



## EVENT REPORT

# HUN-SK Transnational workshop & Hungarian Working Group meeting

May 18-20, 2022  
Budapest, Hungary  
Lučenec, Slovakia



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## 1. Basic information

<b>Name of the meeting</b>	HUN-SK Transnational workshop
<b>Project Pilot Area</b>	HUN-SK
<b>Date</b>	18-20/05/ 2022
<b>Place</b>	Budapest, Hungary Lučenec, Slovakia
<b>Main organizer</b>	CEEweb for Biodiversity and WWF Slovakia
<b>Duration</b>	3 days
<b>Number of participants</b>	app. 60
<b>Aim of the meeting</b>	<p>T2.1 Transnational technical experience exchange workshops</p> <p>Transnational workshops are organised in each partner country in order to facilitate concrete solutions-exchange relevant for the development of the local cross sectoral operational plans (CSOPs). Transnational workshops will ensure that a comprehensive range of critical sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, water management, game management, spatial planning), together with linear transport, will be addressed in order to safeguard/ maintain/ improve/ restore the functionality of eco-corridors in the surroundings of linear transport infrastructure passages. Each PA has a focus on one or more specific sectors, therefore each transnational workshop will have a central topic (agriculture, forestry, water/ game management, spatial planning etc.). As there is also a wide range of common topics of interest across PAs, representatives of the local cross-sectoral working groups from all project countries and other key stakeholders and experts will participate in the transnational workshops in order to exchange experiences and to support each other in finding the best solutions for the development of their respective CSOPs. A special focus will be on ensuring synergies (exchanging experiences, capitalisation of results) with other DTP projects, in particular TRANSGREEN, ConnectGREEN, Magical landscapes, HARMON, BioGOV. The workshops will also support the development of the capacity building programme (WP T1 and T3). The experience gained during the workshops and feedback from participants will be used during the planning and organisation of the International conference on green infrastructure and implication with transport infrastructure (Output T3.3). In total, 5 workshops including field trips will be organised, one for AT-CZ, HU-SK, RO, BG, and UA. They will contribute to PSO1 “Knowledge/experience among relevant authorities and stakeholders increased” and PSO2 “Concrete mitigation measures built for securing ecological connectivity”.</p>

	<p>Deliverable D.T2.1.2 Meetings with local working groups and other relevant stakeholders</p> <p>In each pilot area at least 3 working group meetings will be organised in order to (1) establish the local working group and introduce stakeholders the outline of the project, (2) to elaborate with them the local cross-sectoral operational plans, and (3) exchange data, knowledge and results on the area (especially findings in other PAs). ASPs from the respective countries were invited to participate in the meetings. Responsible for the organisation of the meetings are the pilot area leaders mentioned in the description of the activity.</p>
<p><b>Representer of Save Green project</b></p>	<p>Association WWF Danube Carpathian Programme Romania</p> <p>Black Sea NGO Network</p> <p>Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation</p> <p>CEEweb for Biodiversity</p> <p>Environment Agency Austria</p> <p>EPC Environmental Consultancy Ltd.</p> <p>Friends of the Earth Czech Republic</p> <p>Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences</p> <p>Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava - SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of EU</p> <p>Transport Research Centre Czech Republic</p> <p>WWF Central and Eastern Europe</p> <p>WWF Slovakia</p> <p>Zarand Association</p> <p>State Nature Conservancy</p> <p>Motorway Company</p> <p>State Water Management Company</p> <p>HBH Company</p> <p>Integra Consulting</p>



## 2. General outline of the event

The event was held between May 18 and 20, 2022 in Budapest (Hungary) and Lučenec (Slovakia) with the title: HUN-SK Transnational Experience Exchange workshop.

It was the second transboundary event organized in the frame of the SaveGREEN project; and the 4th Hungarian Local Cross-Sectoral Stakeholder Working Group (WG) meeting, which addressed in order to safeguard/ maintain/ improve/ restore the functionality of eco-corridors in the surroundings of linear transport infrastructure passages. The transnational meeting was organized in the Novohrad-Nógrád SK-HU cross-border area between South Slovakia and North Hungary in order to facilitate concrete solutions-exchange relevant for the development of the local cross sectoral operational plans (CSOPs) ; and to discuss the common topics of interest across PAs, representatives of the local cross-sectoral working groups from all project countries and other key stakeholders and experts.

