
Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN)

Workshop Report Natura 2000 – from Theory to Practice

26-27 May 2015, Mikulov, Znojno

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMA REGIONAL NETWORK FOR ACCESSION - ECRAN

WORKSHOP REPORT

Activity 2.7

“NATURA 2000 – FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE”

26-27 May 2015, Mikulov, Znojno, Czech Republic



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
AA	Appropriate Assessment
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
NP	National Park
PA	Protected Area
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SPA	Special Protected Areas



I. Background/Rationale

General information about the training

During the ECRAN regional training on Natura 2000 establishment held in Montenegro in 2014, training participants expressed their requirement for follow up training focused on the practical demonstration of major steps and outcomes of the process of building up Natura 2000 preferably organized and delivered in one the EU MS. At the annual meeting of the ECRAN Nature Working Group, this requirement was accepted and approved.

The training was held in the Czech Republic, from May 26 to May 27 in South Moravian Region bordered by Austria in the south, Natura 2000 sites at the territory of towns of Mikulov and Znojmo.

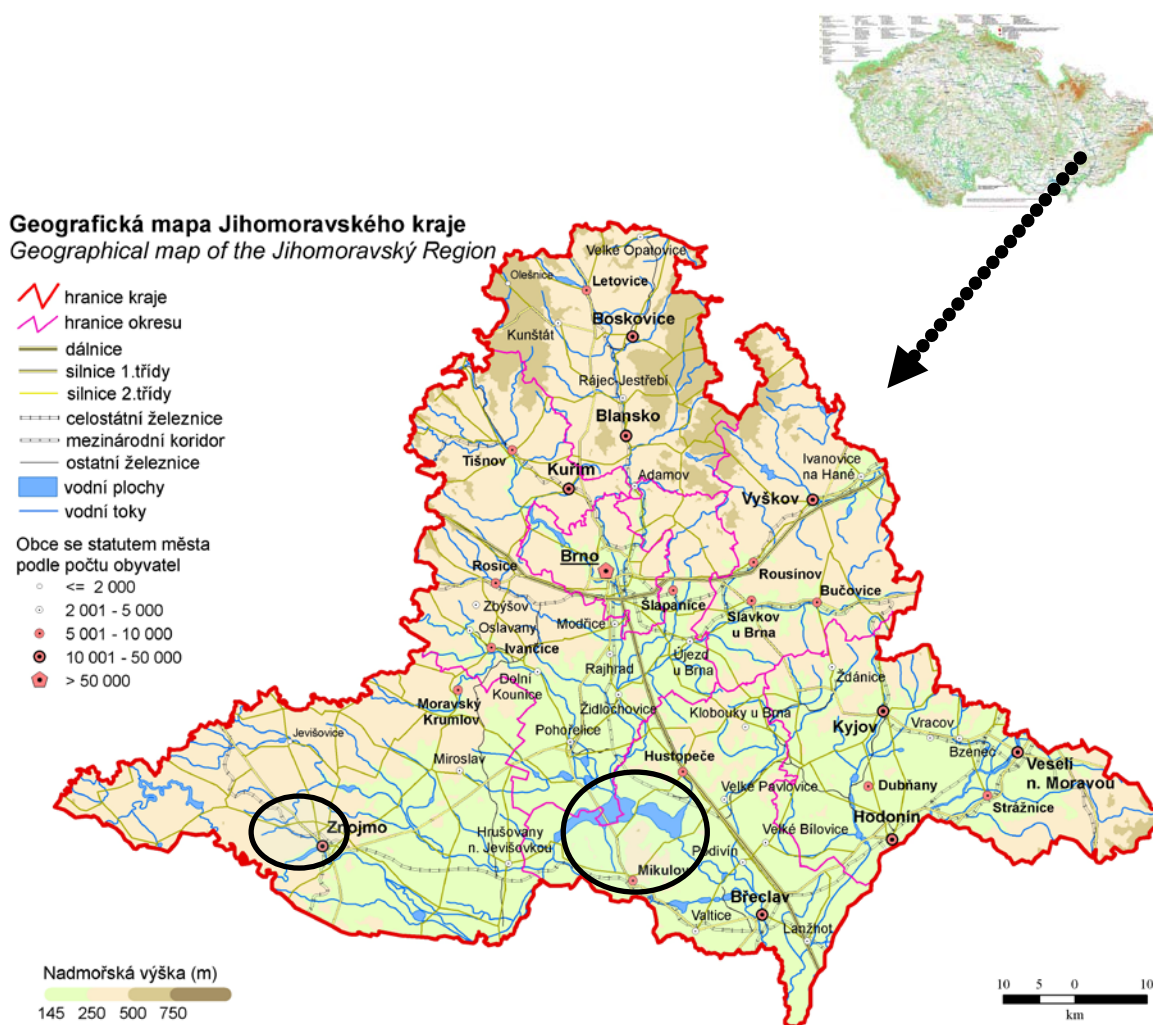


Figure 1. Position of South Moravian Region bordered by Austria in the south with the Mikulov and Znojmo regions (goal of the field training)

Current state of the affairs in the beneficiary countries in the specific sector

Natura 2000 represents network of localities important for protection of the most threatened species and natural habitats within the territory of the EU. This network is composed of sites dedicated to conservation of birds (SPA) and selected fauna, flora and habitat types (SCIs) established pursuant to the EU Nature Directives – Bird Directive (147/2009/EU) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

ECRAN beneficiary countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey) are at different stages of the EU accession process, but neither the nature nor environmental protection issues are not among priorities of any of them. Despite to this fact, the establishment of Natura 2000 is “on the desk” and some initial activities have already been done, or some of them are currently on the agenda, regarding this issue in particular countries. In this early stage it is very important and crucial to provide more clear picture on what Natura 2000 really is, what are the logical steps of its building up, what capacities and resources it requires, and so on. ECRAN countries need to be provided with a clear idea on data, expertise, time and funding requirements for achieving what is expected under “Natura 2000 network”. At the same time they need to be built in capacities in order to understand better how Natura 2000 looks and “works” in the field. This training with intensive field observations and explanations of managers and experts showed directly and practically how things looked like and addressed all these issues in a way pointing out specificities of the ECRAN region.

