

Introduction to the project

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

Hildegard Meyer, WWF-CEE

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.



SaveGREEN in numbers



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

Importance of ecological connectivity

- 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

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

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

www.interreg-danube.eu/savegreen

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

What does SaveGREEN aim for?

To foster 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
 - e.g. densely populated valleys, surrounding of crossing structures along road & rail infrastructure



Green bridge in Bulgaria © Emma Gileva

**CONNECTIVITY IS MORE THAN A
CROSSING STRUCTURE!!!**

SaveGREEN builds on

Existing partnerships with many stakeholders at the local, national & transnational level

Results of other relevant DTP projects:

- TRANSGREEN
- HARMON
- ConnectGREEN
- others

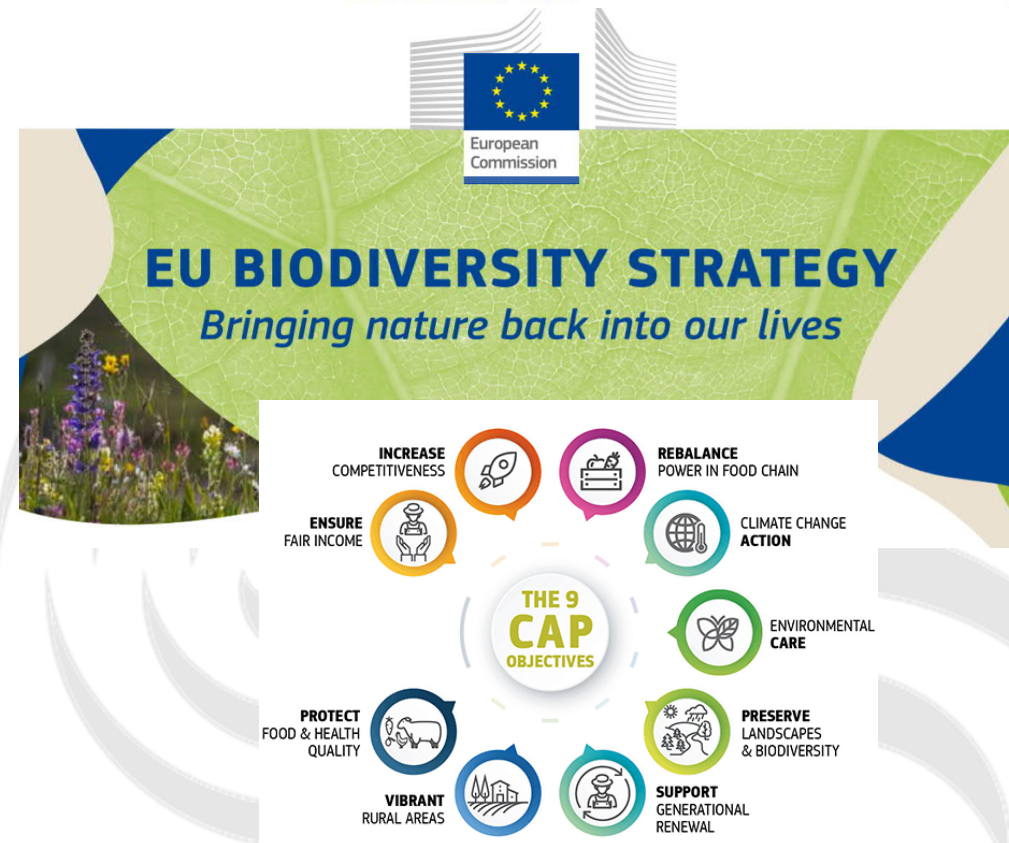


TRANSGREEN Final Conference © WWF Romania

SaveGREEN Policy Context

- New EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy
- EU Green Deal
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- EU Common Agricultural Policy
- EU Strategy of the Danube Region
- EU Communication on Green Infrastructure
- TEN-T Trans-European Network of Transport
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Carpathian Convention Protocols

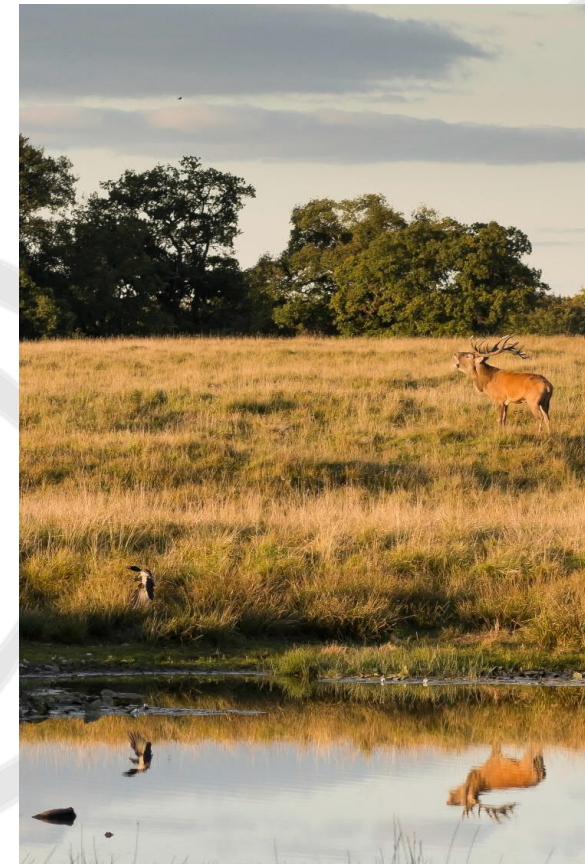
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Specific Objectives

- 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



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 incl. 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

Pilot areas



Danube Transnational Programme

SaveGREEN



- Austria
- 1 Kobernausser forest
- 2 Pötsching (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

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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Reaching out for synergies



- Open Borders for Wildlife in the Carpathians
- BISON
- ReVerSE
- Centralparks
- Dare2Connect
- LIFE Safe-Crossing
- LIFE EuroLargeCarnivores
- BearConnect
- Etc.

Thanks for your attention!



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