

1st Open Call- Normal Projects	
Project code	ROHU-14
Project title	The nature corner - Conservation, protection and promotion of the natural values from the Salonta-Békéscsaba crossborder area
Priority axis	1 – Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources
Investment priority	6/c – Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Implementation period	64 Months (March 01, 2018 - June 30, 2023)
Objective	The project's main overall objective is the sustainable use of joint natural heritage within the Salonta-Békés cross-border area by improving the conservation status of 1519.41 ha natural heritage and by promoting natural values in an integrated way.
Partners	Lead Beneficiary: The Municipality of Salonta (Romania)
	Project Partners: PP2: Körösök Valley Nature Park Association (Hungary) PP3: Milvus Transylvania West Association (Romania) PP4: Municipality of Békés (Hungary)
TOTAL Budget	€ 2,997,387.86 out of which ERDF € 2,547,779.68
Summary	<p>The activities of this project include the conservation of <i>Otis tarda</i> and other species by reducing the number of predators, by underground medium tension power lines and monitoring of different species, ecological restoration of the eutrophic lake / Natura 2000 area, restoration of the Programme - Scientific research. Moreover, the nature conservation, land care facilitating, and scientific workshops.</p> <p>The main activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating the physical barriers from the territory of <i>Otis tarda</i> can be done by placing approx. 6 km of medium voltage lines underground - LB • 2 new thematic tracks created - LB • Restoring the eutrophic lake / Natura 2000 area - 22.117,7 m2 water surface - LB

- Building Dropia Centre and hiring staff. The centre will include: information area, presentation/conference area, individual study area - with interactive elements, permanent exhibition space, crafting workshop, terrace, relaxing area, storage areas and other functions – LB
- Purchasing equipment for Dropia Centre (1 spotting fieldscope, 30 binoculars, 20 bikes, 1 laptop, 1 printer) – LB
- 23 promotion and information boards will be placed along the thematic tracks in order to inform visitors about the local natural values – LB
- Development of Békés-Dánfok Visitor Centre (25.1556 hectares) - PP4
- Creating biological habitat and gene reserve by building a fence and an animal shelter including bird loft – PP4
- Creating a Nature Trail along Élővíz-csatorna- PP4
- Placing 20 information boards (Kettős Körös NATura 2000 site) and 40 information boards (unique protected values) – PP4
- 2 actions regarding the reduction of predators of Otis tarda (e.g. placing traps with GSM alarm system) - LB
- 2 joint exchanges of experience for 12 representatives of all 4 partners will take place in order to learn best practices regarding the conservation of Otis tarda (Germany, Austria, Hungary - 7 days and United Kingdom- 3 days) – LB
- 1 Research report on farmers' attitude regarding the conservation of local species- LB
- 1 Monitoring study report of the biodiversity from the eutrophic lake- LB
- Drawing up one Joint marketing plan for Salonta - Békés - Békéscsaba- LB
- Organizing events (12 Open days, 6 thematic workshop, 6 meetings for joint cross-border networks, 12 meetings of Club Otis tarda, opening and closing events)-LB
- Organizing 2 knowledge Forums, 2 Green Békés - outdoor events, 4 Natura 2000 Working Groups and 10 Green Clubs –PP2
- Drawing up 1 Monitoring Report regarding the marker species (Unio crassus, Ophiogomphus Cecilia, Isophya stysi, Bombina bombina, Triturus dobrogicus, Emys orbicularis, Emys orbicularis, Myotis dasycneme, Lutra lutra)-PP2
- Drawing up 1 Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) and 1 GIS database-PP2
- Drawing up 8 professional reports by external experts – PP2
- Drawing up 1 report on monitoring Otis Tarda and other species affected by power lines –PP3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing up 1 report on monitoring Otis Tarda and other species affected by natural predators –PP3 • Drawing up 1 report on monitoring Otis Tarda and other species affected by disturbance and limiting factors-PP3 • Drawing up 1 set of proposals for an enhanced conservation and protection of natural values-PP3 • Developing a series of thematic route accessible by bike and foot-PP3 • Planting minimum 30 trees in Salonta area –PP3 • Awareness-raising activities- 1 bilingual regional contest-PP3 • Organizing 2 scientific international workshop on conservation-PP3 • Purchasing equipment for awareness raising and scientific activities and for monitoring, including a drone with camera-PP3 • Activities regarding ecological restorations (wood treatment work, planting works, plant protection and waste disposal)-PP4 <p>Project Main Outputs: The Programme Output Indicators are <i>CO09 Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions</i>, and <i>CO23 Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status</i>. Through the project ROHU-14, the number of expected visits in the area increased by 6355 tourists and 1519.41 ha of land attained a better conservation status.</p>
<p>Main results</p>	<p>The main result of the project is related to the two newly created centres, the Dropia Centre in Salonta area and Békés-Dánfok Visitor Centre in Bekes area. The centres were fully equipped and new staff was hired. New thematic routes were created in the project area, accessible by foot or by bike, marked with information boards. Monitoring reports were drawn up regarding Otis Tarda and other species from the project area.</p> <p>Events, forums and one scientific international workshop on conservation were organized. Also, activities regarding the conservation of Otis tarda and other species by reducing the number of predators, by underground medium tension power lines and monitoring of different species, ecological restorations, planting trees and restoring the eutrophic lake took place.</p> <p>Website/webpage: https://www.dropia.eu/gb https://bekesrohu14.hu/ https://www.instagram.com/nature_corner_rohu14/ https://www.facebook.com/dropia.eu</p>