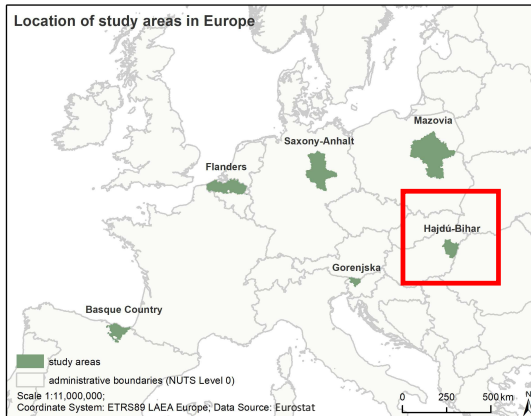


Regional challenges related to the protection of peri-urban open spaces (PUOS) in

HAJDÚ-BIHAR



REGIONAL DATA

country	Hungary
NUTS* level	level 3
total area in km ² (2015)	6.211
population (2021)**	526.164
ratio on total country population (%)	5,40
population density (persons/km ² ; 2021)**	85

*Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques

**source: Hajdú-Bihar County Government

PROJECT PARTNER

Hajdú-Bihar County Government,
Debrecen



Regional Background

In the region of Hajdú-Bihar the natural and landscape values of the county are described as diverse and colorful. There are ecological networks of special importance: natural areas, ecological corridors, protected landscape areas mean significant natural resources. Besides, agricultural and other economic production activities are also essential for the quality life of citizens. So there is a demand to consider PUOS as a huge potential for ecological, recreational and educational utilization.

To preserve natural values, brownfield investments are preferred instead of greenfield ones, but huge peri-urban areas have been selected to serve as the location for new industrial parks. Considering the significance of ecological objectives, there is a strong need to focus on the governance of ecosystem services to conserve biodiversity. The peri-urban ecosystems of Hajdú-Bihar County can provide different services related to reducing the impacts of climate change, air/water purification, waste management, food security serving environmental and social purposes at the same time. The county needs a better coordination of natural, social, cultural and institutional resources and capacities building on appropriate participatory processes; moreover, it is important to find proper answer on how to help policy makers to integrate knowledge into decision making process. Particularly, this means to include the efficient policies existing already on the national level into the regional and local level. There is a lack of efficient and sustainable Good Practices (incl. tools other applied, solutions, projects implemented in the past) regarding common understanding and efficient policy initiatives or solutions, missing information, tools and methods for a more favorable use of these valuable spaces.

The following elements can serve as guidelines to find Good Practices according to the need to focus on governance of biodiversity:

- suitable national/regional/local policy approaches, planning instruments, practical solutions to map ecosystem services (ES) related to a selected area, e.g. a municipality, with special focus on peri-urban open spaces;
- methods and approaches to translate the role and significance of ES to local decision makers (e.g. mayors, assembly members, etc.) and citizens/local communities;
- practices, guidance on the development of municipal green infrastructure concept to provide an easily applicable supporting document to decision makers/planning experts for municipal planning even for smaller communities.

Regional Challenges

Integration of ecosystem services in local/municipal green infrastructure concept

Communication of the significance of ecosystem services to different target groups

Needs for Good Practices

Knowledge transfer into decision making

Better regional coordination

Focus on Ecosystem Service (ES)

- **planning tools** to strengthen ES consideration as a whole
- **educational solutions** for citizens about the general pros and cons
- support the **better understanding** of ES **economic value** (by citizens, policy makers & economic actors)

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