

# Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube Basin

Christophe Janz, WWF-Central and Eastern Europe

13th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working  
Group on Biodiversity, 11-12 April 2022, online

# Mountains in the Danube region



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# Species



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# The challenges

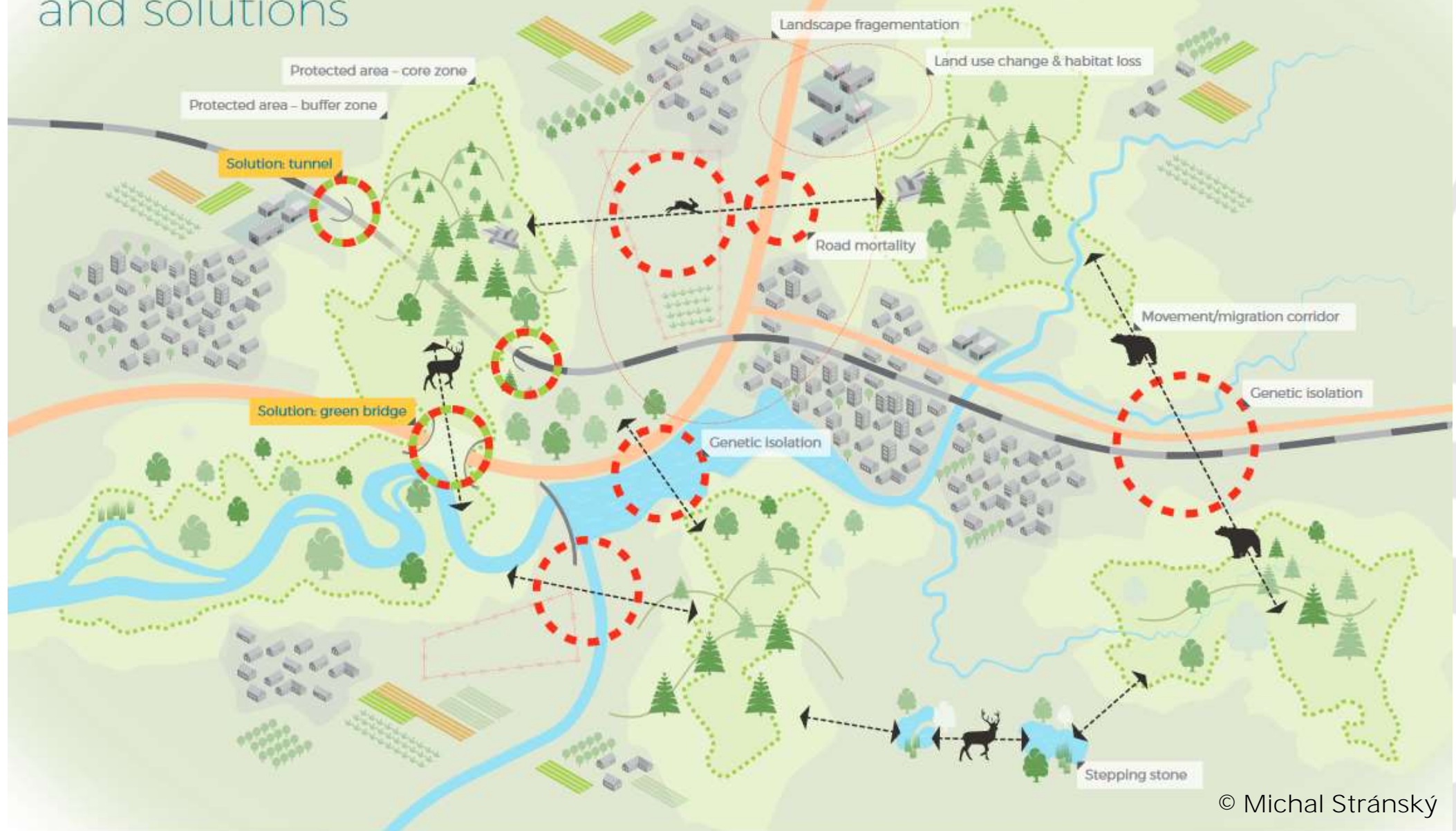


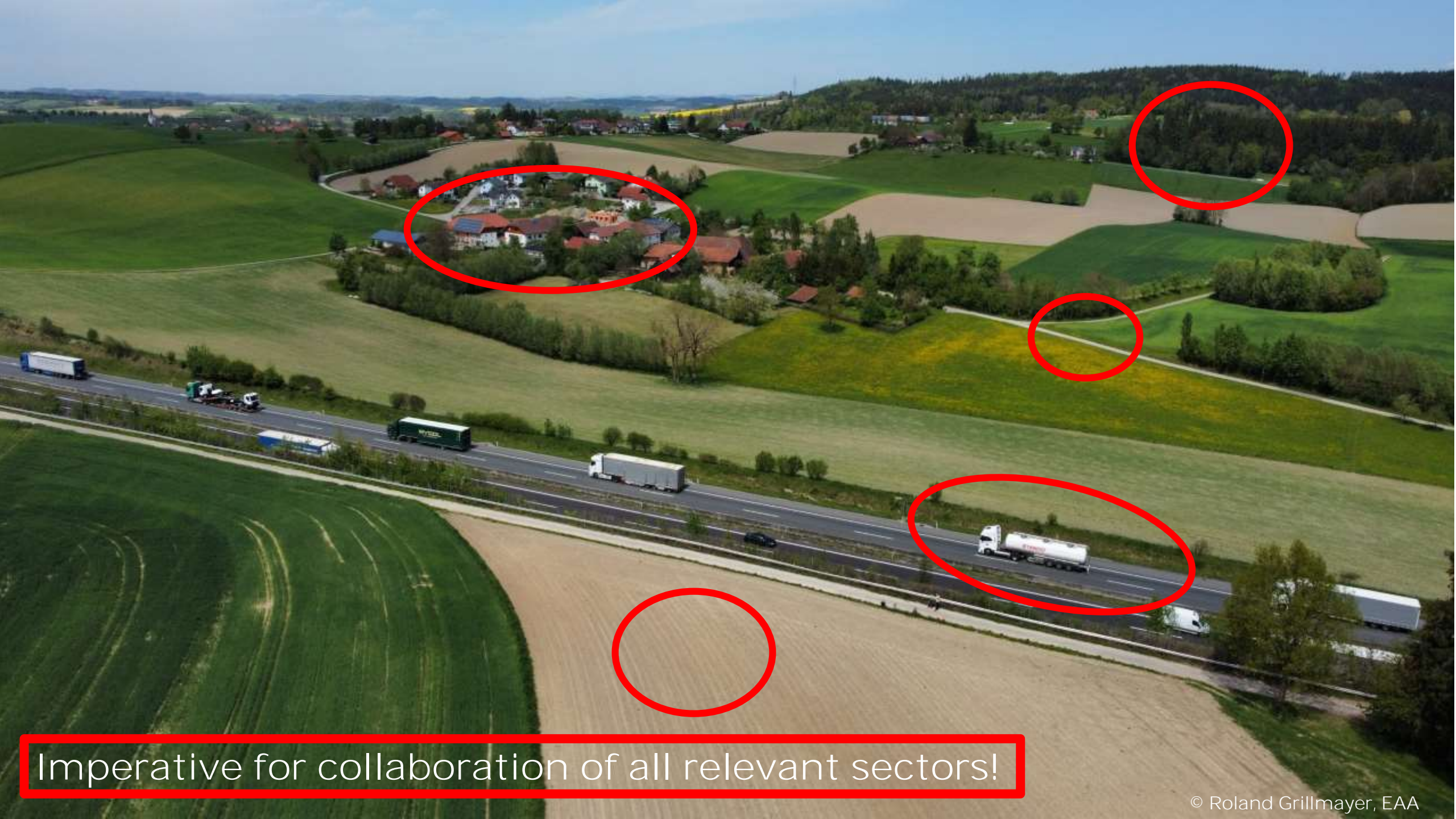
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# Ecological connectivity:

elements, threats and solutions





Imperative for collaboration of all relevant sectors!

