

1st Open Call- Normal Project Proposal	
Project code	ROHU-29
Project title	AQUARES Conservation and protection of ecosystems endangered by lack of thermal and freshwater in crossborder area
Priority axis	1 – Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)
Investment priority	6/c- Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.
Implementation period	34 months (1 st of May 2018 – 28 th of February 2021)
Objective	The main objective is the preservation and protection of ecosystems endangered by lack of thermal water and freshwater in crossborder area.
Partnership	Lead Beneficiary: Oradea Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (Romania)
	Project Partners: PP2: Aqua Crisius Angling Association (Romania) PP3: University of Oradea (Romania) PP4: Institute for Nuclear Research (Hungary)
TOTAL Budget	€ 1,346,941.55 out of which ERDF € 1,144,900.31
Summary	<p>The project ROHU-29 aims to investigate the natural hydrogeological conditions that determined, as a result of the over-exploitation, the drying of the thermal/water springs of natural reservations „Băile 1 Mai (Bihar County, RO)” and „Pocsaji-kapu (Hajdu-Bihar County, HU)”, to establish the conditions and criteria necessary for the revitalization of these reservations.</p> <p>The main activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and refurbishment of the Metropolitan Centre for Geothermal Development, located in Oradea (RO) • Renovation of the basin at the University of Oradea (RO) campus, used for the relocation of the <i>Nymphaea Lotus Thermalis</i> species of water lilies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing 1 Open Day event for approx. 200 people to visit the protected area • Creating 1 Study – the concept of ecotourism development in the area, cycling routes, thematic paths, nature interpretation plan, marketing plan and 1 Bacteriological Study • Hiring a ranger to protect and monitor natural areas • Acquisition of biology and chemistry laboratory equipment for growing the thermal water lily in artificial conditions • Activities for promotion of the protected area in Băile 1 Mai (RO) and its endemic species of water lily; • Creation and organization of a clean-up campaign on the Peța and Hidișel streams (RO), part of a <i>Garbage free Strategy</i>, to improve the conservation status of the habitat for the flora and fauna species of conservative interest • Development of research of the Tövises-meder aquatic habitat in Hungary's „Pocsaji-kapu" natural reservation, by elaborating a paleo botanical study in the Natura 2000 research site and research activities for the habitat in Băile 1 Mai that involve analysis and studies of the thermal springs to be restored. <p>The Programme Output Indicator is „CO23 Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status". Through the project ROHU-9, 656 ha of land have better conservation status.</p>
<p>Main results</p>	<p>The project's results are related to the modernization of the Metropolitan Centre for Geothermal Development, the renovation of the University's basin for repopulation with the species <i>Scardinius racovitzai</i> - Roșioara de Peța, the 656 ha of improved habitat to relocate species of flora and fauna of conservative interest, the cleaning of the Peța and Hidișel rivers, the scientific reports and studies on the identification, research and characterization of the hydrological conditions necessary for the restoration and exploitation of hot springs made by project partners.</p>