

D2C - DaRe to Connect

Supporting Danube Region's ecological Connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along the Green Belt

The EUROPEAN GREEN BELT (EGB) is an ecological network that has developed along the former Iron Curtain. It also constitutes a living memorial landscape. Within the area of the INTERREG DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME (DTP) the EGB connects ten countries. It forms a backbone of the Pan-European ecological network and can provide significant contribution to EU Green Infrastructure (GI) and TEN-G.



TRANSNATIONAL ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY was the key topic of the project. The EGB still suffers from not sufficiently connected habitats. Therefore the project aimed to further develop and connect Natura 2000 and other protected areas. This serves towards a further implementation of the EU Danube Strategy. Valuable landscapes and ecosystems and their services (ESS) should be maintained.

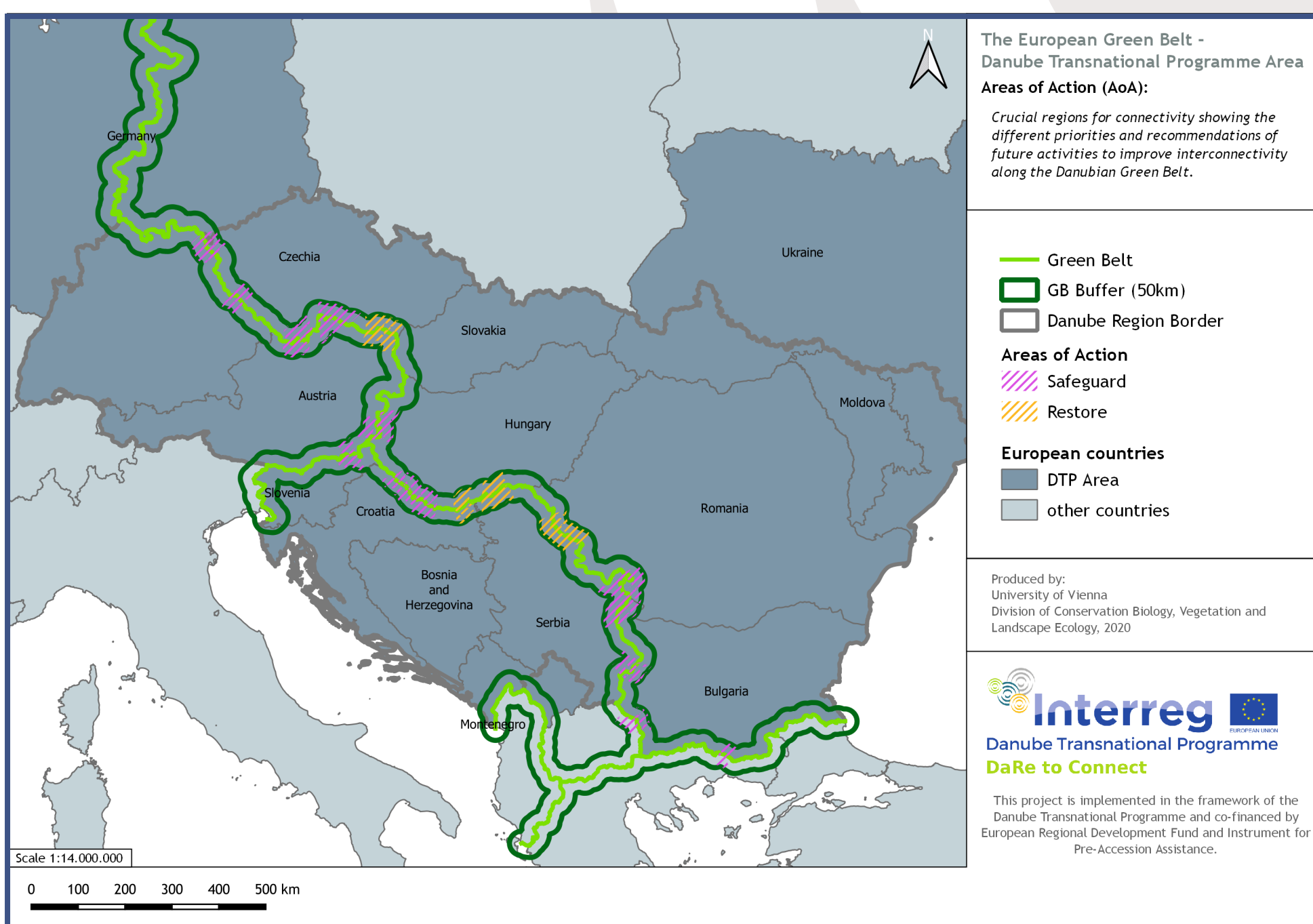
Feasible ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS between Natura 2000 sites were defined on a local, regional and transnational scale. By the analysis of satellite imagery (SENTINEL-2) and applying the Connectivity-Functionality-Index (CFI), "Areas of Action" indicating regions with high potential for enhanced ecological connectivity, were defined on the transnational level. Within six Pilot Regions data on habitat types and ESS were collected for ground-truthing. Moreover concrete measures were taken to connect valuable habitats.

GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS on planning and establishment of transnational ecological corridors on local and regional level were provided. The results of the project were mainstreamed via a transnational strategic vision „GREEN BELT IN THE DANUBE REGION 2030“, endorsed by national political stakeholders.

The improvement of CAPACITIES of responsible public bodies and NGOs lead to a better understanding of the ecological importance and the value for human wellbeing of the EGB. Also, REGIONAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES & RESTORATION CONCEPTS were developed for each of the Pilot Regions in order to set goals and suggest appropriate measures to reach them.



Kalte Moldau, Pilot Region 1 at the czech-german border
(Credits: BUND Department Green Belt)



Overview of designated Areas of Action for future targeted implementation measures
(Credits: BUND Department Green Belt)

Start Date: 01-06-2018 **End date:** 30-11-2021 **Budget in Euro:** Overall: 2086654,10 ERDF Contribution: 1684031,98 IPA Contribution: 89624,00

Call number: Call 2 **Priority:** Environment and culture responsible Danube region **Specific objective:** Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors

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Learn more about the project and find all documents:

www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/d2c

