

**SUPPORT TO UKRAINE  
IN APPROXIMATION OF THE EU  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACQUIS**

**EuropeAid/135825/DH/SER/UA**

**Workshop “General principles and implementation of  
EU Habitats and Birds Directives”**

**Report**



April 2016

***Service Contract No.: 2015/357-205***

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## 1. INFORMATION ON THE EVENT

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Workshop “General principles and implementation of EU Habitats and Birds Directives” was organised in National Nature Park OleshkivskiPiski, Chersonska Oblast on 13 – 15 April, 2016.

## 2. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT AND RELATION TO THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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Module “General principles and implementation of EU Habitats and Birds Directives” is designed for representatives of local government and administrators of PAs, who will be trained on the issues of implementation of Habitats and Birds Directives.

Attention will in this group focus on understanding principles of implementation of both Directives. They will be provided with the information about needs on biological and ecological data, complexity of methodologies for their evaluation and organisational structure.

### Relation to project activities:

2.3.2 Institutional Gap & Stakeholders Involvement Plan

2.3.3 Legal Substantiation of 6 New Legal Acts

2.3.8 Trainings/Workshops

2.3.9 Assessment Birds Requiring Conservation and Protection

2.3.10 Monitoring System for Conservation status of species and habitats

2.3.11 Establishment Protection Regime for Endangered Species

2.3.13 Pilot Project – Component 3 - Preparation and Implementation of Management Plan for Pilot Site

## 3. PARTICIPANTS

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The Workshop was attended by more than 30 participants from ecological departments from almost all regions of Ukraine. All participants were provided with the agenda and all presentation as well as publication on Habitats and Birds Directives in advance.

List of participants is available in **Annex B** of this Report.

## 4. MAIN INPUTS PROVIDED BY THE PROJECT

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In order to fulfil these objectives training provided the participants with following information (see Agenda, **Annex A**).

Main inputs to the event provided by the project comprised of the Project team experts and the invited speaker presentations during the plenary sessions.

Session 1. Birds Directive - NKE V. Kostjushin, P. Gorlov

- why we need it,
- which birds it protects,
- what the law says
- how it works

Session 2. Habitats Directive – NKE L. Protsenko

- which animals, plants and habitats it protects,
- why and how,

- what the law says
- how it is applied

Session 3. Natura 2000 – KE4 J. Šeffer

- Sites of Community Interest (SCI)
- Special Protected Areas (SPA)
- SPAs vs IBAs
- Stakeholder process

Session 4. Conservation status concept, monitoring and management – KE4 J. Šeffer

- Definition of Favourable Conservation Status (FCS)
- Management planning, management models
- Monitoring and reporting

Session 5. Protection regime for species and habitats – SEA, EIA, appropriate assessment in Habitats Directive – NKE S. Vykhryst

- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Appropriate assessment

Session 6. Commitment of Ukraine to implementation of Habitats and Birds Directives (current status) – N. Drapaljuk, DPA MENR

- Commitments of Ukraine focused on Habitats Directive
- Commitments of Ukraine focused on Birds Directive
- National plan of implementation of Habitats and Birds Directives and status

Each session presentation was followed by facilitated discussion, which was focused on situation in UA in particular field.

#### **Training materials:**

Participants were provided with following materials in Ukrainian language in advance via email:

- Training agenda
- Brochure Nature Conservation: Short description of Habitats and Birds Directives
- Power point presentations prepared by the lecturers.

All presentations (**Annex C**) are published at APENA website:

<http://www.env-approx.org/index.php/en/news/46-workshop-main-principles-of-the-eu-directives-implementation-in-the-nature-protection-sector.html>

## **5. IMPACTS ACHIEVED**

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First Session on Birds Directive provided explanation of principal articles, showing important bird species and examples of implementation in EU member states. Second Session focused on Habitat Directive and was following similar structure of presentation as the previous one. Each session was followed by exercise for participants comparing current situation in nature sector with presented EU model. Third session presented process of establishment of Natura 2000 together with examples from EU member states.