Summary of the main topics covered as per Training Needs Assessment

- Build of capacities of ECRAN beneficiaries – representatives of relevant ministries responsible for nature protection in each country;
- Introduction to Natura 2000 specificities: requirements, problems, practical work;
- Visit to Natura 2000 sites and familiarization with management principles;
- Resources need to establishing and managing Natura 2000 sites.

¹This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



II. Objectives of the training

General Objective

To improve knowledge of representatives of ECRAN Beneficiary countries on implementation of Natura 2000 – one of the most challenging pre-accession obligations ensuing from EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

Specific Objectives

- To get practical experience with meaning of particular terms used in Natura 2000 establishment and management and to confront the theory with real practice in a Member State with considerably good implementation of Natura 2000;
- To see, on a practical example of one EU Member State, possible ways of solution of interrelationships of Natura 2000 and national protected areas;
- To see what changes and amendments in national nature protection have to be made in order to get functional Natura 2000 network while not jeopardizing the national nature protection goals;
- To discuss individual issues and challenges with site managers – practitioners in charge of everyday implementation of both Natura 2000 and national obligations.

Achieved results

Two-day field training took part in the SE part of the Czech Republic with high concentration of Natura 2000 sites. The host country was chosen because of very good technical approach of the Czech Republic to Natura 2000 preparation recognized by the European Commission. The aim of the seminar was to enable the participants to see how particular provisions of both the Birds and Habitats Directives (2009/147/EU and 92/43/EEC) look in practice and what are the interrelationships of Natura 2000 sites with national protected areas. Focus has been put on the following issues: delineation of SPAs and SCIs in the field (scientific vs practical and administration perspective); SPA management; SCI overlapping with national protected areas – putting together conservation objectives for different target features; resolving conflicts between conservation objectives; local infrastructure projects and Appropriate Assessment.

Participants had opportunity to visit around Natura 2000 sites and to be provided with on-the-spot lectures of managers of these sites as well as protected areas overlapping with them. All lecturers were practitioners from nature protection institutions unified in the Czech section of EUROPARC Federation that kindly agreed to co-organize this event. In addition, lecturers from the Czech Ornithological Society (in charge of management of SPAs) provided their presentations of the state and management of the SPA-part of Natura 2000 network.



