

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

EuropeAid/135825/DH/SER/UA

Report

**Nature component study tour in Czech Republic,
Slovakia and Poland**

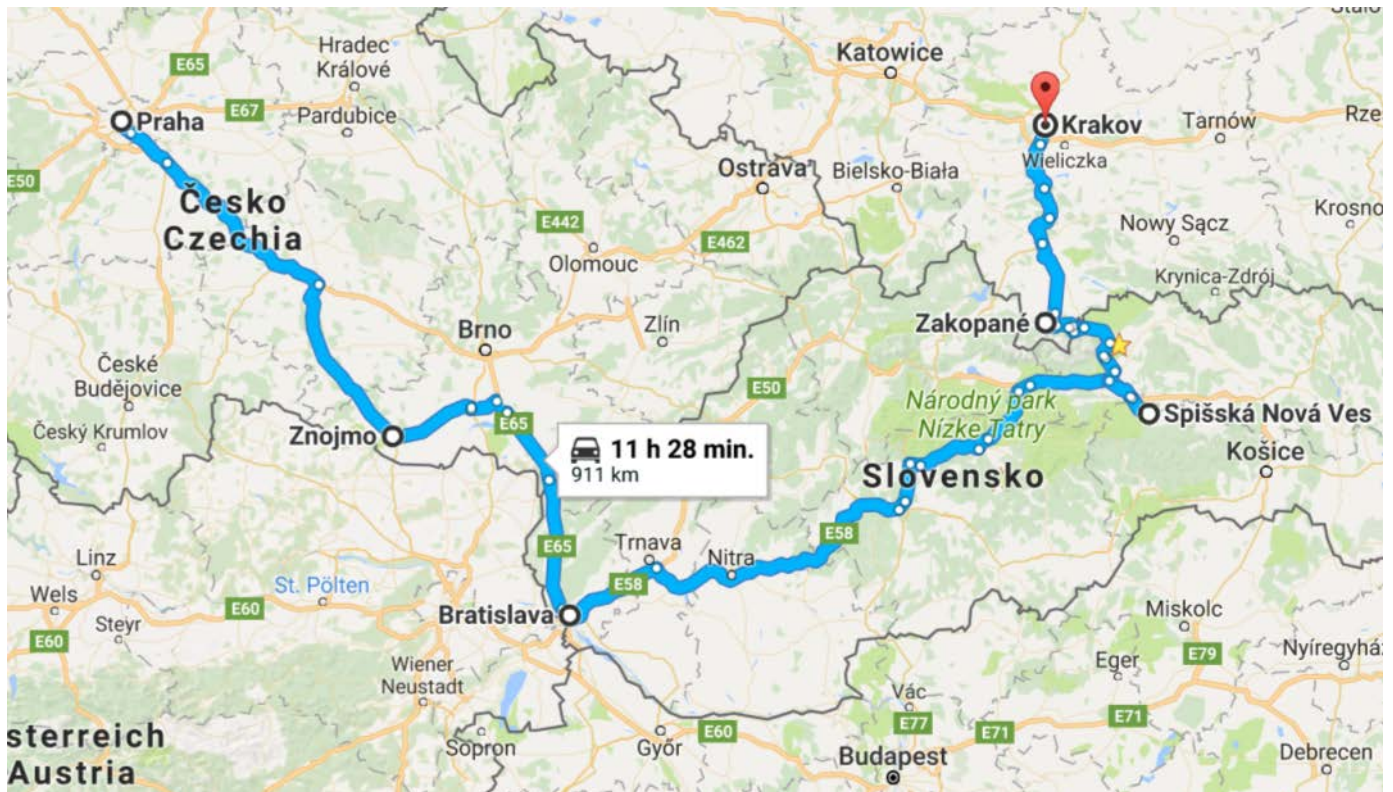
3-9 September, 2017

Service Contract No.: 2015/357-205



1. INFORMATION ON THE EVENT

Nature component study tour was conducted in Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland in 3-9 September 2017.



