SaveGREEN – Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region

14th Carpathian Convention WG on Biodiversity Mtg.

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Hildegard Meyer, WWF-Central and Eastern Europe

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SaveGREEN aimed at

Fostering **cross-sectoral** and transnational and local **cooperation** & to **build capacity** for

Improving, restoring and preserving the functionality of key ecological corridors in the Danube basin with a focus on bottleneck areas

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13 Project Partners

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Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine

8 NGOs, 3 Research Institutions, 1 Environment authority, 1 Consultancy company

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Pilot areas

Interreg
EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme
SaveGREEN

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

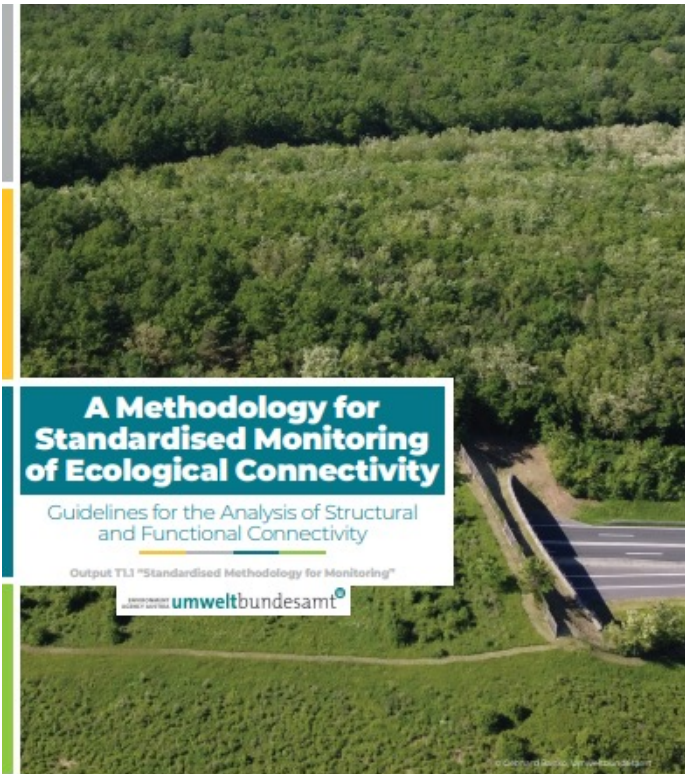Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

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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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Main Results

- **Standardized methodology for monitoring** structural and functional connectivity
- **Local cross-sectoral operational plans** for each pilot area
- Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System **NEW**! https://ccibis.org
- **Capacity building program** & training events for key players on SEA, EIA, etc.
- **Joint Declaration** on ecological connectivity in the Danube-Carpathian region

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Achievements - examples

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- **Increased collaboration between ministries and PPs** on the implementation of ecol. corridors
- Plans for **Lviv bypass road in Ukraine** integrate mitigation measures (green bridges, tunnels)
- **Plans for A8 Highway in Romania** include more mitigation measures than expected
- SK: **new law for land use planning** includes consideration of ecological corridors
- **ISO/TCC 331 Biodiversity** – contributed to establish ecological connectivity as a topic in the standardization process

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Lessons learnt

- Long-term collaboration is key – 3 GREENs

- Never underestimate time needed for stakeholder engagement!

- What is already settled at the national level does not necessarily reach local players

- Need for **established** cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels

- Personal meetings are more effective

- Ecological corridors as public good?

- Legislation unclear – need for more awareness raising on the topic

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Collaboration is key

Projects:
- Open Borders for Wildlife in the Carpathians
- BISON
- ReVerSE
- Centralparks
- Dare2Connect
- LIFE Safe-Crossing
- LIFE EuroLargeCarnivores etc.

Networks:
- Carpathian Convention
- EUSDR PA4, 5 & 6, PA1b
- IENE, GreenWeb
- ISO/TC 331 Standardization
- IUCN Connectivity Cons. WG

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Thanks for your interest

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Hildegard Meyer, Project Manager, WWF-CEE , hmeyer@wwfcee.org
+43 650 276 3764
Christophe Janz, Project Officer, WWF-CEE, cjanz@wwfcee.org
+43 677 627 906 44

Project Partners

BULGARIAN BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA umweltbundesamt

Hnutí DUHA místní skupina Olomouc

CEEweb for Biodiversity

CENTRUM DOPRAVNÍHO VÝZKUMU

MATE HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

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