III. EU policy and legislation covered by the training

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Birds Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) is the EU's oldest piece of nature legislation and one of the most important, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union. The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. The Birds Directive bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds, with a few exceptions listed in Annex III. In addition to these provisions, Birds Directive asks Member States to establish and actively manage Special Protection Areas for selected bird species and assemblages; these SPAs become part of the [Natura 2000 network](#). The same protective measures (including AA) apply to these sites like to those established under the Habitats Directive.

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

The Habitats Directive protects around 1200 European species other than birds which are considered to be endangered, vulnerable, rare and/or endemic. Included in the Directive are mammals, reptiles, fish, crustaceans, insects, molluscs, bivalves and plants. The protection provisions for these species are similar to those in the Birds Directive. They are designed to ensure that the species listed in the Habitats Directive reach a favourable conservation status within the EU.

In addition to the species protection, Habitats Directive includes also another "pillar" dealing with site protection. It demands EU MS to establish the Natura 2000 network of sites dedicated to conservation of selected species listed in Annex II and so-called "natural habitat types", more than 200 important habitat types listed in Annex I. This network encompasses also the sites classified according to the Birds Directive. Member States are obliged to establish, manage and protect Natura 2000 sites at their territories.



IV. Highlights from the training workshop

During two very intensive days of field work, observation and experience exchange with managers of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, participants had opportunity to see and to feel how some points of Natura 2000 network “work”, what are specific requirements in the field, what are the benefits and which problems practitioners and managers faced with, during the time.

- In the Mikulov region, which is an area with high number of Natura 2000 sites (3 SPAs, 8 SCIs) in overlap with several national PAs (both large- and small-scaled), following information was provided by the representatives of the Administration of Protected Landscape Area Pálava: basic features regarding Natura2000 in the Czech Republic , on-spot presentation of the preparation of site proposals, delineation rules, target features, site management and interrelation with national protected areas, as well as possibilities and experience regarding governance, duties, administration, funding.
- Participants also had an opportunity to learn about Czech approach to SPA identification & selection, boundary delineation and criteria used for target species identification, based on the field visit to SPA Nové Mlýny and SPA Jaroslavičké rybníky, where representatives of the Czech Ornithological Society (BirdLife Int. partner) provided them with an explanation regarding target species, management, risks and their mitigation, monitoring and data processing, infringements, resolving of conflicts.
- Despite the very bad weather conditions, participants visited all points planned to be shown according to agenda.

On May 27, participants had opportunity to visit and to learn about Natura 2000 sites in the Znojmo region, which is an area with high number of Natura 2000 sites (1 SPA, 8 SCIs) in overlap with a National Park and several other national PAs. Petr Roth, ECRAN expert, Michael Hošek, ECRAN/EUROPARC Federation and Representatives of the Administration of NP Podyjí gave introductory word regarding the NP, SPA and SCI Podyjí, taking into account target features and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites *versus* those of national PAs, as well as interrelationship of EU and national PAs, conflict resolving, administration, management, funding. The discussion was driven by practical questions of Natura 2000 establishment & management.

Conclusions

The field visit of selected Natura 2000 sites left a very positive impressions in the participants, bearing in mind that N2K is still developing in their countries and that each country is at a different level in terms of progress in EU integration.

Recommendation of participants is that this kind of practical work and observation is the best way to learn and to gain experience that can be transferred to their own places.

