

1st Open Call- Normal Project Proposal	
<b>Project code</b>	<b>ROHU-29</b>
<b>Project title</b>	<b>AQUARES</b> Conservation and protection of ecosystems endangered by lack of thermal and freshwater in crossborder area
<b>Priority axis</b>	1 – Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)
<b>Investment priority</b>	6/c- Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<b>Implementation period</b>	34 months (1 <sup>st</sup> of May 2018 – 28 <sup>th</sup> of February 2021)
<b>Objective</b>	The project's main objective was to preserve and protect ecosystems endangered by a lack of thermal water and freshwater in cross-border areas.
<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b> Oradea Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (Romania)
	<b>Project Partners:</b> PP2: Aqua Crisius Angling Association (Romania) PP3: University of Oradea (Romania) PP4: Institute for Nuclear Research (Hungary)
<b>TOTAL Budget</b>	€ 1,346,941.55 out of which ERDF € 1,144,900.31  Total eligible expenditure certified within the project: € 1,259,099.31  <b>Budget execution: 93,48%</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The project aimed to find solutions to increase the protection of the underground thermal waters and to improve the thermal species conservation status in Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties.</p> <p>The project activities investigated the natural hydrogeological conditions as a result of over-exploitation and determined the drying up of the thermal springs/water from the natural reservations "Băile 1 Mai (Bihor county, RO)" and "Pocsaji-kapu (Hajdú-Bihar county, HU)", to establish the conditions and criteria necessary for the revitalization of the underground thermal waters.</p> <p>The main activities implemented within the project:</p>

- Creating the Metropolitan Center for Geothermal Development, located in Oradea, equipped with furniture, laboratory and IT equipment, used to encourage and support initiatives regarding the protection and proper use of geothermal resources -LB
- Renovation of the pool of the University of Oradea campus and using it for the relocation of the water lily species *Nymphaea Lotus Thermalis* -PP3
- Organizing the Open Day event to visit the protected area of the Băile 1 Mai Nature Reserve, an event attended by over 200 people, both children and adults -PP2
- Elaborating a study on the possibility of developing ecotourism in the area by creating cycling routes, thematic routes, as well as a dedicated marketing plan
- Hiring a ranger and purchasing a patrol vehicle to ensure the monitoring of the protected natural area-PP2
- Purchasing the biology and chemistry laboratory equipment for carrying out research activities related to the water lily species *Nymphaea Lotus thermalis* variant -PP3
- Elaborating a theoretical study on the species *Nymphaea Lotus Thermalis* based on research and laboratory analyses carried out by PP3
- Promoting the protected area in Băile 1 Mai (RO) and water lily species by editing 500 albums and making 2 films - LB
- Organizing a campaign to clean Petea and Hidişel streams (RO), part of an action called No Litter Strategy, to improve the habitat conservation status for flora and fauna species in the area - PP2
- Researching and revitalizing the Tövises-meder aquatic habitat in the "Pocsaji-kapu" nature reservation, Hungary, by developing a paleobotanical study based on the research activities carried out in the Natura 2000 research site
- Elaborating six studies on the possibility of restoring the thermal springs developed as a result of the research activities, the analyses and the studies carried out on the springs that need revitalizing in the Băile 1 Mai area.

***On February 28, 2021, the project was successfully finalized.  
All activities provided in the project were completed (100%).***

	<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, <b>656 ha</b> of land has better conservation status.</p>
<p><b>Main results</b></p>	<p>The main results of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Metropolitan Center for Geothermal Development in Oradea, with the necessary equipment</li> <li>• 1 pool from the Oradea University campus, renovated and repopulated with the Scardinius racovitza species - Roşioara de Peţa</li> <li>• 656 ha of land with a better conservation status for the relocation of flora and fauna species and by cleaning the Peţa and Hidişel rivers,</li> <li>• 6 studies on the identification, research and description of the hydrological conditions necessary for the restoration and exploitation of thermal springs</li> <li>• 500 albums and 2 promoting films of the 1 May protected area</li> <li>• 1 bacteriological study</li> <li>• 1 study - The development concept of ecotourism in the area</li> </ul> <p>Website/webpage: <a href="https://aquares.ro/">https://aquares.ro/</a> <a href="https://zmo.ro/download/Rezumat%20proiect%20ROHU29%20RO.pdf">https://zmo.ro/download/Rezumat%20proiect%20ROHU29%20RO.pdf</a></p>