# SaveGREEN in a nutshell



Duration: 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2022, 2.5 yrs  
13 Project Partners from 6 European countries  
20 Associated Strategic Partners from 4 more countries  
Lead Partner: WWF Central and Eastern Europe  
Project value: ~2.7 Mio EUR, ~2.3 Mio EUR ERDF Funds  
Implementation in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic,  
Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine



# 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, 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

# 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
- International and national governance framework strengthened



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# Pilot areas



Austria

1 Kobernausser forest

2 Pöttsching (Alpine-Carpathian Corridor)

Czech Rep./Slovakia

3 Beskydy-Kysuce CZ-SK

cross-border area

Hungary/Slovakia

4 Novohrad-Nógrád SK-HU

cross-border area

Ukraine

5 Zakarpattia region

Romania

6 Mureş valley (Arad-Deva)

7 Mureş Valley (Târgu Mureş

– Târgu Neamţ)

Bulgaria

8 Rila-Verila-Kraishte

corridor

# Main Expected Results

- Standardized methodology for monitoring structural and functional connectivity incl. application toolbox for fieldwork & analysis
- Local cross-sectoral operational plans for each pilot area incl. preparatory actions for its implementation
- Capacity building program for authorities & training events for public authorities and key players on cost/benefit analysis, SEA, EIA, etc.
- Recommendations towards the integration of mitigation measures into the national and EU level policy processes
- High-level Political Declaration on ecological connectivity

# The challenges during implementation



- Stakeholder engagement - lack of understanding the importance of ecological connectivity for healthy livelihoods
- Insufficient cross-sectoral cooperation and early engagement in regional development
- Insufficient experience of relevant authorities in incorporating connectivity into planning procedures
- COVID-19 restrictions, war in Ukraine

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# Upcoming events

## Transnational Experience Exchange Workshops

- 11-13 May: Dupnitsa, South of Sofia, Bulgaria (Pilot area: Rila-Verila-Kraishte corridor)
- 18-20 May: Hungary and Slovakia (Pilot area: Novohrad-Nógrád cross-border area)
- 31 May - 2 June: Hainburg, Austria and Valašské Klobouky in the Czech Republic (Pilot areas: Pötsching/Alpine Carpathian Corridor (AT), Beskydy-Kysuce (CZ))
- 23 September: Cluj Napoca, Romania in the frame of the IENE 2022 Conference (Pilot area: Arad-Deva in the Mures valley)

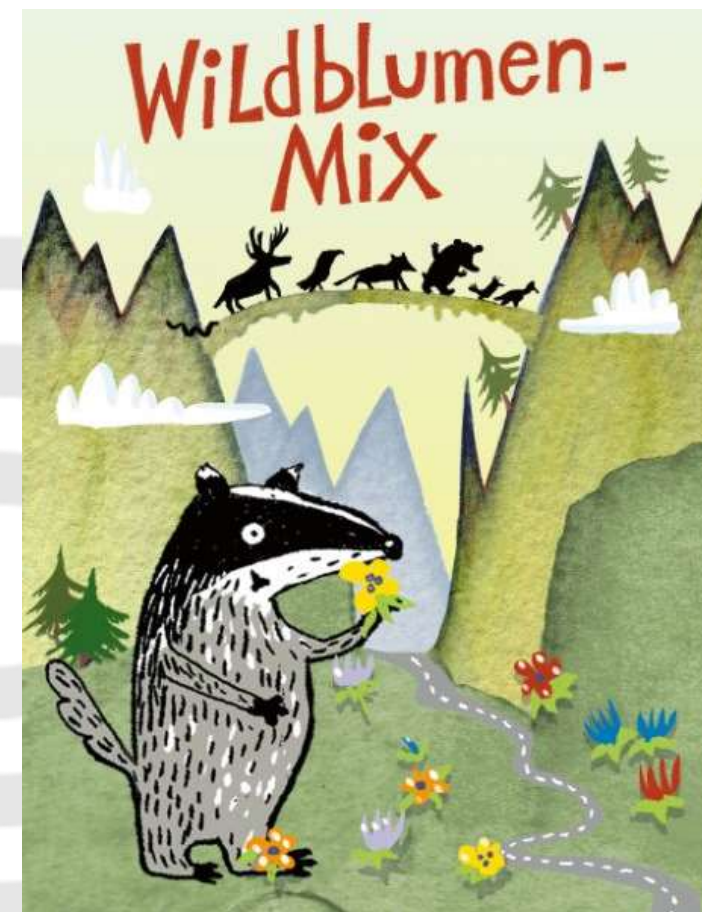
## IENE Conference

- 19-23 September 2022, Cluj Napoca, Romania



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# Closing remarks



# Thanks for your attention



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## Project Partners