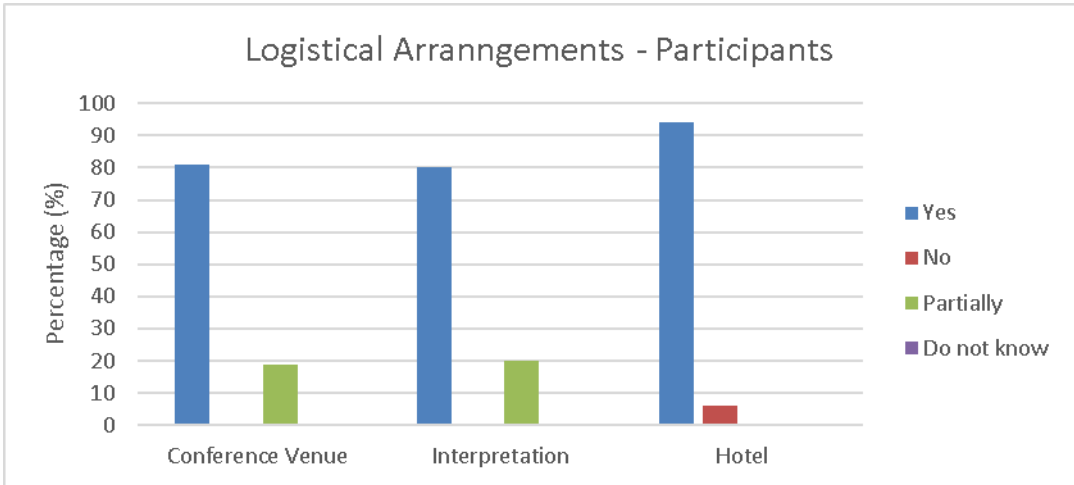
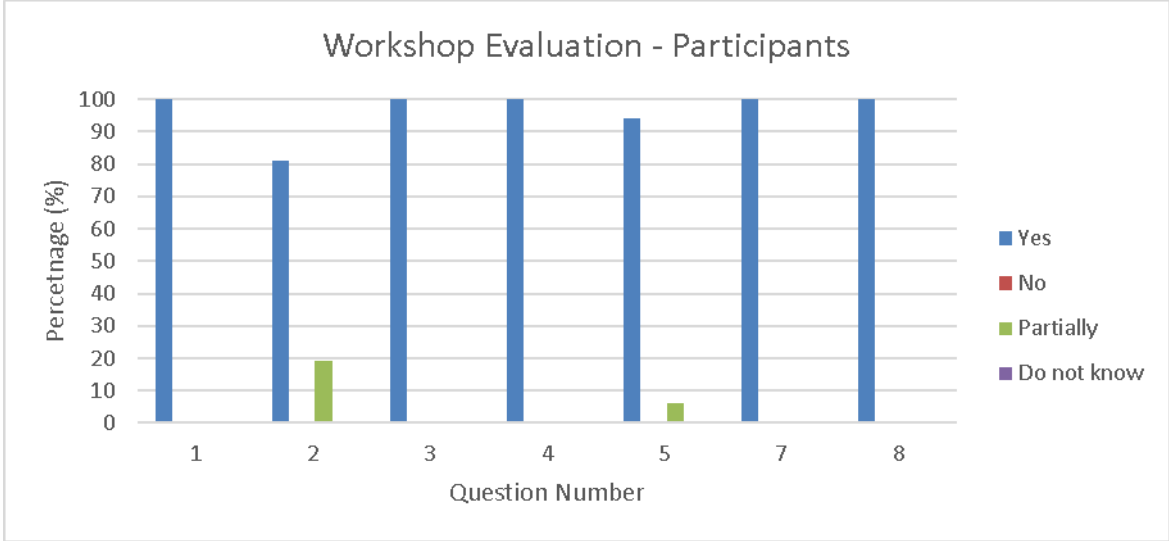


V. Evaluation
Workshop - participant Evaluation

Question	N°. Responses	Yes	No	Partially	Do not know	
1. Was the workshop carried out according to the agenda	16	16 (100)%	0 (0)%	0 (0)%	N/A	
2. Was the programme well structured?	16	13 (81)%	0 (0)%	3 (18)%	N/A	
3. Were the key issues related to the topics addressed?	16	16 (100)%	0 (0)%	0 (0)%	N/A	
4. Did the workshop enable you to improve your knowledge?	16	16 (100)%	0 (0)%	0 (0)%	N/A	
5. Was enough time allowed for questions and discussions?	16	15 (93)%	0 (0)%	1 (6)%	N/A	
6. How do you assess the quality of the speakers?	Speaker/Expert	N°. Responses	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
	3	47	32 (68)%	10 (21)%	4 (4)%	3 (6)%
Question	N°. Responses	Yes	No	Partially	Do not know	
7. Do you expect any follow-up based on the results of the workshop (new legislation, new administrative approach, etc.)?	16	16 (100)%	0 (0)%	N/A	N/A	
8. Do you think that further TAIEX assistance is needed (workshop, expert mission, study visit, assessment mission) on the topic of this workshop?	15	15 (100)%	0 (0)%	N/A	N/A	
9. Were you satisfied with the logistical arrangements, if applicable?	Conference venue	16	13 (81)%	0 (0)%	3 (18)%	0 (0)%
	Interpretation	15	12 (80)%	0 (0)%	3 (20)%	0 (0)%
	Hotel	16	15 (93)%	1 (6)%	0 (0)%	0 (0)%
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop was a good opportunity to gain new knowledge about the European Ecological Network Natura 2000, in particular the challenges and opportunities, and the necessary steps in its establishment through the experience of Czech Republic. Obtained information on the functioning of the system of Protected Areas and Natura 2000 in Czech Republic; Regarding the topic should be more general regarding procedures of protected area management, not specified in details per country. Regarding logistic organization, should be a better organization in the future. Too many hours waiting and also some small problems in return. Thanks to Mr. Roth for helping to resolve; 						



