**PRESS RELEASE**

**May 2025**

**Introduction of Monitoring the Wetlands of International Importance in the**

**Carpathian Region**

The international project “Introduction of Monitoring the Wetlands of International Importance in The Carpathian Region” (project acronym – **WeVaRe**), co-funded by the INTERREG VI-A NEXT HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA-ROMANIA-UKRAINE Programme, has started with a budget of 905,367.71 EUR (total budget: 1,005,964.14 EUR).

Within the framework of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine, Romania, and Slovakia, the **WeVaRe** project was launched to introduce a modern monitoring system for wetlands of international importance in the Carpathian region. The primary objective of the

initiative is to comprehensively assess the state of the environment, map unique wetlands and

adjacent geocomplexes, and create an innovative platform for long-term monitoring of their functioning and dynamics, thereby preventing degradation and pollution in the context of

current climate change and anthropogenic pressure.

The **main objectives** of the project include inventorying wetlands in the border regions of Ukraine, Slovakia, and Romania, developing and implementing a multi-component monitoring system with extensive use of remote sensing and geographic information technologies, creating a series of digital maps, and justifying mechanisms for wetland conservation. A special feature of the project will be the creation of a unique open IT platform, WeVaRe, with the results of monitoring studies, which will provide real-time processing, storage, and interpretation of environmental data.

The innovation of the **WeVaRe** project lies in the integration of advanced remote sensing methods, stationary monitoring, and comprehensive field research into a single system, as well as in an interdisciplinary approach that combines the knowledge of leading experts in ecology, biology, natural geography, geodesy, geoinformatics, and environmental protection.

**Project duration:** 24 months (01.05.2025-31.04.2027)

**Lead partner:** SHEI “Uzhhorod National University” (Ukraine)

**Partners:**

1. Synevyr National Nature Park (Ukraine)

2. Polonyny National Park Administration with headquarters in Stakčin (Slovakia)

3. Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

4. NFA Romsilva – Administration of Maramureş Mountains Nature Park (Romania)

5. University of Žilina, Institute of High Mountain Biology (Slovakia)

**Contact details for further information:**

Email: parc@muntiimaramuresului.ro

The project is being implemented within the Biodiversity and Pollution Reduction priority of the international cross-border cooperation program HU-SK-RO-UA. The programme website is available at https://next.huskroua-cbc.eu/.

*This document was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Uzhhorod National University and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*