Second day started with 4th session explaining concept of “favourable conservation status” and how to achieve this through management planning, management models and monitoring. In the afternoon participants had possibility to apply theory in practice during the field trip in the National Nature Park OleshkivskiPiski. During the field trip participants had a possibility to deepen knowledge in identification of Annex I habitats and apply practical approach to habitat mapping.

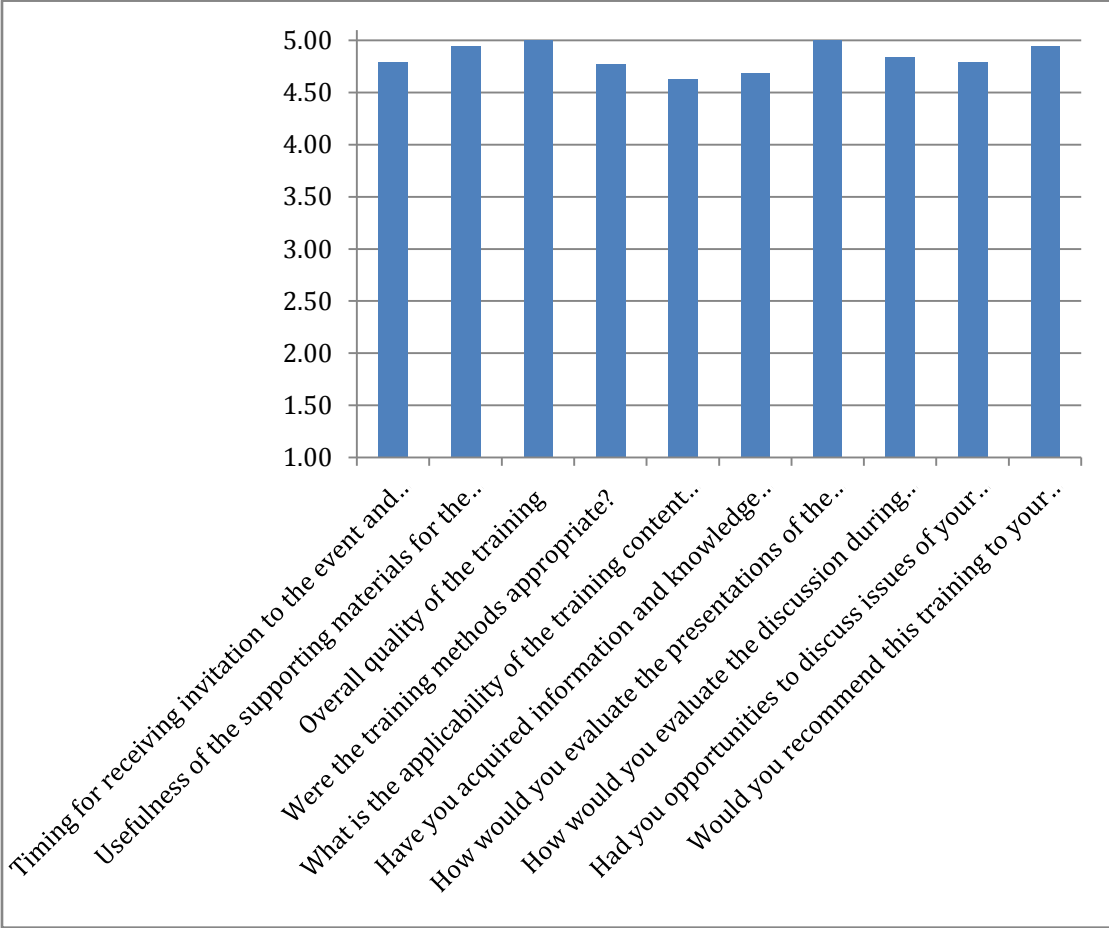
Third day started by 5th session on strategic/environmental impact assessment and continued by 6th session on status of implementation of EU directives in Nature sector. The day was also used for analysis of institutional issues through distributed questionnaires on institutional analyses of Nature sector. Feedback from participants was ensured through the evaluation questionnaires.

**6. ASSESSMENT OF EVALUATION OF QUESTIONNAIRES**

In order to measure the impact of knowledge transfer achieved in training workshop, this event was concluded after last session by distribution of anonymous questionnaires.