- The workshop was very interesting and instructive. This is first that I attended workshop like this and I saw a new approach. I would like approach in next workshop. It would be good to organize more workshop like this;
- /

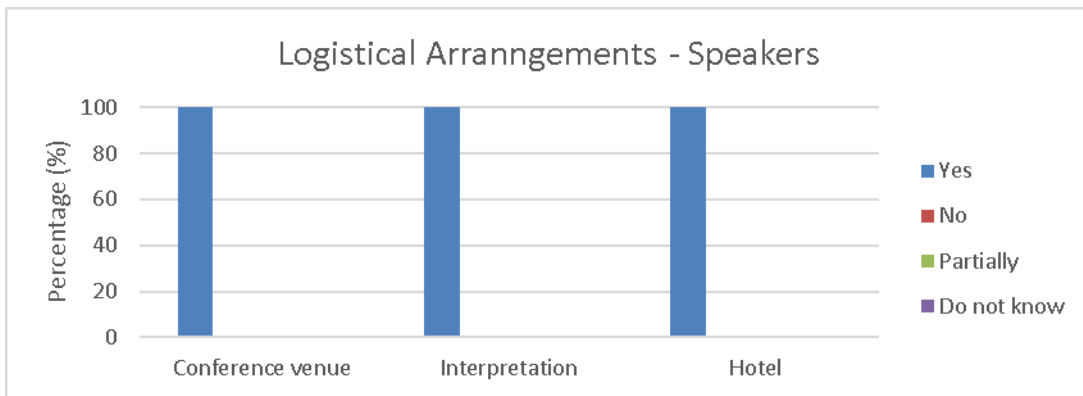
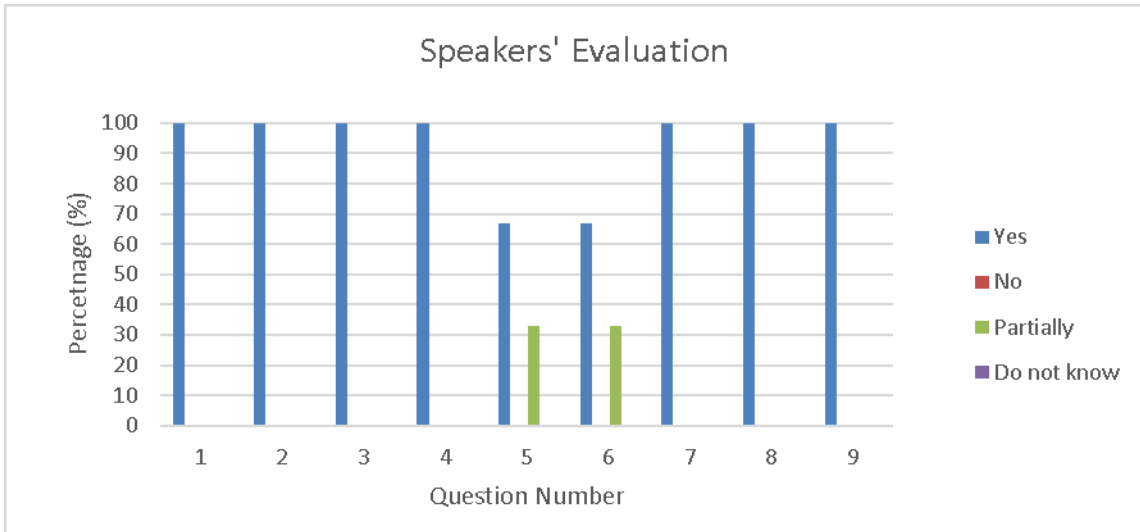


