

**“EU eco-corridors: a mountain to climb”**  
**side event on European Week of Regions and Cities 2020**  
**on-line**

Date of workshop: 13 October 2020 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Agenda:

Welcome speeches			
	Moderator’s welcome on the event	Mr. Filippo Favilli, Eurac Research	
	Introduction to the topic of ecological corridors, their threats and why mountain ecosystems are important	Mr. Michal Wiezik, Member of the European Parliament	5’
	Introduction speech on the importance of European connectivity in the international environmental policy	Mr. Péter Olajos, CEEweb president, EU environmental policy specialist	5’
Presentations			
	Presentations of Alpine Convention’s projects: AlpBionet/Centralparks	Mr. Isidoro De Bortoli Eurac Research	15’
	Presentations of Carpathian Convention’s projects: TRANSGREEN - ConnectGREEN - SaveGreen	Ms. Hildegard Meyer, WWF CEE	15’
	Presentations of Dinaric Arc’s projects BioREGIO & DinalpConnect	Mr. Filippo Favilli Eurac Research	15’
Panel discussion			20’
Moderated discussion towards the future of EU Green Deal implementation & the foreseen acceptance of the new green EU policy by the Regions, projects contribution and roles achieving EU environmental ambitions			
	Ms. Alenka Smerkolj	Secretariat of the Alpine Convention	
	Mr. Harald Egerer	Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	
	Ms. Irene Lucius	WWF CEE	
	Mr. Isidoro De Bortoli	Eurac Research	

Q & A session			10'
Discussion supporting team in Q & A and sectoral issues on-line over the event according to questions arrive in chat box.			
	Ms. Eleonora Musco	Eurac Research/Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  Sectoral policy of transportation related to green infrastructure	
	Ms. Klaudia Kuraś	Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  Sectoral policy of Biodiversity and wildlife management	
	Mr. Christian Remus Papp	WWF Romania  Transgreen – ConnectGreen – SaveGreen related Project Implementaion	
	Ms. Zuzana Okanikova	SNC SR  Transferability study of project outputs	
	Mrs. Filepné Dr. Kovács Krisztina	Szent István University  Best/bad practices collected in projects	
	Mr. István Valánszki	Szent István University  Best/bad practices collected in projects	
Closing of session			
	Filippo Favilli	Eurac Research	5'

**Main aim of the workshop:** As part of Interreg's 30th anniversary, the workshop showcases examples of projects in different Interreg programs with impacts on Europe's natural environment, with a focus on transnational ecological corridors in the Alpine, Carpathian and Adriatic-Ionian regions. The workshop highlights common objectives across mountainous areas in Europe, gives answers to needs and challenges that cannot be tackled within national borders, and explains the benefits for EU programs and policy implementation.

**Importance of the topic:** Ecosystems, their related ecological corridors transcend national

and regional borders. The efforts to protect, maintain and sustainably manage these natural resources cannot be achieved by one sector or by one country alone, but require transnational and multi-sectoral cooperation and coordination, which is mainly processed by spatial planning and land use and strategic planning in the EU countries. This way the process of protection of ecological corridors provides access to the implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives, the Green Deal 2020, the Biodiversity Strategy, the SDG Agenda and even the Key Actions for Large Carnivore Populations in Europe through ecological corridors as of the TEN-G system.

Detailed description: The workshop aims at raising awareness of the importance of transnational ecological corridors related to biodiversity loss in Europe. Three European mountain areas are presented, transferability of best practices and their contributions to the implementation of EU policy and programs discussed. The workshop fits the selected topic Green Europe and it adds to the discussions regarding the European Green Deal and related SDGs.

Language of work shop:        English