The evaluation questionnaires were disseminated to all participants. The project team after the event collected 19 evaluation questionnaires filled in by participants having received the scoring table and an overview of which questions or issue were well understood and answered and which were misunderstood and need re-addressing at future occasion.

Fig. 1. Evaluation of questionnaires. 1 - the lowest mark and 5 the best.



**Comments**

**Please provide any comments you may have related to the event including specification of issues addressed above:**

- invite few or more specialists in order to have an opportunity to compare the results of dealing with issues in different EU countries
- Every presentation and performance was organised on a high level. 2. the discussion of new legislative should be done upon the old legislative especially upon its drawbacks

- to give more time for discussion
- to provide more time for discussion and dealing with problematic issues
- to hold such seminars more often
- it will be better to receive all the materials a little bit earlier in order to have more time to work on them at home before the seminar
- I want to have a look at step by step implementation of proposed decisions
- in real everyday work it is impossible to implement (entirely) everything heard during the seminar because there are no appropriate changings in legislative acts

**Please provide us with recommendations of what could be improved next time such training is held.**

- to have more time for field work, have more scientists and narrowly focused specialists for discussing issues within the topic of the seminar
- to hold seminars in those places where it is possibly to see the maximum experience of implementation, which are discussed during the seminar
- It is not interesting to listen how is it in Europe, it is better to hear what shall we do to make our situation here in Ukraine better. All participants should present their opinians and after that experts should give their recommendations taking into account the heard information
- to invite more practicians (skilled workers) as experts
- to invite more speakers from government
- to hold seminars on ecological problems more often. To gain more information as for work in ecological sphere
- it will be more interesting and more useful to get to know more about implementation of the directives both here in Ukraine and abroad. There were some on the seminar but if you have more it will give a possibility to choose the best one for you
- to have a little bit more practise during the seminar
- it will be great if there are invited representatives from government of related issues (National Forest Agency, Derzhgeokadastr - National Agency of land resources, National Agency of Water resources)
- to invite more narrow specialists with great knowledge and their taking part in field session: botanist - 5, zoologist -3

**Any other remarks.**

- Organise seminar on problems that are in regions in nature reserve fund, ecosystem. The ministry should report to the regions upon every legislative act - what are they changing, on what stage is this or that legislative act. And regions should inform how to improve this in realisation on fields
- Thanks a lot
- more information on different issues of ecological topic
- Thanks!

- A wish: to hold such seminars (workshops) as often as possible in order to improve our theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Also, to add to such workshop topics the issues, which are most often addressed by the Oblast State Administrations' representatives to the MENR (e.g. legalisation of vegetation outside of defined settlement limits (wood lines)).

## **7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **Conclusions**

Module "General principles and implementation of EU Habitats and Birds Directives" is designed for representatives of local government and administrators of PAs. The main problem is heterogeneity of such group of stakeholders with different professional backgrounds. Understanding all aspects of implementation both nature directives requires deep knowledge of ecology, zoology and botany.

Attention was in this group focus on understanding basic principles of implementation of both Directives. We provided participants with the information about needs on biological and ecological data, complexity of methodologies for their evaluation and organisational structure.

The logic outcome of such approach was that participants with biological background had expectations to get more specific information. It can be solved by inviting them to other modules tailored for habitat experts, botanists, zoologists and ornithologists.

For managers and leaders is important to understand principles, needs for expert capacities in order to fulfil tasks like elaboration management plan, establish and maintain monitoring system, etc.

### **Recommendations**

- To improve presentations in session focused on Habitats Directive
- To invite international expert(s) to bring more examples of implementation nature directives in other member states
- To inform participants about other training modules for specialists
- To take reserve data projector in case technical troubles in venue
- To visit site few weeks before training in order to prepare field part – to select proper site(s) from technical and logistical viewpoint

## **8. ANNEXES**

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**Annex A. Agenda**

**Annex B. List of participants**

**Annex C. Presentations - <http://www.env-approx.org/index.php/en/news/46-workshop-main-principles-of-the-eu-directives-implementation-in-the-nature-protection-sector.html>**

**Annex D. Photos**

**Annex E. Questionnaires**