

Output Factsheet

Output title:

5.3 E-learning training course on eco-corridors

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

ConnectGREEN project aims to cope with the fast and increasing ecosystem and habitat fragmentation in the Danube region and to improve ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially between Natura 2000 sites and other categories of protected areas in the Carpathian ecoregion of transnational importance.

The E-learning training course was developed for 2 target groups: one course on identification, management, monitoring of eco-corridors for conservationists and protected areas staff; the other course on integration of eco-corridors in spatial plans dedicated to spatial planners and related professional groups including authorities.

The course contains 2 main modules, each modules have 5 main lessons.

The 1st module is the introductory module on the main topics the project worked on, the second contains the solutions we collected, developed and invented for the problem areas introduced in the 1st module.

The E-learning course has the constant platform the CCIBIS.org, run by Spectra. The course will be further promoted among the protected area community by CNPA and CEEweb, the PP universities.

The course was written by more than 50 contributors.

The training course has 2 main modules and 1 Annex module:

- Module 1: Introductory module on the region, the topic
 - - The Carpathian Region
 - - Ecological corridors and connectivity
 - - Ecological barriers
 - - Identified challenges in the Carpathians
 - - Description and knowledge base on the 3 umbrella species

- Module 2
- - Mitigation Measures
- - Habitat suitability modeling
- - Structure and relevance of spatial planning
- - Integrating Spatial planning and ecological corridors
- - Stakeholder involvement
- Annex module (3rd module) :
 - - Best and bad practices
 - - Definitions

Platform reach:

on CCIBIS.org – E-learning

<http://elearning.patko.sk/>

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

The project main focus “biodiversity with a special focus on ecological connectivity” was discussed within the EUSDR PA (PA 06: preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils) coordinators, and were embed to the cooperation between the macro-regions, as one of the most important focus of the next decade.

The project provided solutions for the required “know-how”, best practice collection and ready to use tools for the other macro-regions. Within the project the dissemination was started among the other macro-regions, namely with the Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian MRSs, creating new platforms of knowledge and experience sharing for the practical and policy approaches.

Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)

The testing and launching of the trainings were provided by **Training of trainer’s events**, that took place in

- Hungary in 7th September, on-line (40 participants) organized by CEEweb, supported by SZIU (MATE university) and SPECTRA and all PPs.
- The 7th September ToT event’s off-line part was organized by SZIU giving tutorials to 36 participants - on 14th September also SZIU organized a follow-up event with 42 participants for the first round of use of the knowledge provided by the previous events.
- 7th October ToT was organized by SPECTRA reached 39 participants, with support of all Slovakian and Czech partners.

All together we reached 157 participants.

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

The E-learning platform was embedded to the CCIBIS platform, this way providing a free access to all interest groups, we reached spatial planners and nature protection experts as most relevant users from each participating country, reached many multipliers, especially the universities, who can further use the course, and disseminate it even far after the project close, ensure the long lasting use of the platform.

Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)

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

Carpathian Network of Protected Areas of the Carpathian Convention:

o 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
- o 1st round table for the Stirring Committee of CNPA in November 2020.
- o 2nd round table: 21-25 June 2021, Forum Carpaticum, Brno if applicable
- o CNPA Conference: 28-30 Sept 2021, Visegrád, Hungary
- Social media activities

Working Group Meeting of the Carpathian Convention

Biodiversity Working Group

o 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:

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 11th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity, on-line, 10 March 2020. over the meeting the content was presented and discussed.
- o 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.
- o 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 embeded 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 built a close cooperation with Centralparks Interreg and EuroLarge Carnivores Life project, interacting in many activities.

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 vision of the project, this document make sure the further dissemination of the knowledge sharing, that was started by the E-learning platform to spread the collected data and information about ecological corridors, large carnivores and their potential embedding to spatial planning.

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, over the joint event for the representatives of the Alpine, Carpathian and Dinaric regions the project provided implementation of the macro-regions' cooperation and knowledge sharing. 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.