

SaveGREEN Transnational Experience Exchange Workshops

Output T2.1

Overview Document

December 2022

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1. Introduction

Between May and November 2022, SaveGREEN organised a series of Transnational Experience Exchange Workshops, in which our project partners and relevant stakeholders shared experiences made in their pilot areas over 21 months of project implementation.

The meetings were held in selected sites within the project's area of activity: Austria/Czech Republic, Hungary/Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania, and have most notably included discussions on the Cross Sectoral Operational Plans, created as a direct response to the threats to ecological connectivity identified in the pilot areas. Each of the workshops also include fieldtrips to specific sites of interest in the respective pilot area(s). Due to the on-going war in Ukraine, the fifth Transnational Workshop was held in virtual fashion.

Table 1: Overview of the Transnational Workshop dates:

Date	Country	Type	Fieldtrip
11 – 12 May 2022	Bulgaria	Hybrid	Yes
18 – 20 May 2022	Hungary and Slovakia	Hybrid	Yes, 2
31 May – 2 June 2022	Austria and Czech Republic	Hybrid	Yes, 2
21 September 2022	Romania	In person only	Yes
30 November 2022	Ukraine	Virtual only	No

The main aim of the transnational workshops was to facilitate concrete solutions-exchange relevant for the development of the local cross sectoral operational plans (CSOPs), by addressing a comprehensive range of critical sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, water management, game management, spatial planning) together with linear transport, in order to safeguard/ maintain/ improve/ restore the functionality of eco-corridors in the surroundings of linear transport infrastructure passages.

Each workshop had a focus topic/s, in line with the pilot-areas specifics (presented below) and offered the chance for local working groups and other key stakeholders to interact with project partners and external experts in discussing relevant situations and solutions for their respective CSOPs.

Table 2: Main topics of the Transnational Workshops:

Country	Focus topic/s
Bulgaria	transport and forestry, hunting, agriculture
Hungary and Slovakia	transport and water management, agriculture, forestry, hunting
Austria and Czech Republic	transport and agriculture, hunting, forestry, spatial planning, tourism
Romania	transport and hunting, agriculture, forestry, water management
Ukraine	transport and EIA, reconstruction of infrastructure

2. 10-12 May 2022: Bulgaria

The **Bulgarian Transnational Workshop** was held from 10-12 May 2022 in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria, in the Kraishte region South of Sofia. The morning of the first day was dedicated to presentations by the Bulgarian Project Partners and invited stakeholders, in which they detailed the challenges facing ecological connectivity work in the country.



Image 1: Day 1 of the workshop
© Christophe Janz



Image 2: Field trip to the Kresna Gorge
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Presentations:

- [Presentation](#) on a SaveGREEN overview by **Hildegard Meyer**, WWF-CEE;
- [Presentation](#) on ecological connectivity and N2000 in South-West Bulgaria by **Andrey Kovatchev**, Adviser to Ministry of Environment and Water;
- [Presentation](#) on Forest Management by **Vanya Kamenova**, SWSFE;
- [Presentation](#) on wildlife in the Rila-Verila-Kraishte region by **Rossen Mirchev**, SWSFE;
- [Presentation](#) on the ecological impact of the Struma motorway by **Nina Stoilova**, Road Infrastructure Agency;
- [Presentation](#) on monitoring of defragmentation facilities by **Elena Tsingarska**, BBF.



Image 3: Field trip Struma Motorway
© Christophe Janz



Image 4: Field trip Struma Motorway
© Christophe Janz

On the morning of the second day, the participants discussed the Bulgarian Cross-Sectoral Operation Plan, sharing input and ideas from their own countries. In the afternoon of both days, the attendees were taken field trips to Lot 1 of the Struma Motorway and the Kresna Gorge in order to gain a firsthand impression of the realities on the ground firsthand.

For a more detailed summary of the workshop, please refer to the workshop report:

- [Workshop report](#)
- [Agenda](#)

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3. 18-20 May 2022: Hungary and Slovakia

The **Hungarian/Slovak Transnational Workshop** was held from 18-20 May 2022. The first day kicked off in Budapest and was dedicated to presentations and discussions on ecological connectivity in Hungary and Slovakia.



