

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE REIN-FOREST PROJECT REACHED ITS SECOND MILESTONE

(31st March 2022)

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

*Dear all who is interested in nature conservation!*

**The intensive professional cooperation did not stop during the second third of the project either**

During this period, the project partners continued to implement the project activities on the schedule. The results achieved so far have attracted the attention not only of professional organizations, but also of the media, as evidenced by the fact that more and more Hungarian and Austrian press materials are published about the REIN-Forest project.

**The demonstration area was selected in August 2021**

During the selecting phase of the three Hungarian demonstration sites, one of the project partners, namely SOE-ERTI, was confronted with the fact that there was no



sufficient area to place beech-beech among the areas offered by the candidates in the open call.

The partner therefore contacted TAEG Zrt. which is operating in Győr-Moson-Sopron County. The two areas they offered were inspected by a colleague of SOE-ERTI at a field visit on 9 August 2021 and the Sopron

201C forest area was found suitable as a demonstration area.



## Recommendation for the forest propagating material management strategy

At the request of the Lead Partner, the Hungarian and Austrian professional partners prepared a recommendation for the strategy prepared by them. The SOE ERTI issued its recommendation on 27 September 2021:



*“A forest propagating material management strategy has been prepared for the Austro-Hungarian border region*

*Climate change and adaptation to its consequences are among the most serious and discussed topics of our time. The negative effects of climate change are already visible today; a significant part of the massive forest damage in Western Hungary over the past few decades can be traced back to climatic causes. As the rate of change is unprecedented, it is questionable whether forest ecosystems and the species that make them up will be able to adapt naturally to change? Adaptation to changing environmental conditions can be facilitated by planned, conscious human intervention, thereby providing an opportunity to mitigate some of the damage caused by climate change.*

*The conservation and rational use of unprecedentedly high genetic diversity of tree species, - which forms the basis for the adaptability at the species level -, is decisive importance for forest management that works with long-lived and cross-generational tree species and for forest protection management. Within the framework of the REIN-Forest project, which helps to maintain the stability of forests growing in the border area, we have developed a bilateral strategy that summarizes the regulations on the production, distribution and use of forest reproductive material, assesses the future situation of beech and sessile oak stands in the Austro-Hungarian border area and makes recommendations in connection with the management and trade of forest reproductive material.”*

## School trips about forest knowledge



of the “Harmatfű” Nature School belonging to the Őrség National Park Directorate.

The program took place from the Őrség Folk Monument Ensemble through the forests along the Iron Curtain to the “Határkőpark” (Borderstone park). The experts presented in an interactive form the forest areas affected by the tour, their wildlife and the work of the National Park related to their protection.

The Vas County Government Office organized two school trips about forest knowledge for primary school students. On October 13, 2021 two sixth grades of the János Bolyai Training Primary School and Grammar School of ELTE were able to visit Őrség, where they were received by the staff



The second forest knowledge school trip took place on October 20th, 2021. The Lead Partner invited the class 5.B of the János Bolyai Training Primary School and Grammar School of ELTE with two teachers and parents, grandparents.

In the morning, the children visited the Styrian Houses Forest School in the Kőszeg Mountains. Here, the group participated in a



forest knowledge session and a short tour during the day. They returned to Szombathely in the early afternoon to get acquainted with the Kámoni Arboretum.

Follow the project on the web!

<https://www.interreg-athu.eu/hu/reinforest/>



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The head of the Visitor Center gave a short presentation about the Arboretum, followed by a walk to introduce the sights of the autumn arboretum and the most interesting plants.

During the trips, the children's knowledge was enriched with many new, exciting elements of experience and knowledge.

### **Forestry Science Conference**

The results of the project so far were presented at the conference of the University of Sopron

The Forestry Science Conference, held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 in a hybrid format, was met with great interest. Dr. László Nagy from SOE ERTI presented the results of the REIN-Forest project so far.