

# ROADMAP

for harmonization and integration of  
ecological connectivity

in the Romanian legislation and public policies

## WHY is necessary a roadmap for the integration of ecological corridors in Romania?

In order to improve legislation and public policies.

Findings in ConnectGREEN project:

- In Romania there are GAPS in the public policy frameworks in the fields of biodiversity conservation and spatial planning
- GAPS are caused mainly by the lack of biodiversity conservation regulations that would define, identify and designate the ecological corridors to be integrated into ecological networks
- Identifying ecological corridors supports the integration of ecological networks in spatial planning

## WHAT can improve this situation?

- To develop an integrative roadmap for ecological-spatial planning policy and legal approach
- To strengthen the cross-sectoral cooperation between conservation and spatial planning areas

## HOW was developed the roadmap in ConnectGREEN project?

Based on:

- project deliverables
- information collected in common workshops.
  - 2 WORKSHOPS (on 18<sup>th</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> July) were organized :
    - They allowed an inter-sectoral dialogue between the specialists in nature conservation and in spatial planning, discussing the ways to achieve coordinated policy mechanisms
    - They brought together the decision-makers involved in the process of writing and enforcing regulations to underpin integration of the ecological corridors in national legislation:
      - the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests - MoEWF;
      - the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration – MoPWDA;
      - other relevant institutions/authorities, as well as their subordinated structures).
- The roadmap was jointly developed

## For whom and for what purpose is the roadmap developed?

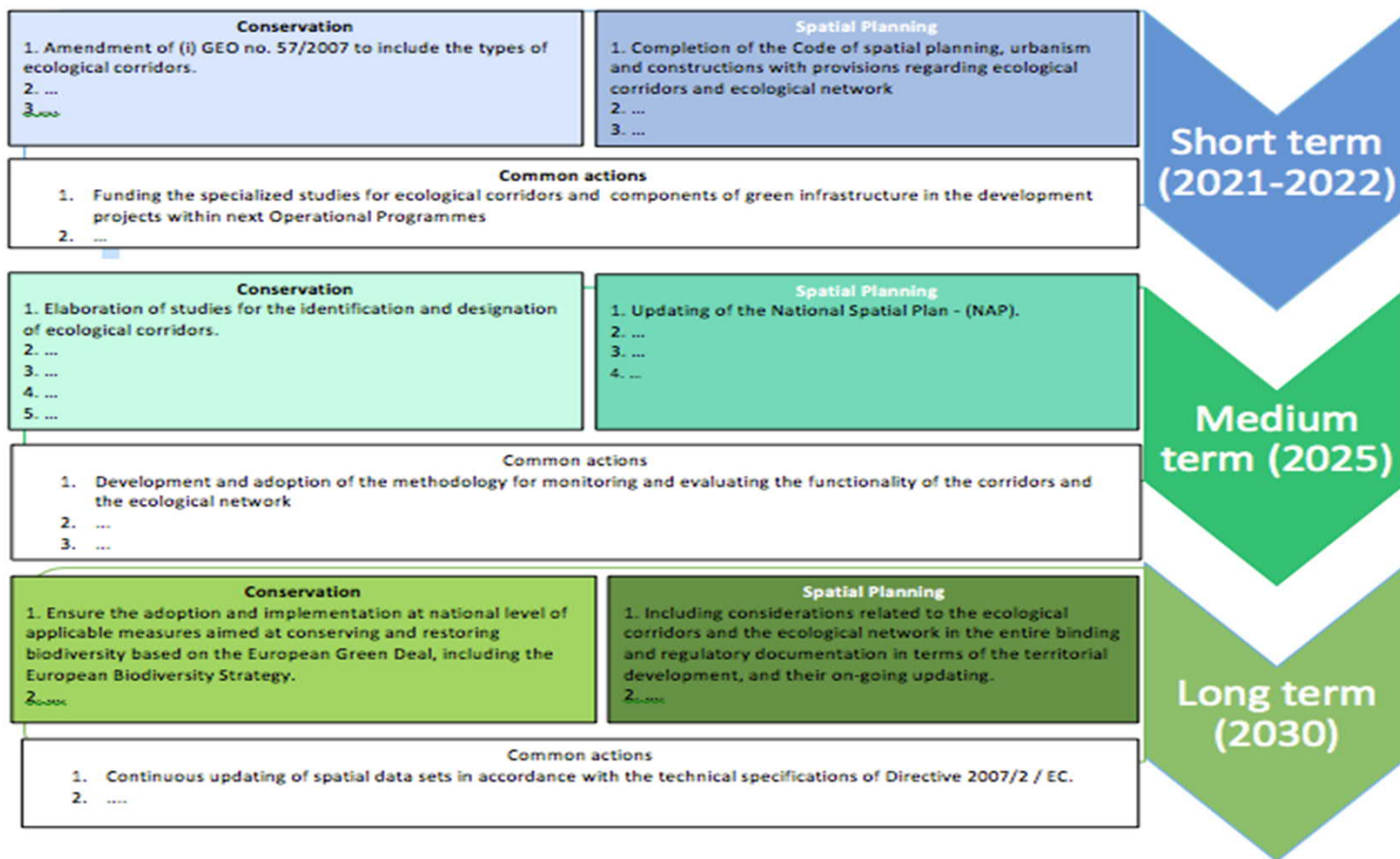
- For decision makers from both sectors (widely distribution)
- For both initiated and non-initiated spatial planners in the topic of ecological connectivity, who need to improve their overview related to ecological corridors (use)
- It will also be used as communication and advocacy tool to promote integrated policy and legislative approaches and to create the basis for improving the sectoral legislation

## Proposed Steps

The roadmap proposes the steps that need to be taken in terms of environmental and spatial planning legislation with a view to supporting integration of the ecological corridors into spatial planning and adopting the necessary legislative framework, in the short, medium and long term.