The main goals of the meeting were, on one side to exchange experiences and to support the project partners in finding the best solutions for the development of their respective CSOPs ; on the other side to ensure synergies (exchanging experiences, capitalisation of results) with other DTP projects ; last but not least to support the development of the capacity building programme. The event provided the opportunity to a comprehensive range of critical sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, water management, game management, spatial planning), together with linear transport for meeting and networking.

The aim of the HUN-SK Transnational workshop - SaveGREEN working group meeting was to initiate a dialogue between representatives of the local cross-sectoral working groups from all project countries and other key stakeholders and experts with the focus on one or more specific sectors (agriculture, forestry, water/ game management, spatial planning etc.).

Participants were both attending offline and online, included representatives from 13 Project Partners; the Hungarian National Infrastructure Development Corporation, the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate, and other relevant stakeholders, including Directorate of Water Management of Central Danube Basin, the Hungarian Biodiversity Research Society, Hungarian Forestry Sector Knowledge Center, Slovakian HBH Project, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak republic, Ekopokis foundation, Slovak Water

Management Company, Integra Consulting, Motorway Company, IENE Secretariat and many other relevant stakeholders and NGOs.

The Associated Strategic Partners and stakeholders had the chance to meet and discuss the hot-topic problems, network, and declare their commitment to the project's aim to protect the ecological corridors for biodiversity conservation purposes.



1. Figure Group photo ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

### 3. Agenda

Date	What	Comments
<b>18 May 2022</b>		
12.00 - 13.00	Arrival of participants, registration, lunch	Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cave - Function and Exhibition Hall  1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 6-12., Hungary
13.00 - 18.00	Internal communication training for SaveGreen Project Partners	Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cave - Function and Exhibition Hall
13.00 - 14.30	parallel: excursion in the ZOO for ASPs and stakeholders	1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 6-12., Hungary
19.00	Dinner, get together	Széchenyi Kertvendéglő

		H-1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 9-11., Hungary
<b>19 May 2022</b>		
9.00 - 9.30	Arrival of participants, registration	Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cave - Function and Exhibition Hall  1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 6-12., Hungary
9.30 – 12.30	Discussion on Hungarian and Slovakian Cross Sectoral Operational Plans  <b>9.00 - 9.30:</b> Registration  <b>9.30 - 9.45:</b> Welcome speech by the representative of the ZOO and the General Secretary of CEEweb  <b>9.45 - 10.00:</b> presentation about the CSOPs in general by Radu Mot (Zarand)  <b>10.00 - 11.00:</b> introduction of the HUN CSOP by Krisztina Filepné, László Kollányi and András Weiperth (MATE)  <b>11.00 - 11.15:</b> introduction of the SK CSOP by Romana Uhrinová (WWF SK)  <b>11.15 - 12.30:</b> open discussion about the CSOPs (moderator: Csaba Mezei, CEEweb)	Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cave - Function and Exhibition Hall  1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 6-12., Hungary
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cave - Function and Exhibition Hall  1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 6-12., Hungary
13.45 – 17.00	Field trip and mother fish saving on Ipoly river	Ipolytölgyes fish ladder ( <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/czNgq6pcNDBP5var9">https://goo.gl/maps/czNgq6pcNDBP5var9</a> )  Parassapuszta amphibian baffle system ( <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/L7Et2KerquaxXVg9">https://goo.gl/maps/L7Et2KerquaxXVg9</a> )
18.00	Travel to SK	
20:30/21.00	Dinner & accommodation	Hotel Slovan

