



DINALPCONNECT

TRANSBOUNDARY ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY OF ALPS AND DINARIC MOUNTAINS

APPROACH

To improve ecological connectivity, DINALPCONNECT has established a network of Pilot regions to strengthen transboundary linkages between the European network of protected areas - Natura 2000 sites and protected areas where ecological connectivity will be explored and consolidated. Joint action plans for improving ecological connectivity of transboundary habitats in Pilot Regions will be based on guidelines for agricultural and forestry practices protecting biodiversity.

To support this, existing EU and national agriculture and forestry policies will be examined, providing suggestions for harmonization with EU legislation.

Combining analytical results with expert knowledge exchange, the DINALPCONNECT will deliver a Strategy for ecological connectivity throughout Dinaric Mountains connecting them with the Alps.

ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN AREA

In the Adriatic-Ionian area, diverse topography and climatic variation resulted in the formation of exceptional and rich biodiversity. This rare and vulnerable Dinaric and Alpine biodiversity is threatened by habitat fragmentation and habitat loss due to a range of human activities and pressures associated with agriculture, forestry etc.

Un-coordinated development of infrastructure and urbanization causes habitat fragmentation and reduces the long-term resilience of ecosystems and their services.

In addition, climate change poses a significant challenge in mountainous areas where ecological connectivity is essential for species shifting their range.



WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY?

Ecological connectivity enables movements of organisms, ensuring the long-term functioning of ecosystems as well as preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Ecological connectivity is one of the most important elements of landscape structure that enables several processes:

- gene flow,
- migration and,
- dispersal of living organisms

Ecological connectivity is crucial for enabling organisms to move between habitat patches and species to shift their ranges. Thus, safeguarding ecological connectivity means counteracting the negative effects of habitat fragmentation and climate change.

OUR MISSION

- Improve ecological connectivity and prevent further habitat fragmentation by establishing a strategy for transnationally coordinated development of infrastructure, urbanization and management of agricultural and forested landscapes on a macro-regional level.
- Strengthen transboundary linkages between Natura2000 sites and protected areas divided by a national border for improving ecological connectivity on transboundary level.
- Building capacity network of stakeholders for promoting ecological connectivity in the project area.

KEY MESSAGE

The DINALPCONNECT project aims to prevent further habitat fragmentation in the Adriatic-Ionian area, as well as to improve ecological connectivity between NATURA 2000 sites and protected areas of transnational importance.

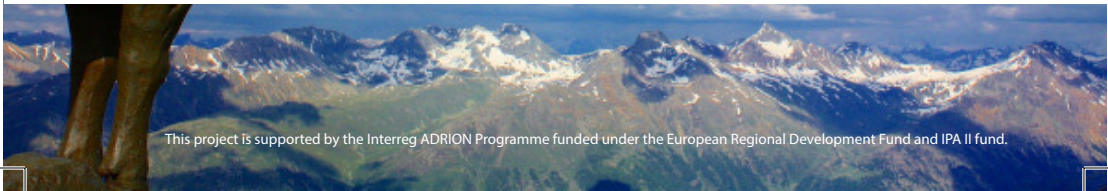
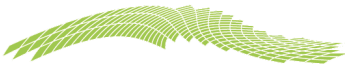


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Improving ecological connectivity throughout Dinaric mountains, connecting them with the Alps, enabling long-term protection of biodiversity.

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DINALPCONNECT is expected to improve transnational cooperation in maintaining and improving ecological connectivity and biodiversity.

DINALPCONNECT will bring together institutions from different sectors (nature conservation, agriculture, forestry, research, business support) from seven ADRIION countries and enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation, and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area.

11 DINALPCONNECT PROJECT PARTNERS FROM 7 COUNTRIES





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IPA II: 276 499.20 EUR
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Project pilot areas

- 1. Italy - Slovenia**
 - Tarvisiano Hunting District
 - Triglav Hunting Management Area/Triglav National Park
- 2. Slovenia - Croatia**
 - Natura 2000 Kras
 - Natura 2000 Učka and Čičarija
- 3. Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina**
 - Natura 2000 Lisac
 - Una National Park and Drvar municipality
- 4. Albania - Greece**
 - National Park of Bredhi i Hotoves-Dengelli, the Protected Managed Areas of Piskal-Shqeri and Gërmenj-Shelegur and the municipalities of Permet
 - Vikos Aaos National Park, Vikos gorge, Northern Pindus



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