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

- Presentation of Czech national program for habitat mapping and species inventories, which is unique in the region due to massive data collection and sustainability;
- Showing example of cooperative approach among different stakeholders (NGOs, State Nature Conservancy) in implementation of LIFE projects in Slovakia;
- Presentation of implementation of nature legislation from perspective of Ministry of the Environment (Slovakia);
- Presentation of National Monitoring Program - State Nature Conservancy (Slovakia), which is good example of ;
- Examples of conservation practice in 3 national parks in three countries – Podyji, Slovensky raj and Tatra NPs.

Program of study tour fits to project ToR covering four main activities of Nature Sector: 1) **legislative**, 2) **monitoring of habitats and species (including inventories)**, 3) **implementation** of Habitats and Birds Directives, and 4) public education. Selection of participants reflects all aspects study tour programs – the majority of group is from MENR and experts from protected areas administrations, additionally we propose 3 persons from academic sphere (experts for monitoring of species and habitats) and one member of parliament (participates in Nature WG).



3. PARTICIPANTS

The Workshop was attended by 11 participants from MENR, administration of protected areas, universities and academy. All participants were provided with the schedule of study tour and all assistance with travel to study tour locations.

4. MAIN INPUTS PROVIDED BY THE PROJECT

Date	Program	Location
3 September 2017	Arrival to hotel, accommodation, briefing before study tour (KE Jan Seffer, Eptisa representative)	Prague, Czech Republic
4 September 2017	Visit Ministry of Environment of Czech Republic in Prague (contact person: Jan Dušek, Zoologist) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presentation of program for species inventory – methodologies, logistic, control, finances (expert of CNA) • presentation of program for habitat mapping – methodologies, logistic, control, finances (expert of CNA) • presentation of information system (databases, GIS) – structure, relations, registers, organisation of data flow (expert of SNA) 	Prague
4 September 2017	Travel to Znojmo (south Moravia – NP Podyjí), accommodation in Znojmo	NP Podyjí
5 September 2017	Visit information centre and meeting with NP Administration (NPA) of the NPA Podyjí (contact person: Jan Dušek) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information about biodiversity values of NP Podyjí (expert of NPA) • presentation of importance of Natura 2000 for national park, management plan (expert of NPA) • presentation of visitor centre (expert of NPA) 	NP Podyjí
5 September 2017	Travel to Bratislava	Western Slovakia
5 September 2017	LIFE project managed by NGOs in SCI Devinska kobyla Mts. (contact person: Monika Chrenkova, Daphne Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restoration of steppe grasslands by removal of shrubs and trees (KE Seffer) • restoration management by grazing (NGO expert) • environmental education on the site (NGO expert) 	Devinska kobyla Mts. (field visit), Bratislava
5 September 2017	Accommodation in Bratislava	Bratislava
6 September 2017	Visit Ministry of the Environment of Slovak Republic (ME) (contact person in Ministry: Milan Chrenko) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of Habitats and Birds Directives – legislative aspects incl. appropriate assessment, species protection, 	Bratislava



