

27.10.2017

NEEDS vs ACTIONS, COMPILATION PER THEMES:

The draft as resulted from the GreenWeb workshop in Faget

DO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED INTO AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREENWEB PLATFORM

THEME 1

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

- Take short-term actions, like presentations to the ministries responsible of Green and Grey Infrastructures on similar problems and measures taken in other countries;
- Organize meetings and visits, communicate the problems and needs and exchange the information on similar projects;
- Organize workshops (in Bucharest) for decision-making people;
- Use the platform for identifying the stakeholders while evaluating the Strategic Planning, for pro-active engagement;
- Create an open-data portal, as access to information on environment was identified as the main problem when planning infrastructure projects;
- Participation in common programs to increase information exchange;
- Use the platform to exchange information also on engineering issues, like expropriations, technical problems, compensation for land loss, rehabilitation of forests, experience etc.

THEME 2

BIODIVERSITY STUDIES + ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT & MEASURES/CONDITIONS

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

- Promotion of common studies between environmentalist and engineers in preventive and proactive approach;
- Create open and useful databases with appropriate (eg not ‘sensitive’ for protected species) information:
 - e.g. EIA Studies or summaries
 - GIS portal with open and available Management Plans for protected areas, Species Action Plans and Transportation Infrastructures’ Planning
- Standards and criteria for monitoring (before, during and after infrastructure construction);
- Connection of biodiversity’s data with planning and actual implementation in Regional/Practical level;
- Create legal framework for obligatory methodology and standards for EIA;
- Check about the new “Umbrella” Directive for SEA, EIA and AA;
- International / trans-boundary cooperation on fragmentation aspects in transboundary transportation projects;
- Look for funding and implementation of a project for research on existing legal framework in national level in SE Europe, exchange the legal status and the level of its effectiveness and promote improvements.

THEME 3

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

- Inform / educate owners, decision makers, developers and conservationists about the concept of landscape (management):
 - history,
 - components,
 - spatial and functional complexities,
 - drivers, stressors, activities, impacts,
 - challenges
- Clarify / unify terminology;
- Harmonization of legislation;
- Restoration – as an additional component;
- Scales of problem: temporal and spatial; work from individual sites to networks;
- Administrative complexities: bring together authorities and other stakeholders;
- Bring arguments – why? / costs vs benefits ...
- Need for long term monitoring (life after project);
- Focus on practical aspects:
 - Corridors - design, need, efficiency;
 - Financial instrument to support changes;
- Systematic Spatial Planning;
- Share findings (by our network);
- Communication strategy (sectors, associations, key players);
- Synthesis of EU legislative instruments;
- Databases (infrastructure, financial instruments e.g. CAP);
- Educational material (visual etc.).

THEME 4

CAPACITY BUILDING

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

- The problem of lacking continuity of human resources within authorities;
- Lack of experience in decision making sector, political sector;
- Need: to involve in this type of workshops the decision makers/ people that have the authority in projects implementation;
- Access to groups of experts to facilitate the process/ information/ workshops;
- Involve universities to develop new / joint- curricula;
- Engage through the platform all relevant sectors – planners, developers, EA experts, authorities, land owners, constructors, biologists, ecologists, conservationists, protected areas, foresters, hunters, water management, tourism, ... + general public.

THEME 5

CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

Need for Best Practices technical measures / constructive measures

- There is a need for technical guidelines:
 - including minimal requirements (for target species)
 - applicable with focus on Eastern Europe
 - public and easy accessible for all stakeholders
 - (Romanian) / translated in country language
 - helpfull in understanding why a measure is needed
 - useful as reference to be used in legal procedures, issuing permits for Natura 20000.
 - (The COST - handbook written for West Europe is not adapted for East-European situations, and in English)
 - Information in constructing fish passages is needed
 - How to deal with 'past' infrastructure projects where damage to nature should be mitigated (many years) after project realisation.

- There is a need for best practice in 'custom made' solutions as a result of collaboration of key-specialists:
 - How is a interdisciplinary team formed?
 - How do you manage the communication between different specialists, for example technical and environmental specialists?
 - How went the process?
 - Is there experience in changing the perspective during the process?
 - Helps changing the scale from detailed solutions to a global perspective in finding alternatives?
 - Is it evaluated? Results?

- Examples of measures that are monitored:
 - Monitoring surveys are carried out in Western Europe and North America, but in foreign languages and difficult to find (mainly grey literature).
 - Facilitating the collecting of reports at one (web) site is a first step in sharing information.

- Set up a European project database:
 - project description
 - aim/goal
 - measures
 - process
 - monitoring results
 - collaborations

- During planning and construction: make project information transparent and available for public:
 - at all stages of the project
 - all information easy to understand for all stakeholders
 - present plan development and construction

- Proces:
 - It is recognised that an early involvement of all stakeholders, including the institution for licensing permits in Natura 2000, is needed for optimal implementation of grey infrastructure and mitigating measures.
 - Training of constructors and professionals for EIA's for basic ecological knowledge is required
 - The project developer is responsible for the involvement of stakeholders, but their scope is often too narrow, addressing technical issues mainly.

THEME 6

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

NEEDS/ ISSUES

- **Capacity:**
 - Lack of organisations' experience to attract funds
 - Limited access to information about funding opportunities
 - High rate of co-financing in some of the funding sources (e.g. 40% for Life)
 - Co-financing is a major issue for most of the organisations
 - Limited cash-flow
 - Difficulties to attract private donors
 - Leadership? Who can take the leadership and the initiative when talking about transnational projects?
 - Difficulty to handle a large no. of partners
 - Lack of budget, personnel, cars in institutions to have field visits/ trips to detect potential issues

- **Funding sources:**
 - Limited transnational funds
 - Limited funding resources dedicated to the sector

- **Institutional limitations:**
 - Eligibility of partners and/ or activities is limited in many cases
 - Administration burden/ bureaucracy is too high for getting an UE project/ too much paperwork
 - Public procurements are difficult to be done especially for institutions
 - ➔ Many projects or activities start later because of this

Other stakeholders needs?!

- Lack of compensations for land owners in protected areas

SOLUTIONS/ HOW THE COOPERATION PLATFORM CAN BE USED?

The Platform:

- Joint initiative/network/project/ partnerships
- Provide information as Platform regarding the funding opportunities/ Know-how transfer between partners regarding funding opportunities
- Capacity building for fundraising/ training courses

- Lobby among the donors and funders to understand the importance of landscape level management & to be more flexible
 - ➔ Need for targeted and customised funding
 - Strengthen networking to improve financing, include and attract potential donors
 - Identify and promote best practices/ project examples from other regions
 - Establish a core WG within the Platform to coordinate the activities, including the fundraising activities
 - starting the investments
 - Public-private partnerships to cover different needs (e.g. to support institutions in covering some personnel costs)
 - Convince the private sector about the advantages to work with NGOs
 - Involve more the NGOs and support them to solve issues that are difficult to handle by institutions or private companies
 - Improve guidelines for applicants, make them more clear and flexible
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- **Other particular solutions:**
 - Agreements with banks for advantageous loans to support NGOs
 - Allocate state budget for e.g. studies in advance, to perform environmental assessments before

THEME 7

COMMUNICATION

Issues, needs and how the cooperation platform can be used?

Produce a collection of topics that need to be addressed by proper communication;

Produce a data base of examples that can be used;

For public awareness – a professional assessment of target-groups / test messages on focus group and monitor the impact of communication;

Inform about the proper cost of communication tools – in order to budget projects properly;

Develop a Pan-European communication project involving professionals in mass-media.