		ul. Železničná 25 984 01 Lučenec Slovakia
<b>20 May 2022</b>		
9.00	Welcome & intro to the program of the day	Hotel Slovan ul. Železničná 25 984 01 Lučenec Slovakia
9.30 – 11.00	Field trip to the Ipoly river in the southern part of the Slovak PA  <b>9.30 – 10.30:</b> Dálovský močiar (wetland) <b>10.30 – 11.30:</b> Gravel Pits - Kalonda Water Works Building	Dálovský močiar wetland) GPS: 48.237764, 19.595125  Gravel Pits - Kalonda Water Works Building GPS: 48.263040, 19.645901
11.30 – 13.00	Travel back to Lučenec & Lunch break	Hotel Slovan ul. Železničná 25 984 01 Lučenec Slovakia
13.15 – 15.30	Field trip to the Expressway R2 - preventive measures	Motorest Halier GPS: 48.390910, 19.628071
15.30	Travel home	

#### 4. First day - 18 May 2022, Budapest (Hungary)

Attendees arrived to Budapest on the 18th of May from different countries of the project target area. After arrival, registration and lunch, the organisers divided the group into Project Partners and stakeholders and provided different programme for the two groups.



2-4. Figure Registration, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb



5-8. Figure Catering (coffee break and lunch) on the first day, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

SaveGreen Project Partners have attended on an Internal communication training, led by the Estonian Fund for Nature. The training was held as part of the training session arranged by the Communication Work Package leader (CEEweb) on the topic of negotiation and conflict management with stakeholders. The training was interactive and gave the possibility both the on-site and online attendees to participate. The in-person communication training was based on the Project Partner's previous experiences with stakeholder engagement, and on the online trainings held for the consortium on the 1st of March, 5th of April and 3rd of May.

The trainers introduced the topics of conflict and society, conflict and environment, conflicts between human and wildlife, also the personal communication methods in conflict situations. The attendees not only listened, but actively participated in the exercises, such as in the development of a stakeholder matrix

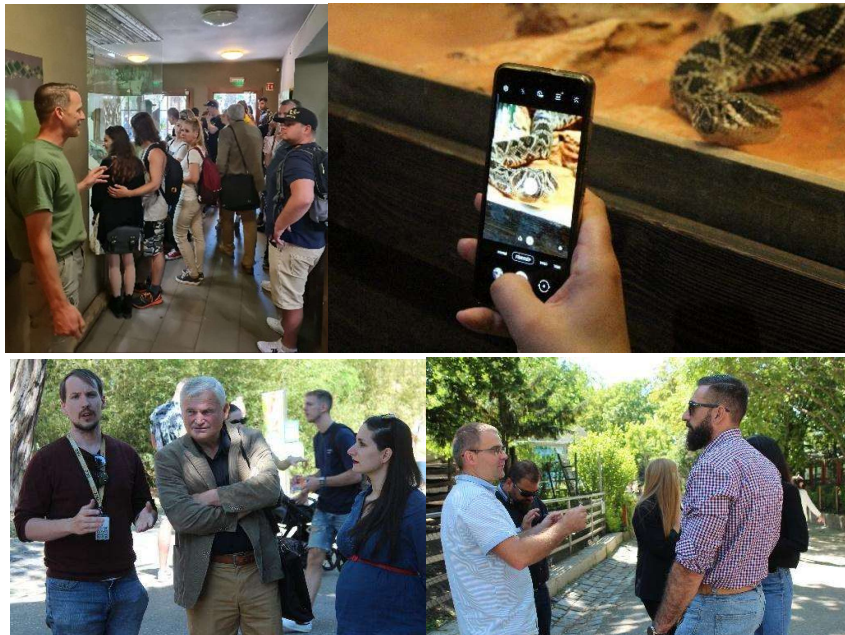




9-12. Figure Communication training, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

Parallel to the communication training the organisers offered for the Associated strategic Partners and stakeholders an excursion in the ZOO addressing ecological problems and species restoration topics, especially invasive species spreading through the ecological corridors and nature protection communication. Meanwhile the attendees visited the Poison House, Shark School and the Magic Mountain of Budapest ZOO, a professional, English speaking tour leaders introduced the main species, insights on the habitats and main attributes of the species.