# Roadmap

# Proposed Steps



In the short term (2021 - 2022):  
Integration of corridor / ecological network approaches  
in the relevant national legislation

- To support integration of the concepts of ecological corridors and ecological network into the relevant domestic legislation by engaging the environmental, spatial planning and other relevant sectors.
- To put in place a legislative framework that subsequently helps identify and effectively designate the ecological corridors.



### Conservation

1. Amendment of (i) GEO no. 57/2007 (to include the types, sanctions and responsibilities of ecological corridors).
2. Elaboration and adoption of the MoEWF Order regarding the approval of the normative content in order to designate the ecological corridors.
3. Planning information campaigns on the need to designate ecological corridors.

### Spatial Planning

1. Completion of the Code of spatial planning, urbanism and constructions with provisions regarding ecological corridors and ecological network.
2. Completion of methodological norms of Law no. 350/2001 on Spatial Planning and Urbanism.
3. Completion of the Cultural Heritage Code with general provisions regarding the cultural landscape and ecological networks.

Short term  
(2021-2022)

### Common actions

1. Funding specialized studies for ecological corridors and components of green infrastructure in the development projects within next Operational Programmes.
2. Establishment of a specialized inter-departmental committee to ensure cross-sectoral cooperation between authorities.

In the medium term (2023 - 2025):  
Identification & Designation of ecological corridors,  
and their inclusion into spatial plans

- To point out the specific steps that should be taken so that, by the end of 2025, a number of ecological corridors shall have been identified, designated and shown on the spatial plans.
- To support joint actions in the relevant sectors, including environment and spatial planning.
- To help competent authorities to access the necessary funding for implementation of these corridors' management measures.

### Conservation

1. Elaboration of studies for the identification and designation of ecological corridors.
2. Approval of specialized studies by the Romanian Academy.
3. Elaboration and adoption of MoEWF Orders for the designation of ecological corridors
4. A new National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity Conservation, including provisions on the protection of corridors / ecological networks.
5. Update legislation and methodologies on SEA & EIA regulations so that environmental procedures take into account the ecological networks / corridors.

### Spatial Planning

1. Updating the National Spatial Plan, Section 3 – Protected Areas.
2. Highlighting ecological corridors in national, zonal and local spatial and urban plans (The National Agency for Cadastre and Real Estate Advertising)
3. Highlighting ecological corridors in the LPIS system (central public agriculture authority).
4. Harmonization between spatial planning strategic documents and the environmental sector, as related to the ecological corridors.

### Common actions

1. Development and adoption of the methodology for monitoring and evaluating the functionality of the corridors and the ecological network
2. Financing (through Operational Programmes and other national sources) the implementation of management measures on ecological corridors
3. Update of spatial datasets (INSPIRE) (Directive 2007/2/EC)

Medium  
term  
(2025)

In the long term (2026 - 2030):  
Ensuring continuity of designating ecological corridors  
& their functionality

- To support alignment of the Romanian legislation with the new European provisions on biodiversity conservation and restoration.
- To ensure continuity of designating ecological corridors and their functionality.

### Conservation

1. Ensure the adoption and implementation at national level of applicable measures aimed at conserving and restoring biodiversity based on the European Green Deal, including the European Biodiversity Strategy.
2. Ensuring continuity in the process of developing studies for the identification and designation of ecological corridors.

### Spatial Planning

1. Including ecological corridors and the ecological corridors and networks in all planning documents, and their on-going updating.
2. Ensuring continuity in highlighting ecological corridors (National Agency for Cadastre and Real Estate Advertising and the central public agriculture authority).

Long term  
(2030)

### Common actions

1. Continuous updating of spatial datasets in accordance with the technical specifications of Directive 2007/2/EC.
2. Continuous assessment of ecological corridors functionality and promote adaptation measures.

## Ecological corridors & EIA Directive in RO national context

Taking into consideration that ecological corridors have not been identified, designated or mapped in RO, the priority should be to ensure that there is national legislation in place to implement the steps proposed in the roadmap, followed by the update of the EIA implementation.

## EIA Directive in RO national context

- The EIA Directive is transposed in RO by Law no. 292/2018 on assessing the impact of particular public and private projects on the environment.
- The stakeholders were consulted on the draft law. During the public consultations there were some improvements to the initial version, however, due to the national political context at that time, not all NGOs feedback was taken into account.

## EIA Directive and RO Roadmap on ecological corridors

Next step on medium term:

Updating the legislation transposing the **SEA and EIA Directives**, by including the ecological corridors in the environmental procedures, respectively: Decision no. 1076/2004 establishing the procedure for conducting the environmental assessment for plans and programs (SEA), and Law No. 292/2018 on the assessment of the environmental impact of particular public and private projects (EIA).





# Thank you for attention!

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