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REIN-Forest

PRESS RELEASE

The REIN-Forest project reached its first milestone (30th June 2021)

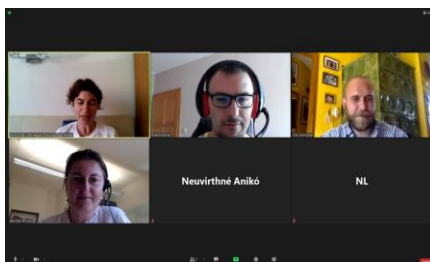
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Dear all those interested in nature conservation!

First third of the project lifetime spent with intensive professional background work

After the official start of the project on 1. October 2021, the partners threw themselves into the professional work “in medias res”. So-called bilateral coordination meetings were held with monthly frequency. These meetings could

be organized only online, but this hindered neither the cross-border decision-making process nor the progress of the project. Meetings in smaller circle were also held in order to discuss specific topics or activities in details. In December 2020 the so-called contracting process ended, which resulted in the conclusion of the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) grant agreement.



implemented in the last period and reviewed in detail the main tasks ahead, such as

REIN-Forest
Biodiversity conservation of the native forest in the border region and fostering their ability against the impacts of climate change



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A projektterületen őshonos erdőtakaró stabilitásának fenntartása, az ökoszisztéma-szolgáltatások biztosítása, a biológiai sokféleség megőrzése az éghajlatváltozás közepette, összehangolt védelmi intézkedések végrehajtásával.

Project budget in EUR: **576.000,00**
ERDF funding in EUR: **489.600,00**
Project duration: **10/2020– 12/2022**

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A projekt partnerei:
LP - Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal
PP2 - Soproni Egyetem - ERTI
PP3 - Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft



This project is supported by **Interreg**
Austria-Hungary 2014-2020
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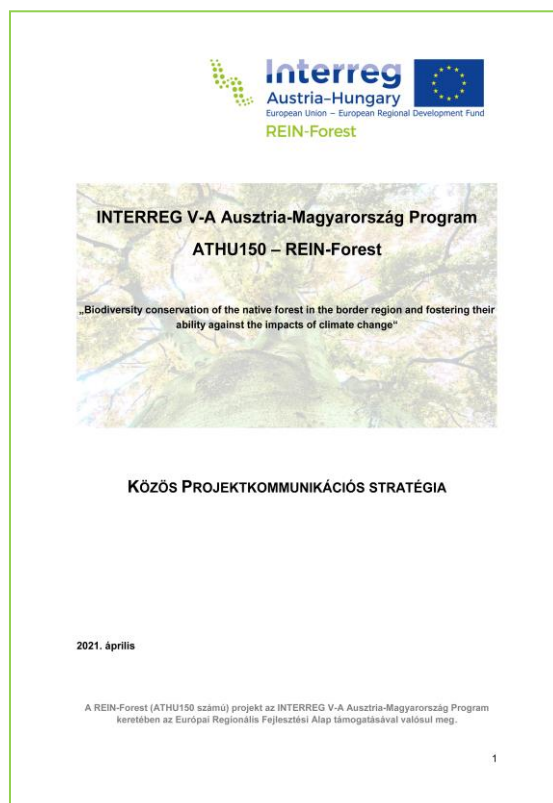
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the finalization of the regional scale, the bilateral strategy for the transport of reproductive material and the status quo of the communication activities and their implementation plan in the coming months.

The common communication strategy of the project has been completed

The coordinated project communication, the common themes, the exact definition of target groups is essential when talking about effective communication. This professional document is a guideline for the partnership, defines the conditions for the successful achievement of the project goals while taking into account the issue of long-term sustainability. This goes far beyond being a mere handbook listing publicity requirements, because it harmonises the publicity on a bilateral level, be it the exact scheduling of a joint event series, their common content structure, or about defining the primary target audience. The strategy is available on the microsite of the project.

As a second step of the project communication activities, the project's bilingual digital information flyer was completed, and project roll-ups were also produced. The flyer is not a classic handout with only static general content, but also contains continuously updated parts thanks to the text boxes with variable content. In this way, it can be constantly updated or customized to the theme of a special event.



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The basic documentation for the field work is ready

The field work is based on a documentation specifically aimed at the project area. As a first step, the already implemented SUSTREE project's reproductive material recommendation and transport system (SusSelect) needed to be adapted to the Austrian-Hungarian border area (or rather project area). In a nutshell, in practice means the analysis and downscaling of pre-existing distribution models and associated vulnerability maps to the regional level, to gauge the full scope of the exposure of the project area's sessile oak and beech forests to climate change.

Thereafter, in April-May 2021, based on a common system of professional criteria/evaluation, an open call for proposals was launched, which was to designate so-called demonstration/experimental sites for the project, on the Austrian and the Hungarian side alike.

Concurrently to this call, the professional partners prepared a regional scale, bilateral strategy for the transport of reproductive material for the Austrian-Hungarian border area (or rather project area). This technical document provides both the basis for the selection of the experimental sites and for the implementation of the transport of reproductive material, using assisted migration and the replacement of trees with indigenous tree species. The strategy is available on the microsite of the project.