The Budapest ZOO is situated in a protected area, it's natural habitats means an important role of the green infrastructure of Budapest where the ex-situ conservation and presentation of native species are important. Due to the unique microclimate of the Zoo many warm temperate and subtropical plants can be grown outdoor, significant sub-Mediterranean and Mediterranean plant groups can be found in the garden of the Zoo. The livestock of the Zoo is also remarkable, it's livestock is numbered 955 species and 8.225 animals.



13-16. Figure Excursion in the ZOO, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

The first day of the workshop was closed with a dinner provided for the attendees near the Budapest ZOO, in the Széchenyi Kertvendéglő. After the dinner the attendees left to their accommodation, and spent the night in Budapest.



17-19. Figure Dinner on the first day, Budapest ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

## 5. Second day - 19 May 2022, Budapest (Hungary)

The second day of the workshop was opened by Zoltán Hanga (spokesperson of the Budapest Zoo) and by Csaba Mezei (CEEweb). They were welcoming the attendees both online and offline, highlighting the importance of the cooperation between the organising institutions.



On behalf of CEEweb, Csaba Mezei welcomed the representatives of each relevant sectors and emphasized the importance of the involvement of the stakeholders influencing representatives from each sectors which have an effect on ecological connectivity and green infrastructure development.

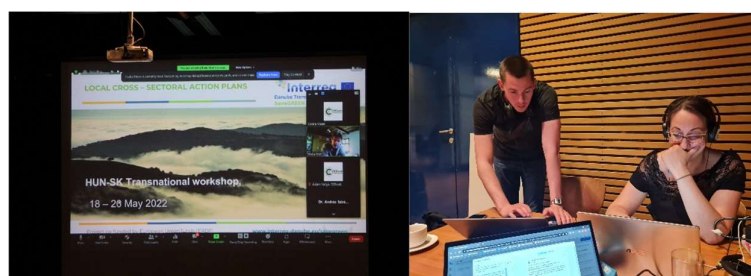


20-21. Figure Opening speech by Zoltán Hanga, Budapest ZOO @Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb



22-23. Figure Opening speech by Csaba Mezei, Budapest ZOO @Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

The first presentation was made by Radu Mot (Zarand), who presented the general goal of the Cross Sectoral Operational Plans (CSOPs), which are under development by the project partners for each participating country. In his presentation Radu introduced the structure and framework and the main outputs of the CSOPs. Currently the CSOPs are in the 3rd stage, which means that the pressures, threats, specific objectives and the main stakeholders have been identified and now it's time to define along with the stakeholders the specifics and to create catalogues, based on problems, measures and actions.



24-25. Figure Presentation by Radu Mot (supported by CEEweb team), online @Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb



The following presentation was made by Dr. László Kollányi on the topic of the ecological connectivity and green infrastructure in the Hungarian spatial planning system. The presentation introduced the different planning systems, and the Hungarian National Ecological Network in relation to the protected areas. László highlighted the main problems of the National Ecological Network, as well as the challenges of the Green Infrastructure plan and national CAP of Hungary. Overall the SaveGREEN CSOP would be a great possibility in cross sectoral issues in the new CAP support system, also could help in the designation of new green infrastructure areas for nature conservation and in the preparation of management plans. However, a lot of questions are still open and need to be clarified, for example who should prepare, finance and adopt the CSOP?



26-27. Figure Presentation by Dr. László Kollányi, Budapest ZOO @Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

Following up the monitoring of the Hungarian pilot area, Dr. Krisztina Filepné Kovács presented the Nógrád-Novohrad pilot area of the project, with the focus on the landscape protection and the development of the cross-sectoral operational programme. The presentation introduced the pilot area via landscape analysis, comparing the trends of the land uses between 1842-2021. In the presentation the methods of GI mapping were also introduced, while presenting the results for the pilot area, as well highlighting the issues and possible solutions of GI development via assessment of ecological corridors. Krisztina has introduced the main threats of the Hungarian CSOP, and its logframe, highlighted the development of the evaluation methods of ecological corridors on the planned section of the M2 highway. The presentation was introducing the conflict of infrastructure development and ecological protection, emphasizing the importance of ecological connectivity and the role of ecological corridors. The results showed the issues of the planning processes of the M2 highway, namely the lack of hydrobiological researches during the EIA processes, the deficiencies of data collection which resulted in poorly planned and parameterized ecological corridors, passes and combined crossways.

