

Study tour to the Czech Republic for:

- experts from Ukrainian MEPR and PAs (6) D4.3
- key Ukrainian opinion leaders from the main stakeholder groups (11) D4.4
- Ukrainian journalists (3) D4.5



Photos from tour participants and NCA CR colleagues



Prague 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project -101148569 - LIFE23-PRE-CZ-ConNaturLIFE Ukraine



Ministry of Environmental Protection Department of Nature Reserve Fund and Biodiversity was represented by 3 people, 2 people were from Regional landscape parks – Dnister and Dikansky and 1 person from National Nature Park Desna-Stara Huta. Most of the participants belonged to the stakeholder groups relevant to nature conservation in Ukraine representing senior experts on biodiversity protection, Regional Administrations, Regional Council, National Academy of Sciences, universities, nature parks, research groups and NGOs (11 people). 3 journalist from various media were present as well and will cover the experience in more than 9 articles.



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The study tour for Ukrainian professionals and journalists was organised to the Czech Republic on September 23-27, 2024. The tour was organised by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic and it was targeted to provide information on nature conservation in the Czech Republic and in the European Union with special attention to Nature Directives and Natura 2000 network.

September 23

The group of 21 Ukrainians met their Czech counterparts from the Ministry of the Environment. Ing. Michal Pastvinský - Director of the Department of International Relations and Mgr. Petr Havel a head of the NATURA 2000 department, gave presentations on the direction of international relations in nature protection, in particular with Ukraine and "The system of nature protection in the Czech Republic".



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Visit to the Ministry



September 24

Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic Presentation

- Structure and role of the NCA CR in nature conservation
- History of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic
- Monitoring of biodiversity in the Czech Republic





Petr Hůla gave a presentation that resulted in a discussion about the possibility and problems of creating a national park on the territory of the protected landscape area. He told what difficulties the conservationists face when trying to get approval from the local population for the creation of the park, which was planned back in 2010, and why this process has so far been unsuccessful.



Photos from tour participants and NCA CR colleagues



Visit to Brdy Protected Landscape Area

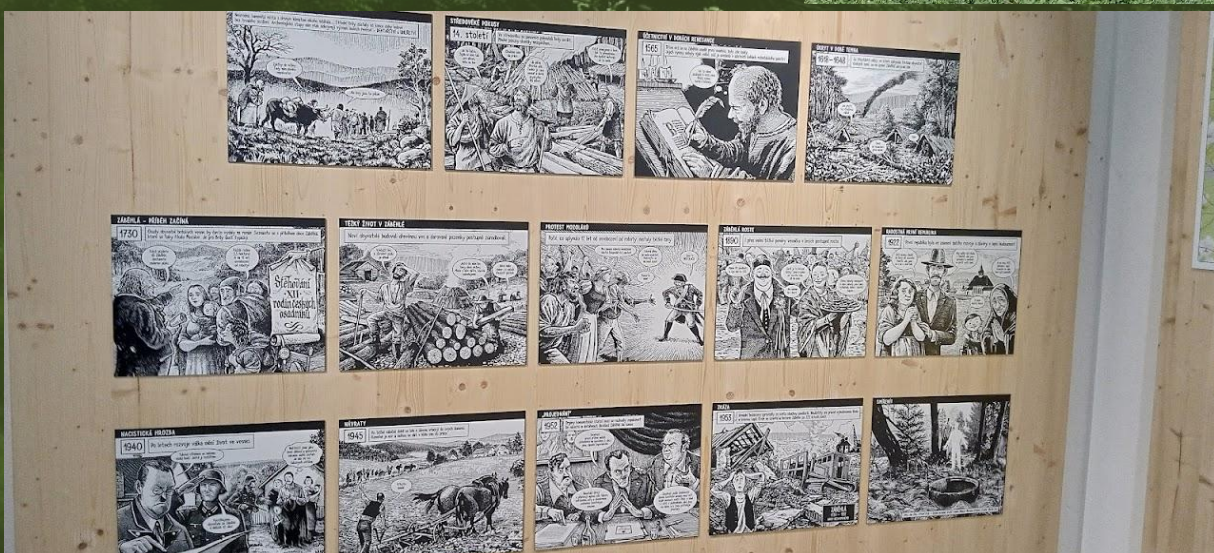
September 25

Active area of military training

Bohumil Fišer, who was initially assisted by a representative from the local military unit, showed how military intervention changes the landscape, explained why it can be beneficial for nature and talked about the history of this area.



The group, together with Mr. Fišer and representatives of the Agency visited the recently restored House of Nature located on the territory of Brdy. There, they saw how the Agency interprets the nature to visitors, and watched a film about the Protected Landscape Area.



Photos from tour participants and AOPK colleagues



September 26

Visit to Central Bohemian Highlands

Steppe management

On September 26, the group visited the Ceske Stredohori Protected Landscape Area

The sites where the LIFE projects Lounské Středohoří Steppe (2011-2017) and LIFE České středohoří (2017-2023) were implemented in the past were visited. The management carried out was discussed.

Roman Hamerský, František Budský and Vladislav Kopecký showed the Natura 2000 site and told about the peculiarities of the local landscape - high hills of volcanic origin, wide steppe areas between them that are managed by sheep and goats herds.

One of the shepherds demonstrated the work of a trained dog that led a mixed herd of goats and sheep along a given route.



Photos from tour participants and NCA CR colleagues

September 26

The group visited two hydroelectric power plants on the Elbe River where fish ladders are built. One station is relatively new (MVE Lovosice), and the other was built about 100 years ago (Střekov), with a fish ladder.



Elektrárna Střekov Hydro Power Plant with the fish ladder.



HPP Lovosice with two fish passages



Photos from tour participants and NCA CR colleagues

September 27

Czech Switzerland National Park

The group visited the Czech Switzerland National Park, which in July-August 2022 suffered a major fire that could not be extinguished for almost a week. After so many months, the traces of the fire were clearly visible, but the ground was covered with ferns and young birches.



Petr Kříž, the director of the Park administration, and Richard Nagel, the head of the public relations department, guided the tour of the park.



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Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



Thank You!

We really enjoyed the study program with the colleagues from Ukraine,
and we received a lot of positive feedback from them.



NCA CR