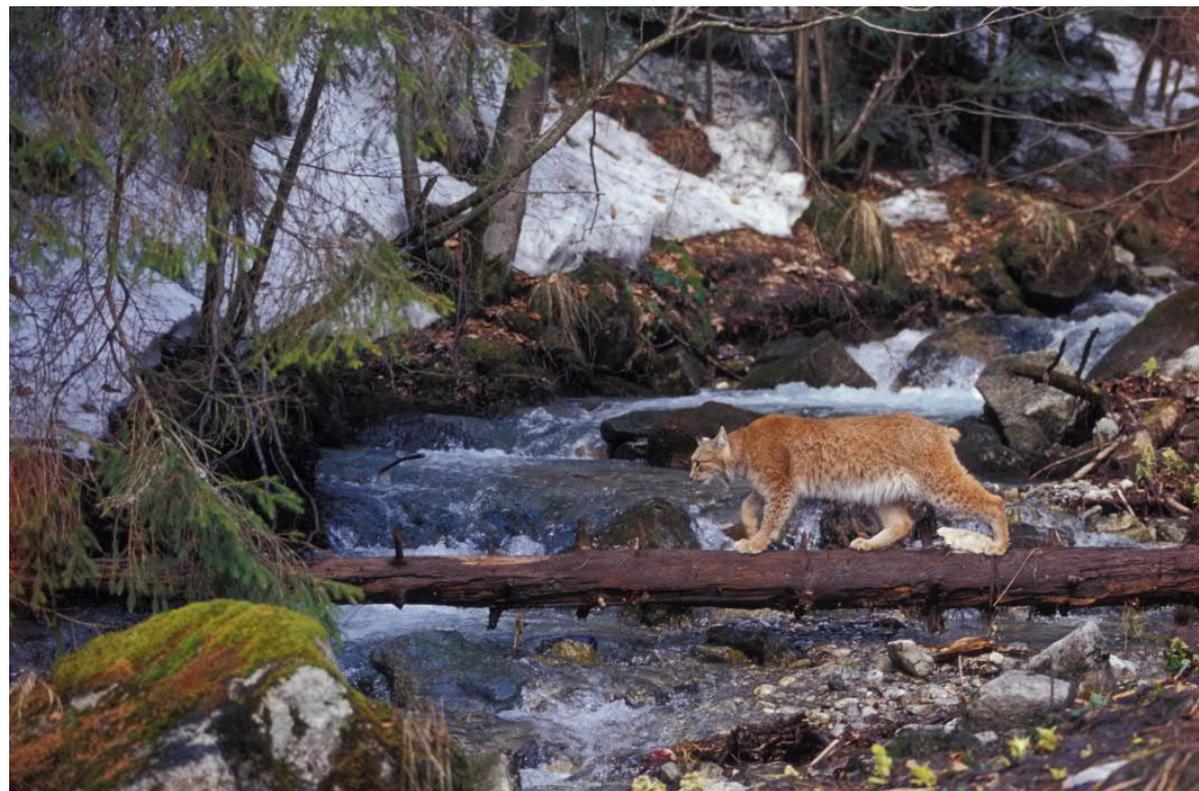
Hildegard Meyer, Project Manager, WWF Central and Eastern Europe, hmeyer@wwfcee.org, +43 650 276 3764

Irene Lucius, Supervisor, Conservation Director, WWF Central and Eastern Europe, ilucius@wwfcee.org, +43 676 842 728 215

Christophe Janz, Project officer, WWF Central and Eastern Europe, cjanz@wwfcee.org, +43 677 627 906 44

Cristian-Remus Papp, Project Manager, WWF DCP Romania, cpapp@wwfdcp.ro, +40 745 891 929

www.interreg-danube.eu/savegreen to come!



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