Krisztina summarized her presentation with the conclusion: *“To avoid further loss of connectivity or at least maintain the present level of permeability of the landscape complex actions are required based on cross-sectoral, integrated approach, cooperation, communication and partnership. A cross-sectoral operational program would be a good tool for that just the integration of it into the national planning system is still not clear.”*



28-29. Figure Presentation by Dr. Krisztina Filepné Kovács, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

The closing presentation about the Hungarian part of the pilot area was made by András Weiperth in the topic of blue-green infrastructure and the ecological corridors in the area of the planned section of M2 highway. The presentation introduced the main conflicts of human and wildlife in the Hungarian pilot area, the dual role of bridges over watercourses and the drainage areas around. András introduced the research and sampling methods, which are used to collect information not only for the SaveGreen project, but also other projects with the focus on nature and landscape protection. With this presentation András has presented not only the importance of the ecological corridors on the pilot area, but also the topic of the afternoon field visit and motherfish-saving action.



30-31. Figure Presentation by Dr. András Weiperth, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

The last presentation was made by Romana Uhrinová (WWF SK), who has introduced the Slovakian CSOP. The presentation first introduced the basics of the pilot area, and the problems and threats identified by the Slovakian experts (such as linear infrastructures, waste management, forestry, agriculture, hunting and so on). Romana presented a typical issue from Slovakia by a case-study from Stožok. There is a critical zone identified in Stožok with the help of camera traps, used for wildlife monitoring. Romana highlighted, that WWF Slovakia is interested to find the best solution for both humans and wildlife (such as fencing and/or crop insurance for farmers in the critical zone), therefore they expect the cooperation of the stakeholders.



32-33. Figure Presentation by Romana Uhrinová (WWF SK), Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

The presentations were followed by a Q&A session about the CSOP and all presentations which boosted the discussion between different stakeholders highlighting the conflicts of spatial planning and environmental protection endeavours and aimed the collection of opinions and recommendations to finalize the project document.



34-35. Figure Q&A session on the second day, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb



The morning session of the second day was closed with lunch, then the attendees left the venue and visited the Hungarian side of the Nógrád-Novohrad pilot area.



36-37. Figure Catering (coffee break and lunch) on the second day, Budapest ZOO ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb



38-39. Figure Travelling to the Hungarian side of the pilot area ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

## 6. Field trip and mother fish saving on Ipoly river – 19 May, 2022, Ipolytölgyes – Parassapuszta (Hungary)

The Hungarian-Slovakian cross-border pilot area, Nógrád-Novohrad, is one of the last remnants of the impermanent area of the Pannonian and the Carpathian Biogeographical regions. The unique specificity of the area is that as it is a cross-border area, in some parts, the Ipoly river flows along, serving as a crucial blue infrastructure element, and providing a home to many birds, amphibians, and aquatic species. Protecting this area is highly important, as the planned infrastructure investments of extending the M2 road can threaten it. Therefore, there is a great opportunity to demonstrate the negative effects of infrastructure planning and bring attention to the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation in planning and execution of such investment and showcase possible solutions as well through our project findings. On the afternoon of the second day the attendees visited the Hungarian side of the Nógrád-Novohrad

pilot area, namely the fish ladder in Ipolytölgyes and the amphibian baffle system in Parassapuszta.

Ipoly river is divided into sections by 17 dams. Even though it has many fish ladders it still decreases the chance of successful reproduction of the aquatic species. Within the field visit it has been represented to the stakeholders and strategic partners by experiencing the real-life struggles of the “Barbus species” to reach their fish spawning sites. The field visit gave the opportunity to decision-makers and stakeholders to observe the problematic areas, and “save the fishes” by catching them and bringing them to the fish spawning site “by hand”, feeling what is at stake. We hope that these eye-opening experience helps to re-evaluate and reassess priorities and involve nature protection interests as well when decisions are made within infrastructure planning.



