



CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
Fax: +36 1 398 0136
ceeweb@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

CEEweb Final Narrative Report 2017

The mission of CEEweb for Biodiversity is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development. Registered in 1994, it is now a network of organisations from 20 countries, who actively work in the CEE region. While covering a broad range of European and regional policies in pursuing its mission, CEEweb especially focuses on Natura 2000, green infrastructure, tourism, EU budget, sustainable resource use and related advocacy and awareness raising actions. The work of the network is guided by the CEEweb Board comprising nine members.

This present report only covers the activities of the network, and not the various actions of the members. More information about the activities can be found at www.ceeweb.org.

Managing and advocating for Natura 2000

CEEweb was part of a consortium organizing the biogeographical seminars, led by ECNC. We participated in the kick-off meeting in Brussels in January, Alpine biogeographical seminar in Padua, Italy in June, as well as two workshops dealing with Natura 2000 monitoring:

- Developing conservation objectives and condition indicators for monitoring on Natura 2000 sites in the Czech Republic in April, organized by Eurosite and the management of mountain forest habitat types in Natura 2000 sites;
- Experience and case studies from the Continental Biogeographical Region in November in Šumava National Park, the Czech Republic organized by EUROPARC.

In October, in cooperation with Bükk National Park we organized an event in Eger, Hungary: Impact of Common Agriculture Policy on grassland habitats in Continental, Pannonian and Steppic regions.

In November, in cooperation with Fertő-Hanság National Park we organized an event in Sarród, Hungary: Towards a shared ecological rationale for more integrated implementation of the Nature and Water Directives.

CEEweb was actively advocating for good implementation of Nature Directives. We prepared CEE focused action plan, as well as five national fact sheets (in English and national languages) on Natura 2000 and chosen actions that should have particular priority.

We were running the campaign towards EU and National level Politicians as well as other stakeholders showing socio-economic benefits of Natura 2000 and possible ways of cooperation between nature and business, both with special publications prepared for this (Factsheet on socio-economic benefits and good cases of business working for Natura 2000).



CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
Fax: +36 1 398 0136
ceeweb@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

We organized half day event in Brussels “How can people and the economy benefit from nature?”. We continued building non-formal group of supporters, the Friends of Natura 2000 with currently over 50 people from various sectors and countries. We ran social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter.

Green Infrastructure

CEEweb was and is still participating in the Interreg project “TRANSGREEN - Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature” together with 10 Partners from Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania (with CEEweb member Milvus), the Czech Republic and Austria. The project started on 1 January 2017 and lasts until 30 June 2019. The aim of the project is ensuring ecological connectivity in areas where linear infrastructure (motorway and railways) developments are planned. CEEweb is the leader of Work Package 5 focusing on policy integration, as well as Pilot Area Leader for the Hungarian-Slovakian-Ukrainian pilot site. In April CEEweb organised a Methodology meeting to bring together the experts from the concerned countries to discuss on the methodology used for the field-work, and it also started an ecosystem services assessment on the Pilot Area with external experts. CEEweb held a project kick-off meeting in Vásárosnamény in June, where the project was introduced to local stakeholders in the city hall. In order to awareness raising and disseminating information on the project we arranged an exhibition area for the project on the EUGIC international conference in Budapest.

Urban green infrastructure

CEEweb co-organised the 2nd European Urban Green Infrastructure Conference (EUGIC 2017), on 29-30 in November in Budapest. The conference brought together more than 200 participants from municipalities, urban planners, NGOs, landscape architects and other experts to discuss best practices in urban green infrastructure. The conference also included a speed dating session for matching potential project partners and donors for future cooperation, and it also included a ceremony for the announcement of the winners of the 2017 Green-Go International Short Film Contest.

CEEweb was the Lead Partner of the International Visegrad Fund project “Smart and Green - the Future of Visegrad Cities” in 2017. CEEweb together with project partners from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland it collected case studies in different cities on smart and green innovations, as well as conducted several unified interviews with city experts in the topic of smart cities. The findings were presented in a form of an exciting workshop at EUGIC 2017.



CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
Fax: +36 1 398 0136
ceeweb@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

Cooperation in European forums on biodiversity and green infrastructure

We were continuing to manage our European Green Infrastructure Practitioners' Network and Learning Alliance on LinkedIn. CEEweb was also working on expanding its Green Infrastructure hub on www.ceeweb.org, integrating Green Infrastructure to water, health, spatial planning and agriculture and advocate for the inclusion at different sectorial meeting, bilateral discussions and events.

Sustainable Tourism

CEEweb and the Sustainable Tourism Working Group led by ETE worked on the project "Support for the Implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Carpathians" funded by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. We created a specific [database online](#), which shows cases on projects, handbooks and financial mechanisms from all Carpathian Convention countries. We also participated at the meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism in September in Brasov, where we reviewed the current state of the database and deliberated the necessary adjustments and next steps for making it a valuable tool for our members and other organizations active in the field of sustainable tourism.

CEEweb is also actively engaged in the Interreg project "INSiGHTS - Integrated Slow, Green and Healthy Tourism Strategies" with 9 other partners from the Danube region. The project has a two and a half year duration starting from 1 January 2017 and running until 30 June 2019. The primary goal of the project is to develop integrated tourism strategies that not only make a region more attractive to tourists but also protect its natural and cultural heritage. As a knowledge provider project partner, CEEweb is primarily involved in the development of state-of-the-art approaches in sustainable tourism through the promotion of eco-conscious and healthy lifestyles amongst visitors and hosts linked to the sustainable tourism offer. During the first half of 2017 we started compiling potential good practices and also asked our members for their contribution with case studies from their respective regions. At the 2nd Thematic Meeting and Methodological Workshop in Vienna in May CEEweb presented a draft methodology for the sustainable tourism good practice collection. In June, CEEweb participated at the 1st Multilateral Walkshop in Arandjelovac, Serbia, where we presented the preliminary results of the good practice compilation. CEEweb also took part in two bilateral study visits in June in Plovdiv, Bulgaria and in September in Litija, Slovenia to provide guidance on local tourism development to piloting partners.

Rural Development and Agriculture

We developed a brochure on good examples of mainstreaming green infrastructure into the agriculture and disseminated to stakeholders in the CEE region. We organised expert discussions on the Sustainable Rural Development Indicator (SRDI) with a view to integrate

into the post 2020 MFF and the future of the CAP. We also presented the SRDI concept at the biogeographical event in Eger.

Sustainability proofing the EU budget

CEEweb co-leads the European [People's Budget](#) campaign together with CEE Bankwatch Network, which brings together dozens of European organisations from various sectors calling for sustainability proofing the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF, the EU Budget cycle) through various sustainability proofing instruments. In January-February we carried out a stakeholder screening exercise, where more than 300 responses, including several CEEweb members provided answers. We developed eight sustainability principles which should be mainstreamed into the EU budget as an indivisible set so that it also serves the Sustainable Development Goals. In May we organised a policy roundtable on behalf of the cross-sectoral coalition SDG Watch Europe on the EU budget, and in late June we launched our People's Budget campaign with an online press conference. We sent our position to the EU Commissioners as an input to the Reflection paper on EU finances and also lobbied Members of the European Parliament. In December we elaborated our positions on how to realise sustainability proofing, and organised an NGO workshop to mobilise NGOs to get involved in the upcoming negotiations.

Awareness raising and communication

1. European Stop Mad Mining campaign

This campaign ran from 2015 to the end of 2017 with the objective to raise awareness on mining and overconsumption issues, as well as on the related EU policies. The following main actions were taken in 2017: preparing an online course on circular economy for Hungarian businesses, organising the Circular Hungary 2017 conference for Hungarian businesses on 1 June, petition to support a UN Binding Treaty on multinational companies, reports on resource use related issues in SDG implementation and NGO involvement in SDG implementation, co-initiating a Hungarian NGO roundtable on SDGs, launching a website on SDG implementation in Hungary, organising NGO meetings related to coherent SDG implementation.

2. Educating for sustainable resource use

CEEweb participated in a Visegrad project within the Stop Mad Mining campaign, which aimed at educating about sustainable resource use. On the basis of a case study on car manufacturing in Visegrad countries, we developed an educational toolkit and organised teacher workshops. CEEweb member Green Action participated in the project implementation in Hungary.



CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
Fax: +36 1 398 0136
ceeweb@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

3. Earth Overshoot Day

CEEweb for Biodiversity partnered with Global Footprint Network and its member GreenDependent Association in #pledgefortheplanet campaign. The objective was to raise awareness about the Earth Overshoot Day – the day when the Earth will use up all of its natural resources for the year (this year it landed on 2 August), trough calls for action – pledges for reducing energy consumption internationally, and in a targeted campaign in Hungary in September. CEEweb for Biodiversity website, Facebook page and Twitter account were the external online channels used together with press releases.

4. 7th Green-Go Short Film Contest

The 7th call for the Green-Go Short Film Contest was launched in 2017, where professional and amateur filmmakers could submit their films in 3 categories: Build green, live green (green infrastructure), The last day on Earth (Overshoot Day) and Your Europe in 2050 (EU budget). CEEweb's website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts as well as Green-Go's Facebook and Twitter were the main communications channels used. Furthermore, the emphasis was on information dissemination via e-mail (including the CEEweb's newsletter distribution) – contacting partner and member organisations and asking them to spread information about the contest via mailouts and newsletter, as well as via their online channels; contacting other NGOs, film schools, festivals with green component, national parks, nature conservation societies, contest websites, short film authors, businesses relevant to film categories, Facebook pages and groups, etc. The public voting and the selection of the winning films by the jury took place in November. The best films were presented at the ceremonial event of EUGIC conference.

5. Natura 2000 Twitter campaign

The campaign focused on two objectives: pushing the European Commission to release ambitious Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy and CEE Member States to implement it.

The campaign delivered a CEE Action Plan, country specific Action Plans (Polish, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Bulgarian), factsheet on Natura 2000 (the whole factsheet and .jpeg extracts), visuals linked to the country specific action plans, stories of Friends of Natura 2000, business cases images with messages. Twitter communication campaign showcasing facts on socio-economic benefits of the Directives was targeting the relevant DGs, President of EC, MEPs, Prime Ministers, Environmental Ministers, journalists, activists and other NGOs.

6. Green infrastructure integration into other sectors

We addressed key people (national authorities, relevant DGs, key Members of the European Parliament, European Council, Committees) by the sectorial Layman versions about the benefits of GI integration along with a call for action. We also participated in the People4Soil campaign.

Networking

We enhanced our cooperation with NGO networks, such as CEE Bankwatch Network and SDG Watch Europe, and continued cooperation with BirdLife Europe, European Environmental Bureau, Eurosite, FOEE, IUCN, WWF DCP, WWF policy office, Justice&Environment, Wetlands International, EUROPARC CEE. We cooperated with green infrastructure specialists (Association for Garden Design and Landscaping (SK), Polish Green Roof Association, The Landscape Gardening Association (CZ), and established contacts to the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture for future cooperation.

Capacity building

We built capacities of staff and volunteers at knowledge sharing sessions (climate change, EU, communication of climate change, waste management, planetary boundaries and carbon footprint) through organisational development training and session, as well as a fundraising workshop in September.

Capacities of members were raised about Natura 2000, water issues, the SDGs and the EU budget.

Fundraising

We were constantly following the upcoming funding opportunities, e.g. the 2017 calls of Interreg, LIFE, Horizon 2020. In special, we have submitted

- a proposal for Operating Grant to the European Commission,
- a Letter of Intent to the KR Foundation,
- 4 concepts to the Cambridge Conservation Initiative
- 1 Interreg proposal (ConnectGreen)
- 2 LIFE proposals
- 1 full Horizon 2020 proposal
- 2 tenders (adelphi, ECNC, Intrasoft)
- EKLIPSE
- Central European Initiative
- Alcoa Foundation proposal



CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
Fax: +36 1 398 0136
ceeweb@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

We have included members to these applications, namely Adept, Latvian Fund for Nature, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Milvus Group.

Human resources

Changes in CEEweb staff included the resignation of Agnes Zolyomi, who has been succeeded by Erzsebet Gergely as General Secretary. Some staff left in the course of the year (including the biodiversity officer based in Brussels, fundraising manager, one communication officer, the office manager and a project assistant), while CEEweb hired a part time office manager-project assistant and a project manager in autumn, thus the number of staff is nine part time/full time employees. We had several interns and volunteers from various countries (France, Italy, Hungary, United States, UK, Netherlands) assisting in our projects.