

# WP T3 - POLICY

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- WWF RO - WP Lead
- Involvement of LP WWF CEE, BSNN, CDV, CEEweb, AZ, EPC, WWF SK, SPECTRA and the Carpathian Convention
- ✓ It includes *policy-advocacy & stakeholder involvement* activities on different levels (national, regional – EUSDR & Carpathian Convention & EU) that, in combination, will enable reaching the main objective.
- ✓ Cooperation will be strengthened towards safeguarding the functionality of ecological corridors by improving GI through a *cross-sectoral dialogue*, e.g. transport, agriculture, forestry, water management.
- ✓ *Advocacy* for (or dissemination of) adequate measures: *funding of GI in the Operational Programmes & CAP & for EU Standards* on integration of ecological connectivity/GI.

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Activity T.3.1.	Description	Deliverable
<p>Support mainstreaming of ecological connectivity into EU and global policies through cooperation among macro-regional strategies (EUSDR &amp; Carpathian Convention)</p>	<p>A joint initiative on spatial planning and environmental sustainability in the Danube-Carpathian region is needed to ensure that GI is properly integrated and sustainable development achieved. The Carpathian Convention will link up with EUSDR to initiate a cross-sectoral collaboration process that will lead to a joint workshop and a joint policy declaration on this topic.</p> <p>Building up to the joint workshop &amp; policy declaration, meetings and coordination discussions will take place between the Carpathian Convention, the EUSDR (PA6, PA1B), the Connectivity task force and WWF CEE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Progress reports concluding on relevant meeting outcomes – 07.2022</li> <li>-Joint Workshop leading to the Joint Political Declaration – 12.2022</li> <li>-Briefing papers with recommendations related to nature conservation integration in spatial planning for the development and implementation of EU level policies – 12.2022</li> </ul>

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Activity T.3.2.	Description	Deliverable
<p>Develop recommendations towards the integration of mitigation measures/GI into sectoral policy &amp; decision making</p>	<p>The project will create the framework for an efficient and unitary coordination at regional level to strengthen joint messages and learn from each others advocacy success. Sub-activities include 1) elaboration of road map based on national calendars for the next EU programming period 2021-2027 and on advocacy opportunities with IFIs in UA; 2) ongoing advocacy work on integration of GI approach in policy and decision making (participation in WGs, presentations on case studies and project results, dissemination of briefing papers, national and EU level meetings, etc), involving ASPs, 3) elaboration of a regional funding measure followed by adaptation to the national needs, 4) establishment of a dialogue with standardization bodies (briefing document regarding status-quo, needs, etc), and 5) elaboration of recommendations regarding future standardization.</p>	<p>Proposal of GI funding measure -12.2020 -Recommendations for relevant bodies regarding GI standardization- 12.2022</p>

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Activity T.3.3.	Description	Deliverable
<p>Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation among key players, promote project results in the Danube basin and beyond &amp; build capacity at national level</p>	<p>The organization of an international conference on GI and the impact of sectoral management (linear transport infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, water management, hunting etc.) on its functionality. The event will gather experts from different fields of knowledge (including nature protection, spatial planners, transport infrastructure development, etc.)</p> <p>Additionally, based on the capacity training programme developed under WP T1 by EPC, training events on various aspects of GI planning will be adapted to the national needs and offered to public authorities and/or key players. There will be at least one training per participating country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conference Concept on integration of GI in relevant sectors -06.2021</li> <li>-Draft Conference Declaration 08.2022</li> <li>-Capacity building materials adapted to national needs, translated if necessary - 04.2022</li> </ul>

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## BRAINSTORMING SESSION – BREAKOUT GROUPS

Theme: Development of a funding measure or a set of funding interventions to ensure that future EU funds will contribute to better ecological connectivity (A.T.3.2. – deadline 12.2020)

EU Context:

Negotiations btw EU Commission and the MSs on the architecture of future operational programmes under the EU Cohesion Policy + MS' National Strategic Plans under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

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- Key features of the new framework for Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

Strategic approach – 5 objectives :

PO 1. A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation)

PO 2. A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)

