



Romanian Transnational Workshop Report

21 September, 2022

Cluj-Napoca, Arad - Deva Pilot Area

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Contents

1. Basic information	3
2. General outline of the event	5
3. Agenda	7
4. Field trip in the Arad – Deva Pilot Area	9
5.1. Annex no.1 - 2022 IENE International Conference Agenda	13

1. Basic information

Name of the meeting	RO Transnational Experience Exchange Workshop
Project Pilot Area	Arad - Deva
Date	21.09.2022
Place	Mureş Valley, Bega Valley, Defileul Muresului, Podisul Lipovei-Poiana Rusca Natura 2000 sites
Main organizer	Zarand Association
Duration	1 day
Number of participants	40
Aim of the meeting	The aim of the workshop is to present the results of SaveGREEN to a range of international experts, to engage them based on examples from the field and to gain their feedback in order to test, improve and to facilitate the further use of the project's output – the logframe of CSOPs and the collections of problems and measures.
Representatives of the SaveGREEN project	Association WWF Danube Carpathian Programme Romania Black Sea NGO Network Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation CEEweb for Biodiversity Environment Agency Austria EPC Environmental Consultancy Ltd. Friends of the Earth Czech Republic Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences

	<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>
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2. General outline of the event

The event was held on 21 September 2022 in Mures Valley area, as part of the 2022 IENE International Conference (Annex no. 2- 2022 IENE International Conference AGENDA).

SaveGREEN project developed a logframe to assess the needs for safeguarding connectivity at landscape level. Starting from general sectoral pressures or threats, general objectives to address these threats have been standardized. Based on the local experience from 7 countries where 8 Cross-Sectoral Operational Plans (CSOPs) have been developed in pilot areas, a collection of problems and measures have been produced.

This logframe aims to support a better structured assessment of connectivity-related projects and to facilitate the understanding of multisectoral implications and an efficient communication and engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders.

The aim of the workshop was to present the results of SaveGREEN to a range of international experts, to engage them based on examples from the field and to gain their feedback in order to test, improve and to facilitate the further use of the project's output – the logframe of CSOPs and the collections of problems and measures.

Participants were the representatives of the Project Partners and Associated project partners. Other participants of the IENE Conference attended to the workshop: Nature Conservation Agency- Czech Republic, Railways Baltic Estonian, NGO - Rewild.



1. Photo ©Lazaros Georgiadis

3. Agenda

Date	What	Comments
21 Septemeber		
7.00 - 7.30	Field trip: <i>Departure from the USAMV Venue via bus &</i> A short presentation of the SaveGREEN project and the structure of the CSOPs logframe	Welcome & Introduction - Radu Mot, Zarand Association
10.30 – 12.00	Landscape connectivity in Mures Valley / Defileul Muresului, Natura 2000 site / Branisca ecoduct	Radu Mot & Razvan Rohan, Zarand Association
12.00 – 14.30	Landscape connectivity / two ecoducts within different matrix types – forest & grassland / Podisul Lipovei-Poiana Rusca Natura 2000 site	Radu Mot & Razvan Rohan, Zarand Association
14.30 – 16.00	Landscape connectivity – the critical sector of the Western-Southern Carpathians ecological corridor	Radu Mot & Razvan Rohan, Zarand Association
16.00- 17.00	<i>Lunchbreak & presentation of local products from the corridor area</i>	Zarand Association
17.00 – 19.30	Breakout group exercises: identifying & communication sectoral solutions for connectivity (transports, agriculture, hunting, water management)	Moderator: Radu Mot, Zarand Association

19.30 – 23.30	Overall discussions and conclusions & <i>return trip to the USAMV Venue via bus</i>	Moderator: Radu Mot, Zarand Association
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4. Field trip in the Arad – Deva Pilot Area

- A critical connectivity area (linkage area) within one of the most important bio-corridor for large carnivores at whole Carpathian range, identified since 2004 and referred to in the European Action plans for large carnivore species, in the Romanian Management plans and regional action plans for bear and wolf;
- Important local biodiversity with a range of protected areas pSCIs (some designated specially to support functionality of the bio-corridor) and SPAs;
- A natural river valley which acts as a green / blue corridor itself;
- Intersected by a major European transport corridor (TEN-T: motorway, railway), national and local roads; first dedicated mitigation solutions for new infrastructure in Romania;
- The Catalogue of measures developed in TRANSGREEN and actions from regional and national management plans, Natura 2000 management plans offer great fundament, but needs integration in operational plans to become efficient / functional;
- High potential to complement ConnectGreen project.

First stop was on the Mures Valley in a predominantly agricultural area with forested islands and isolated trees. Here the first ecoduct was built in Romania, over the Lugoj-Deva Motorway.

We discussed the land use dynamic and its drivers, the land-use changes generated by major infrastructure, how parallel infrastructure could be mitigated and how the existing greenbridge functions could be maximised.



2. Photo_ Mures valley © Lazaros Georgiadis

The second stop reflected on ecological engineering and sectoral management to increase the functionality of green bridges in different landscape scenarios – in a forested area and in an open / grassland area. The implications related to human/vehicle access, transient shepherding, hunting/poaching and forestry.

The third stop presented the system of measures planned for the motorway to ensure the functionality of the critical sector of the Westerns-Southern Carpathians corridor.



3. Photo_ Greenbridge in an open / grassland area © Lazaros Georgiadis

During the lunchbreak, the participants encountered local stakeholders and the AZ team presented the local products from the corridor area.



4. Photo_Local products ©Bianca Ștefănuț, WWF Romania



5. Photo_Group exercise ©Adrian Grancea, WWF Romania

The workshop continues with a breakout group exercise where the participants were asked to reflect on the situations presented during the trip and to make comments related to the sectoral impacts identified within SaveGREEN.

Based on the list of potential sectoral impacts (for transports, agriculture, hunting, water management), the groups were asked to assess a connectivity-related solution (why is not being properly addressed already?) and to find the best way to present it to the two “camps” (sectoral management and connectivity-supporters). At the end, the groups reflected on the communications issues and on solutions to break the dialogue barrier between sectoral stakeholders. Each group reported and a general discussion has been held during the return trip.

5.1. Annex no.1 - 2022 IENE International Conference Agenda

DAY 2 / WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FIELD TRIPS, IN-PERSON-ONLY (OPTIONAL)

Departure time ROMANIAN TIME (CET + 1)	FIELD TRIP		Duration	Estimated return time in Cluj-Napoca / USAMV Venue
9:00	Field trip #1 & Field trip #2 merged!	The Planned Metropolitan Ring Of Cluj-Napoca & Turda Salt Mine And The Old City Center Of Cluj-Napoca	Approx. 7-8 hours in total	Afternoon / Early Evening
8:30	Field trip #3:	The Turzii Gorges	Approx. 8-9 hours in total	Late Afternoon
8:00	Field trip #4:	Trascău / Apuseni Mountains	Approx. 10 hours in total	Evening
7:30	Field trip #5:	The Apuseni Mountains – Southern Carpathians Corridor / Mureş Valley & SaveGREEN Workshop (With Guests From IENE & BISON)	Approx. 12 hours in total	Late Evening

All buses will depart from inside the USAMV Venue. Boarding starts 30 minutes prior to departures; buses will depart promptly!

Final Logistic details regarding the Field trips will be discussed on Tuesday.