Image 5: Field trip in Slovakia
© Romana Uhrinová



Image 6: Field trip in Slovakia
© Hildegard Meyer

Presentations:

- [Presentation](#) by **Filepné Dr. Kovács Krisztina, Kóllanyi László**, MATE;
- [Presentation](#) by **Kóllanyi László**, MATE;
- [Presentation](#) by **Radu Mot**, Association Zarand;
- [Presentation](#) by **Romana Uhrinová**, WWF-SK;
- [Presentation](#) by **Andras Weiperth**, MATE.



Image 7: Field trip in Hungary
© CEEweb

A Communication Training was also organised for the members of the SaveGREEN project consortium on the intricacies of stakeholder outreach and engagement.

On the second and third days of the workshop, the participants visited two sites in the HU/SK cross-border pilot area Novohrad-Nógrád.

For a more detailed summary of the workshop, please refer to the workshop report:

- [Workshop report](#)
- [Agenda](#)

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4.31 May – 2 June 2022: Austria and the Czech Republic

The **Austrian and Czech Transnational Workshop** was held from 31 May - 2 June 2022. The first part of the workshop began in Hainburg, Austria, where participants were introduced to the state of ecological connectivity in Austria today.



Image 8: AT pilot area
© Umweltbundesamt, Roland Grillmayer



Image 9: Field visit to Pöttsching green bridge
© Umweltbundesamt, Roland Grillmayer

Presentations:

- [Presentation](#) on Ecological Connectivity in Austria by **Roland Grillmayer**, EAA;

- [Presentation](#) on the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor by **Franz Suppan**, BOKU;
- [Presentation](#) on Embedding Green Bridges into the Surroundings by **Alexandra Medl**, ASFINAG;
- [Presentation](#) on the SaveGREEN Monitoring Approach by **Roland Grillmayer**, EAA;
- [Presentation](#) on Preliminary Monitoring Results from Austria by **Mořic Jurečka**, field biologist;
- [Presentation](#) on Stakeholder Engagement by **Hildegard Meyer**, WWF-CEE.

On the afternoon of the first day, a field trip was organised to two green bridges in the SaveGREEN pilot area 'Pötttsching'.

The second part of the workshop was held in Lidečko, Czechia, where the Czech Partners and invited experts described the challenges facing ecological connectivity in their country.



Image 10: Field visit to CZ pilot area
© Pekto Tzvetkov



Image 11: Field visit to Pötttsching green bridge
© Ivo Dostál

Presentations:

- [Presentation](#) on the Beskydy-Kysuce pilot area by **Miroslav Kutal**, FoE CZ;
- [Presentation](#) on Methodology for Environmental Assessment of Transport Infrastructure by **Peter Anděl**, Technical Univ. of Liberec;
- [Presentation](#) on Methodology 'Traffic and Fauna' by **Václav Hlaváč**, NCA CZ;

- [Presentation](#) on Connectivity and Transport Infrastructure in Slovakia by **Michal Králik**, HBH Projekt;
- [Presentation](#) on Mitigation of Habitat Fragmentation by **Veronika Kornová**, NCA CZ;
- [Presentation](#) on Telemetry of the Eurasian Lynx by **Martin Dul'a**, FoE CZ.

The workshop ended with a field trip to the Beskydy-Kysuce pilot area.



Image 12: Field visit to CZ pilot area
© Hildegard Meyer

For a more detailed summary of the workshop, please refer to the workshop report:

- [Workshop report](#)
- [Agenda](#)

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Contact Czech Republic: Radek Kříček, radek.kricek@hnutiduha.cz

5. 21 September: Romania

The **Romanian Transnational Experience Exchange Workshop** was held on 21 September 2022 in the frame of the IENE 2022 Conference, held in Cluj Napoca.



Image 13: Field visit to RO pilot area
© Christophe Janz



Image 14: Field visit to RO pilot area
© Christophe Janz

The workshop consisted of a fieldtrip to multiple sites of interest within the Romanian Mures Valley SaveGREEN pilot area. These included the Defileul Muresului Natura 2000 site, the Branisca ecoduct, two ecoducts in the Podisul Lipovei-Poiana Rusca Natura 2000 site, and a critical sector in the South-Western Carpathian ecological corridor.

