



North Great Plain Region Action Plan



From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: enhancing
natural value through improved regional
development policies

14 June 2019, Debrecen

Hungary

Action Plan for North Great Plain Region (short version)

Part I – General Information

Project: Interreg BID-REX

Partner organization: University of Debrecen, Centre for Environmental Management and Policy

Country: HUNGARY

NUTS2 region: North Great Plain

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Part II – Policy context

Priority Axis 4 of the Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme entails investments related to nature protection and biodiversity with the objective of ensuring the ecological conditions required for improving the conservation status of protected species or species and habitats of Community interest. A smaller group of development actions provide the basis for the long-term preservation and development of natural assets of Community interest and implementing objectives of the EU Biological Diversity Strategy to 2020. The BID-REX project and the present action plan seeks to explore synergies with measure 3 of the priority axis titled “Strategic assessments forming the basis of long-term preservation and development of natural assets of community interest and the implementation of objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 in Hungary”. Measure 3 is being implemented in the framework of a national level strategic project (hereinafter referred to as EEEOP 4.3.0 project) holding the same title. The EEEOP 4.3.0 project consists of four main components, one of which aims at setting the strategic framework for the protection and development of green infrastructure (GI). The GI component includes actions such as the identification and delimitation of elements of a national green infrastructure network, the assessment and evaluation of the state of green infrastructure, the identification of conflict areas, the delimitation of sites to be targeted by future restoration works as well as the establishment of a national strategic framework for the development of green infrastructure. Beyond the before mentioned national level activities pilot actions are implemented at the local level, aiming to elaborate green infrastructure

development plans and providing practical methods for the identification, assessment and evaluation of local level green infrastructure elements.

The present action plan of the BID-REX project targets components of urban green infrastructure creating opportunities for cooperation and synergies with the green infrastructure component of the EEEOP 4.3.0 project.

Part III - Objectives of the North Great Plain Region Action Plan

The general objective of this Action Plan is to create a functional framework for developing urban, biological and nature information from built areas. Through this there will be a way to generate and integrate new, concrete data and information into certain developments and into the planning of urban development strategies and programmes. The exploration of values allows that the value of their planned development rise. Action Plans will work with the municipalities' own data and information and other different freely available external data. Partly because of the time frame, but mainly due to lack of available funds.

Hungarian Great Plain Action Plan for the BID-REX project will support the feasibility of two complementary action:

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

Utilizing added value of biodiversity-nature information in urban development

ACTION 1: Creation of a platform for upgrading the urban built environment's biological data information

ACTION 2: Further development of existing biological information of urban built-in area

Part IV: Details about actions

ACTION 1

Creation of a platform for upgrading the urban built environment's biological data information

Availability of biological information is a basic need for urban developments.

Currently available information consists of mainly the data of public parks. The identification and evaluation of the actual land use types are needed for further new and applicable information retrieval. The improvement (vectorization) of the current land cadastral system opens the door for this. This is a determining, not superfluous step for the development of urban natural value information system. As primary outcome it ensures opportunity for the exact cognition of functional green spaces and then based on this result for their connectivity or its lack.

BID-REX supporting elements: Workshop 1, 2 and 5, Catalonian SITxell project, local stakeholder meetings and Basque partner activity.

Building of the platform will be followed by bilateral work with each partner, firstly determining the locally available data and information. Identification of the common difficulties (data quality, lack of data, etc.) will be followed by the development of possible, common or individual solutions.

The information of actual land use types will be ready by the end of 2019 and the development of functional green spaces information will be ready in the first half of 2020 - both based on the new type of digital mapping system. Logistic costs will be paid by the partners jointly. For capacity building (vectorization) other funding could be necessary.

Partners:

Hajdú-Bihar County Government

Hajdú-Bihar County Chief Architect Office

Medium and small municipalities of the Great Plain Region

GeoGIS Foundation Debrecen

County Land Cadastral Offices

ACTION 2

Further development of existing biological information of urban built-in area

Availability of vectorized digital maps, identified land use types give possibilities to go further to complete the local nature information by selecting and determining the potential green areas. The land use types are very diverse at each municipality. Their common characteristics are that beside the built (grey) area surfaces the non-built-in (green) area surfaces (suburban residential, undeveloped land, arable lands, water surface, etc.) are significant.

In case of small cities and villages the area of potential green areas are dominant and determining during developments.

The identification and cognition of the extent of grey and green areas is important and necessary. It is done by field survey and qualification - which is meticulous and time consuming but in case of small settlements and villages it is applicable with good results. The local citizens could contribute to it greatly and this voluntary work can also generate an active community.

This process is more effective with taking into consideration external and freely accessible basic data. Remote sensing based green area identification could be carried out.

First step of the process is the selection of the data source: free or commercial. The choice should take into account that the resolution is very important (minimum 0,5 meter) and beyond real colours the near infra scope ensures a good opportunity to separate the layers.

Through potential green area development the settlements could increase the absolute extent of green areas. It ensures an extraordinary opportunity for improvement of the green areas' connectivity and establishment of green area network. At the same time the potential green areas are great opportunity for connecting to the settlements' open green areas and beyond them to the national/regional ecological network.

BID-REX supporting elements: Catalanian SITxell project, Workshop 3 and 4, REM Marche Region, stakeholder meetings.

As the first element the possible versions of available land use categories will be developed together with related available data and information. Local data survey is needed both in case of field and remote sensing survey; in the latter case it can be used for creating a reference database.

Following the identification of available own and external data sources (end of 2019) the potential green area maps will be developed (mid 2020) parallel with the applicable methodology (mid 2020) and finalized with the selected cases at the end of 2020.

The above mentioned costs will be covered by University of Debrecen; the logistic cost will be covered by the partners. For capacity building (remote sensing) other available funding could be necessary. For the international partner meetings travel costs will be covered by University of Debrecen form BID-REX budget.

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Hajdú-Bihar County Government

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Date: 14.11.2019.

Name of the organization: Ministry for Innovation and Technology

Signature of representative of the relevant institution:

