

Output Factsheet

Output title:

5.2 Multi-sectoral meetings and/or fora

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

ConnectGREEN has created and made available a corpus of valuable knowledge and experience in order to help decision-makers, spatial planners, and other stakeholders to find the best ways to develop infrastructure and other plans in order to secure ecological connectivity in the Carpathians. However, in order to accomplish this objective, this body of knowledge had to be distributed and shared with the relevant stakeholders, who in turn had to build ownership on it and are ultimately responsible to put it into practice. Thus, this document has the objective of setting a roadmap for the diffusion and transfer of ConnectGREEN's generated knowledge, including the methodology, strategies, roadmaps and other project outputs. It is worth highlighting that, when discussing the transfer of outputs of the ConnectGreen project, we do not just aim at concrete policy changes (although these are a key objective indeed) but also wish to see fundamental (transformative) changes within the awareness and act by all actors of the society by the means of societal transition.

A societal transition is a fundamental, transformative systemic shift in structures, cultures, and practices in a society. These processes are typically non-linear and disruptive. Institutional and incremental processes which focus on optimization fail to adequately anticipate and adapt to such chaotic, non-linear patterns of change. Dealing with emergence through anticipation is a key capacity in order to deal with transitions. Controlling transitions is impossible, we hence rather speak of navigating on the edge of disruption. Regular policy and planning are often focused on improving the existing, rather than facilitating transformative changes towards desired futures. Transition governance is about developing the capacities, networks, and tools to achieve this structural systemic change towards sustainable futures.

After the adoption of the **project outputs** (and its associated knowledge products), the countries will be able to integrate this into national-level policies, strategies, and frameworks related to:

1. Biodiversity conservation
2. Construction-related obligations concerning Evaluation of Influence on Environment documentations – such as wind farms investigation and proposals with avoidance environment damages, variations decision
3. Environmental Impact Assessments
4. Grey infrastructure planning – green bridges construction + landscape architecture around the linear infrastructure
5. Human-wildlife conflict
6. Hunting
7. Natura2000
8. Protected Area designation and management

9. Spatial planning processes

The main objective of ConnectGREEN project is to maintain, respectively improve the ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially between Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion, namely in Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Ukraine. More specifically, the project aims at:

- Developing innovative solutions and guidance to identify ecological corridors and connectivity gaps in a harmonized way across the Carpathian ecoregion to maintain long-term, cross-border wildlife movement, associated ecosystem services and a high level of biodiversity in the region.
- Engaging protected area and Natura 2000 site managers, conservationists, spatial planners and other key stakeholders in an integrated approach for strengthening the capacity for identifying and managing ecological corridors.
- Reconciling nature conservation and spatial planning and development in ecological corridors and Natura 2000 sites by identifying and implementing strategic directions and instruments and practices.

Over its duration (2018 - 2021), ConnectGREEN most important and transferable outputs:

- Methodology for identifying ecological corridors
- State of the Art Report on the existing planning systems and their application for ecological corridor identification and management
- GAP analysis report on the identification of the needs for improving the planning processes and tools
- Set of recommendations developed together with spatial planners to avoid/ minimise fragmentation of ecological corridors and Natura 2000 sites
- Ecological connectivity related database under the CCIBIS
- Database with all relevant spatial information in each pilot site
- Maps with the distribution of target species, core areas, ecological corridors and critical barrier sites in each pilot areas
- International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians

Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)

We can identify three differentiated levels of capitalization for ConnectGREEN outputs: local, national, regional (Carpathian-level), and international. In turn, at each of these levels, we can identify two main kinds of stakeholders to target: those that can capitalize on this knowledge directly, and those who will be affected indirectly. Table 1 offers a summary of the different groups identified:

Level \ Type	Direct	Indirect
International	International conventions (CBD, IPBES) Macro regional Strategies (EUSDR)	European Union decision-makers and stakeholders
Regional (Carpathian)	Carpathian basin countries (Carpathian Convention)	Regional NGOs, regional infrastructure and

	Member States), Carpathian Network of Protected Areas	biodiversity conservation projects,
--	---	-------------------------------------

Project results were fed interim and final ones into the EUSDR process, in particular through presentations to PA6 Steering Group Members and at the Annual EUSDR Forum as well as other appropriate fora and platforms.

Main messages and outcomes went into discussions at EU level on the TEN-G initiative, a concept to maintain and restore green infrastructure landscape element in the EU or on promoting co-existence between humans and large carnivores. As wildlife movement corridors are a substantial part of Green Infrastructure, the link is evident. Furthermore, large carnivore corridors are also relevant in the context of better implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives and of the Key Actions for Large Carnivore Populations in Europe.

Multi-sectoral knowledge transfer meetings/events were organised, in particular targeted at policy makers at the EU, Carpathian and wider Danube level and beyond to share experiences and lessons learnt.

Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)

Not relevant

Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)

Over all events the strategic aims and potential activities were discussed with potential supporters from the neighbouring Conventions to the academic representatives, field worker biologists, nature protection experts and NGOs.

Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)

Contribution to international discussions and policy processes

The body of knowledge built by ConnectGREEN has the potential to provide valuable input to relevant international processes regarding biodiversity conservation, climate action, and other aspects of environmental protection. One clear example is the upcoming new Global Biodiversity Agreement to be approved at the UN 2020 Biodiversity Conference (the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity), scheduled originally in Kunming (China) in 15-28 October 2020, though due to COVID-19 most likely to take place at the end of 2021.

- CBD - IPBES
 - o leading Sustainable Production and Consumption WG and taking part in Smart cities WG, Biodiversity WG.
 - The activity was implemented in the "Transformative Change in the global post-2020 Biodiversity Framework" activity organized by the Eklipse Expert Working Group in 27 March – 27 August 2020, by taking part of the proposal writing of the background document of the 23-25 June 2020 workshop
 - o "Putting Beyond Growth advocacy into action" - FinGO process

Both activities' recommendations were embedded to the IPBES Global Assessment and channeled into the CBD final documents.

Contribution to regional (Carpathian ecoregion-level) policy making processes

Carpathian Network of Protected Areas of the Carpathian Convention:

- In order to enhance the revitalization process of CNPA ConnectGreen project partners organized shared activities with Centralpark Interreg-CE project, which aims to create and foster a common platform for Central-Eastern National Parks in order to provide common activities and capacity building within the region. To make sure the success of the cooperation the following activities taken place:
 - Meetings with the CNPA Secretariate in 06/10/2020, 16/11/2020, 19/04/2021 and 22/03/2021.
 - Over these meetings the partners agreed on the following roadmap:
 - Organizing events
 - 1st round table for the Stirring Committee of CNPA in November 2020.
 - 2nd round table: 21-25 June 2021, Forum Carpaticum, Brno if applicable
 - CNPA Conference: 28-30 Sept 2021, Visegrád, Hungary
 - Social media activities

Working Group Meeting of the Carpathian Convention

Biodiversity Working Group

- The work within the Biodiversity WG aimed the preparations of the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and embedding its recommendations to national processes. To reach this aim the following activities were implemented:
- 9th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, in Ostrava, Czechia, 30-31 May 2019, where the general idea of the Action Plan was discussed.
- 10th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity in Coltesti, Romania, 25-28 November, 2019. Over the meeting the first drafts of the Action Plan was presented and discussed together with the EuroLargeCarnivores Life Project.
- 11th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity, on-line, 10 March 2020. over the meeting the content was presented and discussed.
- 10th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport, on-line, 11 March 2020. The event joint to the meeting above to discuss the potential common understanding and planed activities of the two Working Groups.
- COP6 - Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in November 2020. Adopted the International Action Plan was adopted.

Durability (max. 1500 characters)

The project results were embed to CBD processes, in this way providing a long lasting, global effect through transformative change processes.

On regional level the results were adopted by the Carpathian Convention, making sure to be implemented by the member states.

On national levels, all PPs reached many ministries as the most important stakeholders of can act on ecological connectivity, meanwhile the countries could embed project results into already started national process on ecosystem mapping, landscape and land-use change

mapping and in green infrastructure development. In Romania, Slovakia and Hungary a frequent consultation is going on about the project's topics, this way the project results and mission joined to the most effective ways of national policy approach.

One of the most important result of the project is the periodic ministerial level consultation series started by the Serbian partners, providing a platform for the transformative change progress to Serbia.

Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and / or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

The project aimed a multi-sectoral cooperation involving the following institutions and projects to common discussions of the ecological connectivity, large carnivores and common topic:

- Alparc projects
- Park Dinarides projects
- Carpathian Parks (carpathianparks.org)
- CentralParks project
- Carpathian Primary Forest

In order to reach and deepen the targeted groups the project organized and took part in the following activities:

- Centralparks Kick-off event, 16 April 2019.
- Green Carpathians webinar on transnational cooperation to address the biggest threats to the biodiversity of the Carpathian Mountains, within EU Green Week, 25 September 2020.
- Carpathian Primary Forests Protection, International Meeting of the Activists, 4 October 2020.
- EU eco-corridors: a mountain to climb, within European Week of Regions and Cities, 13 October 2020

Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)

The greatest success of the project is the adaption of the International Action Plan On Conservation Of Large Carnivores And Ensuring Ecological Connectivity In The Carpathians by the Carpathian Convention in November 2020, that ensure many further steps to implement the vison of the project.

The project supported the Macro-regional cooperation between the Alpine, Danube and Arian-Ioanian regions, trying to bring the strategic result bring down to all national, and subnational levels to make sure the success of the strategies embedding to everyday policy process, reaching as many stakeholders as possible. The project provided valuable knowledge for big scale spatial planning, supporting the multi sectoral dialogue between transport infrastructure development, nature protection, spatial planning, authorities, and ministries.

For the newest EU Green Deal the project provided a pilot best practice solution for the enlargement of the protected areas, by the habitat suitability model, which provides the potential and best sites for choose new areas to be protected, the appropriate and necessary sites to create new habitats for ecological connectivity, thus providing the practical solution

for TEN-G enlargement, and supporting design tools to infrastructure development, on placing the new built elements, making the smallest damage possible.