

## Output Factsheet

**Output title:**

**O 2.3 Innovative Decision Support Tool**

**Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)**

The innovative Decision Support Tool (DST) is putting together and facilitating the analysis of the most relevant spatial data. It is created by spatial planners in cooperation with partners from fields of ecology and environment protection. Its objective is to ensure that the most appropriate solutions are taken in order to safeguard the ecological corridors and to resolve various conflicts between nature conservation and the intended or existing economic development projects.

The DST engages spatial planners, environmentalists, authorities and other stakeholders by involving them in relevant meetings and workshops where the tool will be developed and demonstrated in practice.

The DST strives to demonstrate that informed decisions can be made much easier and faster by having and overlapping all major categories of spatial data (e.g. ecological corridors, land-use categories and ownership, road and railways, settlements, etc.) together. This way, the decisions can be easily accepted and shared by the majority of the stakeholders. Additionally, the system is transferable and replicable to other areas providing existence and availability of spatial data.

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

The output contributes to the EUSDR, in particular Priority Areas 6 'Biodiversity and Landscapes, Quality of Air and Soils', especially its target 2 – 'Strengthen horizontal knowledge transfer and access to environmental data between national authorities responsible for nature conservation' using the available spatial data and providing an option for user to look for conflicts between the proposed investment and the existing ecological network.

**Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)**

The DST was presented during the PP&SCOM meetings within the project providing updates on its development, it was reviewed by project partners and by quality assurance officer. The final version was presented at national and international workshops to relevant stakeholders incl. relevant ministries. The comments and feedback had been included into the final version.

The DST had been tested in pilot areas on the available data from CCIBIS geoportal and other data provided by the pilot area responsible partners.

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

The target groups for this DST include local public authorities, national public authorities, sectoral agencies, infrastructure and public service providers, interest groups including NGOs and universities and training institutions. The DST enables target groups to make decisions considering ecological connectivity.

Partners have been involved during the development and testing phase where the DST had been presented and demonstrated and partners commented on the system and the potential data to be included from the point of view of sectoral data and/or geographical coverage.

**Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)**

The DST is covering the Carpathian countries included in the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System - CCIBIS (Romania, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary). The system is open, though, and when new data is made available and uploaded to the CCIBIS, it can be included in the DST and system can work with these.

**Durability (max. 1500 characters)**

The DST is operating on Spectra's infrastructure and Spectra guarantees its availability in the upcoming years. The access to the DST is not limited so anyone can access it, use it and contact Spectra with comments and/or new spatial data to be included so that the quality of DST can be improved.

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

The output builds upon the results of TransGREEN and BIOREGIO project where the CCIBIS had been developed and the data from these projects have been made available.

The DST will be further tested in the SaveGREEN project which shall also produce new more accurate data so that the system can be more precise and provide better input for the decision makers and other users of the system.

The DST will be introduced to students of planning schools under AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning).

The system is not supposed to be used alone on its own, but in synergy with other ConnectGREEN project outputs (specifically Output 3.2 Guidelines on reducing conflicts between connectivity and spatial development, Output 3.1 Methodology to identify ecological corridors and Output 3.3 Ecological corridors database within CCIBIS).

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

The output by its character contributes to the objectives defined on the EU level in the area of biodiversity and environment protection - Green Infrastructure Strategy developed by the European Commission, The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, The European Strategy for the Danube Region, the Natura 2000 network listed under both the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive.