PO3. A more connected Europe (mobility and ICT connectivity)

PO4. A more social Europe (the European pillar of social rights)

PO5. A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and costal areas and local initiatives)

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- Objectives of the Common Agriculture Policy 2021-2027
    - 1.To ensure a fair income for farmers;
    - 2.To increase competitiveness;
    - 3.To rebalance the power in the food chain;
    - 4.Climate change action;
    - 5.Environmental care;
    - 6.To preserve landscapes and biodiversity;
    - 7.To support generational renewal;
    - 8.Vibrant rural areas;
    - 9.To protect food and health.
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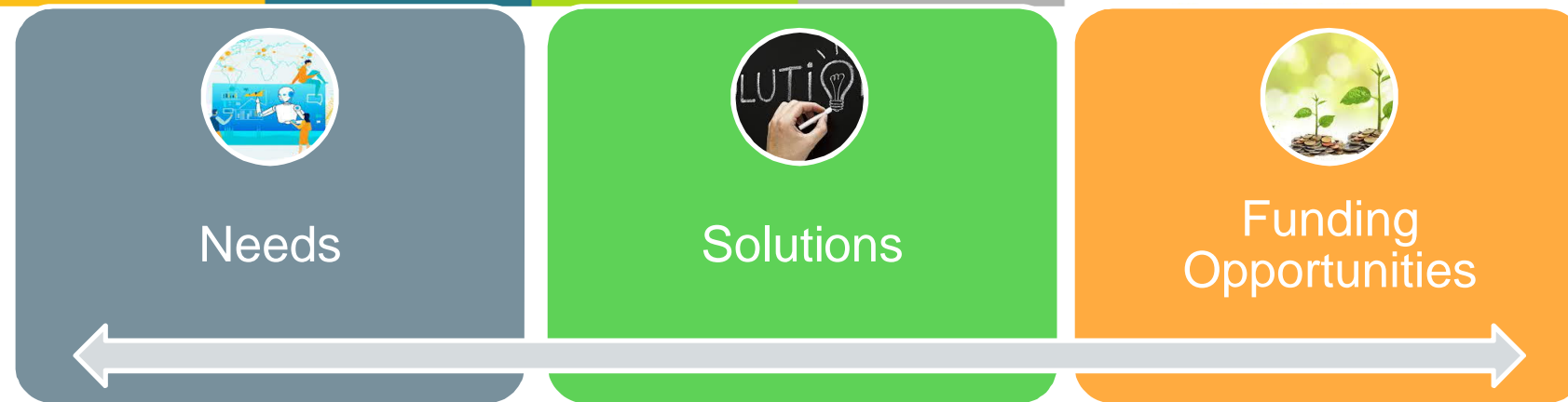


Context at national level, in Project Countries:

- ✓ In terms of operational programmes development, the situation is different from a country to another (eg. RO, SK, HU-consultation phase – timeframe permits interventions in regards to GI and connectivity).
- ✓ In terms of funding sources, in some countries such as AT, most part of funds on biodiversity comes through CAP (80-90%), while in the rest of participating countries, funds can come from both OP for Cohesion Policy as well as CAP.
- ✓ In terms of ecological corridors identification, some countries such as CZ are more advanced – migration corridors have been identified already, while in other countries such as RO, there is a delayed process.



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## Example for guiding the brainstorming exercise:

- *Need:* Ecological corridors are identified & validated in our region.
- ✓ *Solution:* Identification & validation of corridors, but also monitoring and updates of initial studies are funded from EU or IFI money
- ✓ *Funding opportunities:* A measure on the Sustainable Development Operational Program (in RO) could be designed to finance the solution.

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## ❖ Guiding Questions for 3 Breakout Groups (15 min)

1. What the planning, management & administration problems/needs you have identified at national and local level in in terms of integration of connectivity in spatial planning and land use nearby linear transport infrastructure?
2. What are the potential solutions to the identified problems/needs that could be financed through future EU Funding and other sources (eg. IFIs -International Financial Institutions)?

Come back to Plenary for reporting on main conclusions (5 min/group):