40-45. Figure Mother fish saving and visiting the fish ladder in Ipolytölgyes ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb



The second stop of the afternoon field visit was the amphibian baffle system between Hont and Parassapuszta, where András Weiperth had introduced to the attendees the temporal characteristics of the spring amphibian migration and the use of the tunnel-barrier system along the main road No. 2.

The tunnel was constructed in 2006, with the aim to avoid amphibians' road kills on the side of this busy motorway, also protect the migration of the amphibians during spring and autumn. András highlighted that in the first three years of the tunnel's maintenance already 9–15% of the amphibians used the tunnels, however, over 10,000 amphibians died on the road section each year in 2009–2011. Nature conservationists are organising annually toad rescue events during spring and autumn, when volunteers are carrying out the frog from the one side of the road to the other side. András has explained, that the motorway is crossing the migration path of the frogs between the forest and the wetland. The frogs are leaving the forest in springtime to reach the wetland and spend their summer there, and returning to the forest around autumn to stay there during wintertime. Unfortunately seven frog and toad species were recorded dead along the road, and almost 90% were common toads *Bufo bufo*. The field visit with the project partners, stakeholders, and Associated Strategic Partners aimed to present not only the importance of the ecological corridors, but also to highlight their deficiencies. The project consortium believe, that the project and personal field visits are starting a discussion on this topic, between the decision makers and the nature conservationists.





46-53. Figure Amphibian baffle system in Parassapuszta ©Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

## 7. Third day - 20 May, 2022, Lučenec (Slovakia)

With the participants of the workshop, we went to see, from the Hotel Slovan, one of the important places where we work, both in the Hungarian and in the Slovak pilot area - the cross-border Ipoly river, the third longest river in Slovakia. Some parts of the river cover areas of European importance (EEAS), protected bird areas (SPAs) and also some other nationally important categories of protected areas, including RAMSAR. This indicates to its importance in terms of nature protection, landscape continuity, natural values based on the occurrence of several important habitats, plants and animals.





54. Figure Ipoly River, Slovak part ©Miroslav Očadlík, WWF Slovakia

Together with the expert from the State Nature Conservancy Ján Černecký, we went to look at two important localities in this area. Both are significant from several different perspectives.

We were the first to visit the Dálovský močiar nature reserve. The consequences of flood protection, regulation as well as the construction of amelioration canals, which drained water from the surrounding countryside and adjacent agricultural land, are evident here as well. Dálovský močiar is one of the last places in which it is possible to see what the landscape looked like along the Ipoly river in the surrounding area of Lučenec in the past. For 10 years, the Dálovský močiar has been an area of European importance, so it also belongs to the system of Natura 2000 protected areas. The wetland performs very important ecosystem functions in the country, both from a local and regional point of view. Exactly these functions were also presented to us by Ján Černecký. Standing waters and wetlands are important habitats for rare animals. We can mention, for example, the Scarce large blue (*Maculinea teleius*), which is also our monitored species and its life cycle is tied to the plant species that is associated with the wetland habitat or stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), who uses old dying trees in his initial life cycle.





55. - 58. Figures Scarce large blue (*Maculinea teleius*) and Thick-shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*)  
 ©Ivo Dostál, Transport Research Centre and Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

During the excursion, it was evident that the wetland did not have enough groundwater and surface water and slowly dried up. It is connected to the Ipoly River by groundwater only, but in the past, the Ipoly River also spilled onto the surface, which contributed, among other things, to the transfer of various organisms between individual habitats. Lateral connectivity is severely impaired in these areas. On the spot, we learned that several of the barriers their function only to a limited extent, but the longitudinal connectivity is still not resolved, e.g. through fish passes. Fish and other aquatic organisms need to migrate through rivers in order to exploit, exchange genetic information and improve populations. However, this migration is also important for our other monitored species of Thick-shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*), which can move to other places in the river, only on certain species of fish on which its juveniles develop. Juvenile individuals (so-called glochidia) attach to the gills of fish and travel together to other parts of the watercourses as far as possible. Thick-shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*) plays a very important role in the river, filtering water, thanks to which it participates, together with other organisms, in cleaning the river. Once a common species, it now occurs in only about 50 places in Slovakia. In most places, they are counted in pieces. Zoologist Csaba Balász from the Cerová vrchovina Protected Landscape Area Administration reminds us that the wetland also fulfils the function of an

animal migration corridor, as it preserves the last pieces of untouched landscape in this part and leads animals from the center of Slovakia towards Hungary. Csaba reminds us that it is not enough just to declare protected areas, but we must not forget to connect them. If connectivity in a territory doesn't work, the country as a whole can't work well.



