

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

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.



■ Danube Transnational Programme area  
1 DaRe to Connect Pilot Region Number  
■ European Green Belt in the DTP Region

TRANSNATIONAL ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY is the key topic of the project. The EGB still suffers from not sufficiently connected habitats. Therefore the project aims 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 will be defined on a local, regional and trans-national scale. By the analysis of satellite imagery (e.g. SENTINEL-2) a new method for the trans-national assessment and long-term monitoring of habitat types and their Ecosystem Services will be developed. Within six Pilot Regions data on habitat types and ESS will be collected for ground-truthing. Moreover concrete measures will be taken to connect valuable habitats.



**Schweizerbach, transnational River**  
(Credits: BUND Department Green Belt)



**Fallen border-sign at czech-german border**  
(Credits: BUND Department Green Belt)

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



**D2C Project Partners meeting in Nuremberg**  
(Credits: BUND Department Green Belt)



**Possible site for future corridor, peatland at the czech-german border**  
(Credits: BUND Department Green Belt)

The improvement of CAPACITIES of responsible public bodies and NGOs will lead to better a understanding and an improved knowledge exchange. PR-work and events will give local/regional people and politicians an understanding of how the EGB can contribute to ecological connectivity and ESS and therefore also to human wellbeing.

**Start Date:** 01-06-2018 **End date:** 31-05-2021 **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

