



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

SaveGREEN

SaveGREEN

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

**Transnational Experience Exchange Workshop
Dupnitsa, Bulgaria, 11-12 May 2022**

Hildegard Meyer, WWF Central and Eastern Europe

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

www.interreg-danube.eu/savegreen

Why is ecological connectivity important?

- 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

Threats to nature & benefits to people

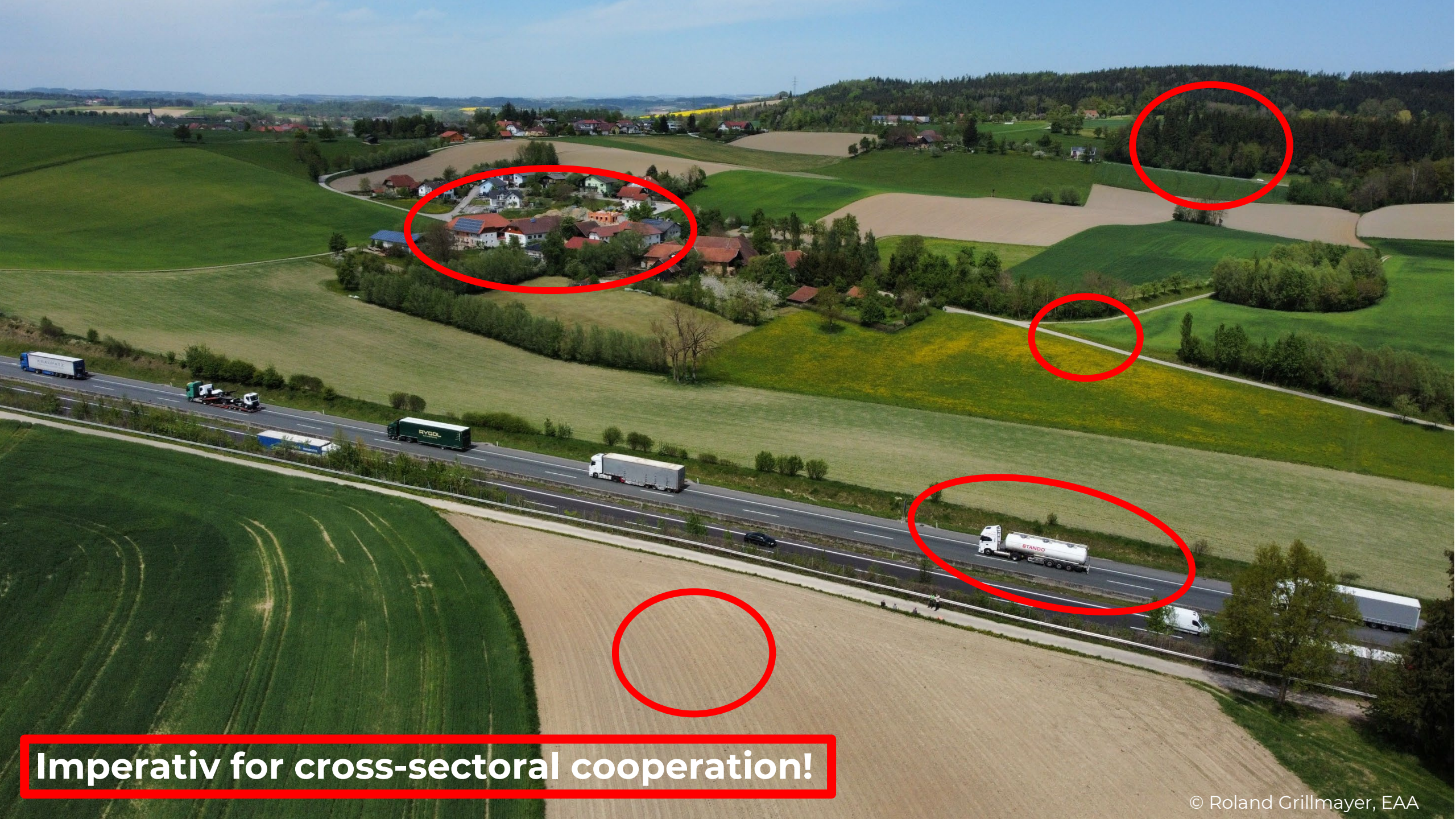


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Increase of traffic and transport infrastructure due to development cause