59. - 62. Figures Visit of the Dálovský močiar (wetland) ©Szilvia Mészáros, Őko Ltd. and Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

The Slovak Water Management Company states that in the past, fields, and municipalities in this area were flooded, therefore flood protection systems were built, the riverbed was modified and dams were built. However, such a flow adjustment has proven to be a problem in the dry season. As a result, there was a decrease in groundwater, so barriers were built to keep the surface in a stable state. Two counterproductive technical interventions, instead of accepting flood zones and looking for greener technical solutions for the given section. These



informations were important for our second stop, which was barrier Kalonda. It also served to hold water for irrigation. Today, it no longer fulfils this function. Although the barrier is open from September to March, there is still a partial barrier that some species of fish do not overcome. We learned from SWM that it is not possible to remove the barrier, even though it performs its function only to a limited extent. However, they are at least open to solving the problem of migration on the barrier. Fish pass, however, is another expensive investment and, in addition, there is often the failure of the human factor in the care of pipelines. A more acceptable and environmentally friendly solution would be to restore the nature of the rivers, returning the river to its original meanders, thus ensuring a natural supply of water back to the adjacent wetlands. Today, regulated watercourses have a significant impact on the rapid drainage of water from the landscape and thus contribute to a local increase in drought in certain areas.



63. - 66. Figures Visit of the Kalonda dam ©Szilvia Mészáros, Öko Ltd., Ivo dostál, Transport Research Center and Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb

Between our last stop and next stop from the field visits we had a lunch break in the hotel Slovan in Lučenec. After lunch break, the field trip took place at the Halier motorway north of the town of Lučenec near the village of Mýtňa. It is also the final part of the section of the expressway R2 Kriváň - Mýtňa, Tomášovce, on which an ecoduct is to be built - a green bridge as a measure against the barrier effect of the

expressway. A consultant from Integra Consulting presented the overall situation with the migration of the game in the vicinity of the expressway under construction. He informed us about the collected data on migration at the local and regional levels. This area is relatively densely inhabited by game, especially ungulates (deer, roe deer, wild boar) and there have also been transitions of large carnivores. Game migration is unlikely to be disrupted in the northern section of the R2 being built, as there are several bridges and flyovers, especially in the valley of the Krivánský potok, which will allow large mammals to migrate. More problematic is the southern section of R2, where the stop was part of the field inspection because it is already located in Lučenská kotlina and the expressway R2 will be led mainly through the terrain without significant bridge structures. At the same time, it is an important corridor for the migration of game and large carnivores to the south of Hungary. We also discussed various alternatives for the solution to the migration transition with the representative from the Motorway company, such as a double ecoduct through the R2 expressway and at the same time through the existing first-class route. This solution has been stopped due to the high financial demands, a cheaper variant with only an ecoduct via R2 will probably be prepared. We are believing, that the open discussion during the project and personal field visits are starting a discussion on these topics, between the decision makers and the nature conservationists.



*67. - 70. Field visit to the section of the expressway R2 Kriváň – Mýtňa, Tomášovce, on which the ecoduct (green bridge) is to be built, as one of the preventive measures. ©Romana Uhrinová, WWF Slovakia, Ivo dostál, Transport Research Center and Aleksandra Khirv, CEEweb*

## 8. List of Annexes

Annex I.a - List of attendees\_May 18

Annex I.b - List of attendees\_May 19

Annex I.c - List of attendees\_May 20\_HUN

Annex I.d - List of attendees\_May 20\_SK

Annex II. – Presentations