Date	Program	Location
	cooperation/problems with other sectors (expert/s of ME)	
6 September 2017	Travel to Banska Bystrica	Banska Bystrica, Slovakia
6 September 2017	State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic (SNC)-national monitoring project (contact person Andrej Saxa, Head of Dept. in SNC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring habitats and species - methodologies, logistic, control, finances (SNC expert) • information system (databases, GIS) – structure, relations, registers, organisation of data flow (SNC expert) • reporting according to art. 17 Habitat Directive – SNC expert 	Banska Bystrica, Slovakia
6 September 2017	Travel to Spisska Nova Ves	Spišska Nova Ves, Eastern Slovakia
6 September 2017	Accommodation in Spisska Nova Ves	Spišska Nova Ves
7 September 2017	Administration of NP Slovensky raj , management planning process, implementation of management plan, infrastructure for tourism in NP Slovenský Raj (contact person: Tomáš Dražil, Director of NP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information about biodiversity values of NP (Tomáš Dražil) • management planning process (Tomáš Dražil) • work with different stakeholders (Tomáš Dražil) 	Spišská Nová Ves
7 September 2017	Visitor centre in Podlesok	Podlesok
7 September 2017	Field trip and presentation of public education and visitor management in NP Slovensky raj	Dobsinska Ice Cave
7 September 2017	Travel to Tatra National Park in Poland, accommodation in Zakopane	Zakopane, Poland
8 September 2017	Administration of Tatra National Park, contact person (contact person: Paweł Kauzal, – Administrative Officer in Tatra National Park) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information about biodiversity values of NP • visitor management • financial mechanism 	Zakopane, Poland
8 September 2017	Lunch	Zakopane
8 September 2017	Field Trip to Tatra National Park	Zakopane
8 September 2017	Travel to Krakow	Zakopane
8 September 2017	Accommodation in Krakow	Krakow, Poland
9 September 2017	Departure to Kiev	



5. ASSESSMENT OF EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRES

In order to measure the impact of knowledge transfer achieved in the study tour, the event was concluded by asking participants to fill in an evaluation questionnaire. Willingness of the participants to participate and provide answers was ensured by anonymity of the filled in questionnaires.

The evaluation questionnaires were disseminated to all participants. The project team after the event collected 9 filled in evaluation questionnaires by participants. This allowed to better understanding which questions or issues were well understood and answered and which were misunderstood and need re-addressing at future occasion.

Summary of questionnaires evaluation:

The scoring tables related to ten questions presents an average scoring from 1 to 5 (5 score is the best), see following Table.

#	Scoring of the criteria/questions	Results - Average score
1	Was the time for receiving invitation to the event and the supporting materials (materials, guidelines, etc.) sufficient?	5,0
2	How would you score the usefulness of the supporting materials for the workshop?	4,9
3	How would you score the overall quality of the training?	5,0
4	Were the training methods used appropriate?	4,8
5	What is the practical relevance of the training content to your daily work?	4,7
6	Have you acquired information and knowledge that is new to you?	4,7
7	How would you evaluate the overall quality of the workshops sessions?	
7.1	The visit to the Ministry of Ecology (ME) of the Czech Republic in Prague, presentations by the ME and the environmental protection agency	4,8
7.2	The visit to the Information Center and meeting with the NP Podyji Administration	4,9
7.3	The visit to the Ministry of Environmental protection (ME) of the Slovak Republic	4,8
7.4	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) - national monitoring project, presentations	5,0
7.5	The NP Slovensky Raj Administration, managing the planning process, implementation of the management plan, infrastructure for tourism in the NP Slovensky Raj	4,9
7.6	The visit to the NP Tatra Administration, presentations	4,9
7.7	Field visits	4,1



8	How would you score the quality of discussion during the study tour (relevance to the topic, sufficient time, etc.)?	4,9
9	How would you score the working atmosphere?	5,0
10	Did you have sufficient opportunities to discuss issues of your interest?	4,7
11	Would you recommend this training to your colleagues?	5,0

From the table, one can see that the study tour sessions were assessed in range 4,1 - 5,0, what is very high score. The best score was evaluated for overall quality of the training, meeting in State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and for working atmosphere. The lowest score is for field work, what was not purpose of study tour.

6. IMPACTS ACHIEVED

We visited two Ministries of the Environment (Czech and Slovak), Three national parks: 1) NP Podyji, NP Slovensky raj and Tatra NP in 3 countries, Slovak State Nature Conservancy and Czech Agency for Nature Conservation and one project of cooperation of NGO and state agency (Slovakia). Participants got 12 presentations together with 5 field visits during 5 days.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Organisation and conducting of study tour in 5 days and 3 countries was demanding for organization, logistic and translation
- Due to personal contacts of KE in these countries it was feasible
- Evaluation of study tour by participants is very high even higher than any training

Prepared by: KE4 Jan Seffer