Workshop - speaker Evaluation

Question	N°. Responses	Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
1. Did you receive all the information necessary for the preparation of your contribution?	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
2. Has the overall aim of the workshop been achieved?	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
3. Was the agenda well structured?	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
4. Were the participants present throughout the scheduled workshop?	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
5. Was the beneficiary represented by the appropriate participants?	3	2 (66%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	N/A
6. Did the participants actively take part in the discussions?	3	2 (66%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	N/A
7. Do you expect that the beneficiary will undertake follow-up based on the results of the workshop (new legislation, new administrative approach etc.)	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	N/A	1 (33%)
8. Do you think that the beneficiary needs further TAIEX assistance (workshop, expert mission, study visit, assessment mission) on the topic of this workshop?	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A
9. Would you be ready to participate in future TAIEX workshops?	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A
10. If applicable, were you satisfied with the logistical arrangements?	Conference venue	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Interpretation	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Hotel	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop was successful thanks to excellent presenters and representatives of protected areas in Czech, who provided more useful information regarding Natura 2000 implementation in the field. These kind of specific and concrete workshops/trainings are more than necessary for beneficiary countries which are in the process of establishing Natura 2000 in their own countries; The only problem was a very bad weather during first day for a field trip, but this is 					



something we could not influence.



ANNEX I – Agenda

Day 1 : Tuesday May 26

Topic: Natura 2000 sites in the Mikulov region				
Chair and Co-Chair: Petr Roth, Michael Hošek				
Venue: Mikulov – Mikulov region - Znojmo				
Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
08:00	09:00	Registration		
08:00	09:00	Introduction to the seminar and presentation of the Natura 2000 sites in Mikulov region	Petr Roth, ECRAN Michael Hošek, ECRAN/EUROPARC Federation Representative of the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natura 2000 in the Czech Republic – basic features Mikulov region – area with high number of Natura 2000 sites (3 SPAs, 8 SCIs) in overlap with several national PAs (both large- and small-scaled) Route and subject of the field excursion
09:00	09:30	Opportunity to withdraw remuneration from Western Union branch (next to hotel)		
09:30	13:00	Bus and hiking excursion to Mikulov region SCIs	Representative of the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit of selected 2 – 4 SCIs On-spot presentation of the preparation of the site proposals, delineation rules, target features, site management and interrelation with national protected areas Governance, duties, administration, funding
No lunch break envisaged, packed lunch will be provided				



13:00	15:30	Bus transfer to SPA Nové Mlýny	Representative of the Czech Ornithological Society (BirdLife Int. partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech approach to SPA identification & selection • Boundary delineation, criteria used for target species identification • SPA Nové Mlýny – target species, management, risks and their mitigation • Monitoring and data processing
15:30	17:00	Bus transfer to SPA Jaroslavické rybníky (Jaroslavice Fishponds)	Representative of the Czech Ornithological Society (BirdLife Int. partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA Jaroslavické rybníky - target species, management, risks and their mitigation • Infringements, resolving of conflicts, free discussion
17:00	18:00	Bus transfer to Znojmo, accommodation		

Day 2 : Wednesday May 27

Topic: Natura 2000 sites in the Znojmo region

Chair and Co-Chair: Petr Roth, Michael Hošek

Venue: Znojmo – National Park Podyjí - Znojmo

Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
08:00	09:00	Registration		
08:00	09:00	Introduction and presentation of the Natura 2000 sites in Znojmo region	Petr Roth, ECRAN Michael Hošek, ECRAN/EUROPARC Federation Representative of the Administration of NP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Znojmo region – area with high number of Natura 2000 sites (1 SPA, 8 SCIs) in overlap with a National Park and other national PAs • Route and subject of the field



			Podyjí	excursion
09:00	09:30	Bus transfer to the NP Podyjí		
09:30	15:00	Field hiking excursion in NP Podyjí and its buffer zone	Representative of the Administration of NP Podyjí	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to NP, SPA and SCI Podyjí • Target features and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites <i>versus</i> those of national PAs • Interrelationship of EU and national PAs, conflict resolving, administration, management, funding • Discussion on practical questions of Natura 2000 establishment & management
<i>No lunch break envisaged, packed lunch will be provided</i>				
15:00	16:00	Final debriefing, pending questions	All	
16:00	17:00	Bus transfer to the hotel, end of the seminar		



ANNEX II – Participants

First Name	Family Name	Institution Name	Country	Email
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