Following a late lunch break, the participants then took part in a group exercise identify problems and possible solutions in specific sectors regarding ecological connectivity, namely transport, agriculture, hunting and water management.

The workshop ended with an overall discussion on the Romanian Cross Sectoral Operational Plan and the specific issues facing ecological connectivity in this SaveGREEN pilot area.



Image 15: Group exercise
© Hildegard Meyer



Image 16: Field visit to RO pilot area
© Christophe Janz

For a more detailed summary of the workshop, please refer to the workshop report:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Workshop Report](#)

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6.30 November 2022: Ukraine

The **Ukrainian Transnational Workshop** was held on 30 November 2022. Due to the on-going war, the workshop had to be held in virtual fashion.

The workshop was held bilingually, with live interpretation from English to Ukrainian and vice-versa.

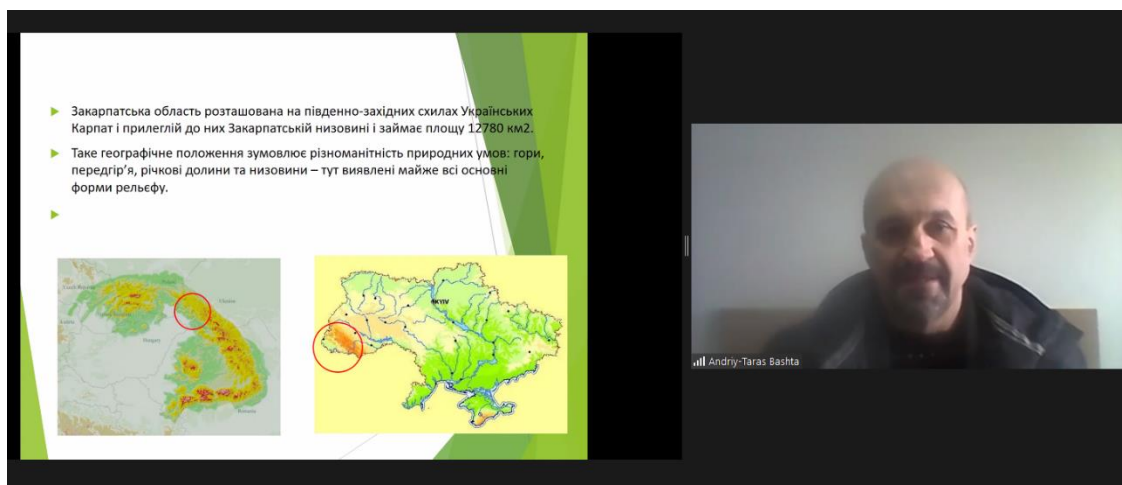


Image 17: Presentation Andriy-Taras Bashta
© Christophe Janz

Presentations:

- [Presentation](#) giving an overview of SaveGREEN, **Hildegard Meyer**, WWF-CEE
- [Presentation](#) of the pilot area and monitoring results, **Andriy-Taras Bashta**, Field Expert
- [Presentation](#) on the EIA procedure for the construction and re-construction of roads, **Anatoliy Pavelko**, Legal Expert

- [Presentation](#) on recommendations for the reconstruction of infrastructure in Ukraine, **Svitlana Matus**, Policy Expert



Image 18: Presentation Svitlana Matus

© Christophe Janz

For a more detailed summary of the workshop, please refer to the workshop report:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Workshop report](#)

7. Conclusion

The workshops provided valuable input for tailoring the Capacity Building Programme (WP T1 and T3) to the local needs/specifics of the individual pilot areas and contributed to the SaveGREEN interventions (presentations, workshops) at the IENE 2022 International Conference (Output T3.3).

Another important opportunity provided by the workshops was to ensure an identification and exploitation of synergies (exchanging experiences, capitalisation of results) with other DTP projects, in particular TRANSGREEN, ConnectGREEN, Magical landscapes, HARMON, BioGOV.

The feedback from the participants (stakeholders, experts, guests, and partners) was highly positive and the SaveGREEN consortium therefore considered the workshop series to be a success and an example of good-practice established by the project that should be replicated in future initiatives.