- Landscape fragmentation
- Land use change
- Wildlife barriers
- Accidents

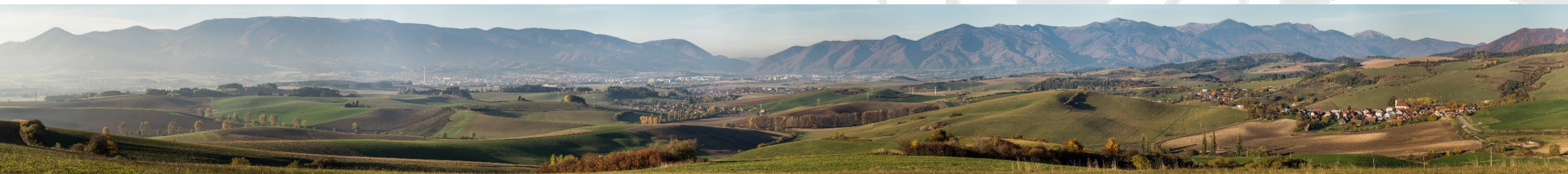
Benefits: boost of rural development, better access to education and health centers, and markets



Imperativ for cross-sectoral cooperation!

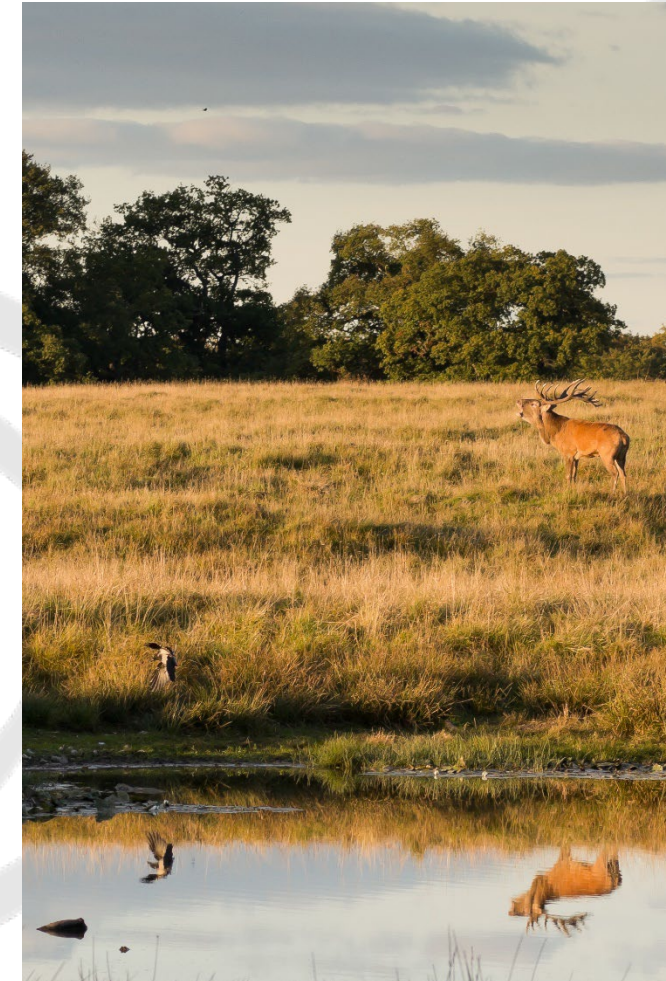
SaveGREEN in one sentence

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.



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



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 Ltd, WWF Romania

Slovakia: Slovak University in Bratislava – SPECTRA, WWF Slovakia

8 NGOs
3 Research institutions
1 Environmental authority
1 Company

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**

Pilot areas



Austria

1 Kobernausser forest

2 Pöttlaching (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

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 including 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)

Upcoming events

Transnational Experience Exchange Workshops:

- **18-20 May: Hungary & Slovakia** (Pilot region: Novohrad-Nógrád)
- **31 May – 2 June:** Hainburg, **Austria** and Lidečko, **Czech Republic** (Pilot regions: Alpine-Carpathian Corridor, Beskydy-Kysuce region)
- **23 Sep:** Cluj Napoca, **Romania** in the frame of the IENE 2022 Conference (Pilot region: Arad-Deva)

Info & registration: <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/savegreen/section/transnational-experience-exchange-workshops>

- **19-23 Sep 2022: IENE Conference,** Cluj Napoca, Rumänien

Info & registration: <https://2022iene.info/>



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Thanks for your interest!

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Project Partners



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