

Strasbourg, 16th April 2024

T-PVS/Agenda(2024)7

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Kresna Technical Workshop¹ in line with Recommendation 212 (2021):
“Challenges & opportunities for the conservation of reptiles and large carnivores during
linear infrastructure development in South-East Europe:
A case study for the Kresna Area, Bulgaria”**

- AGENDA -



22-24 April 2024, Sandanski/Kresna area, Bulgaria

¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/-/kresna-technical-workshop>

Day 1, Monday 22nd April 2024, Presentations' Day – [Interhotel Sandanski](#)

All times are stated in Eastern European Summer Time (UTC+3)

<u>WELCOME SESSION</u>	
08:30 - 08:45	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Miroslav Kalugerov, <i>Director of National Nature Protection Service, Ministry of Environment and Waters of Bulgaria,</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>Mikaël Poutiers, <i>Secretary of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, France,</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>Elke Hahn, <i>Chairwoman of IENE Governance Board, Austria.</i></p>
08:45 - 09:15	Brief introduction to Kresna area – specifics, importance, existing and foreseen impacts, aims and challenges
09:15-09:40	<p>Keynote speech 1</p> <p>Introduction: Defragmentation measures in linear infrastructure projects – perspectives of planning, development, operation and monitoring in light of EU environmental protection requirements</p> <p>Lise Praestegaard, <i>JASPERS, EIB / Regional Transport Advisory Division, Austria.</i></p>
09:40-10:00	<i>Coffee break + Poster exhibition*</i>
<u>Reptiles' Session</u> Reptile species in Kresna – specifics, conservation challenges, impacts and technical solutions for avoidance – mitigation – compensation / defragmentation, ecological reconstruction; best practices and recommendations	
10:00-10:25	<p>Keynote speech 2</p> <p>An Overview: Reptiles and transport infrastructure</p> <p>Lars Briggs, <i>IENE / AmphiConsult, Denmark.</i></p>
10:25-10:40	<p>P I-1: Monitoring of the populations of <i>Testudo hermanni</i>, <i>T. graeca</i>, <i>Zamenis situla</i>, and <i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i> along the section of the first-class international road E-79 (I-1) passing through the Kresna Gorge</p> <p>Emanuil Mitrevichin, <i>South-West University "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria</i></p>
10:40-10:55	<p>P I-2: Fine-scale distribution in four reptile species of high conservation value in the Kresna Gorge, Bulgaria</p> <p>Emiliya Vacheva, <i>Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria.</i></p>
10:55-11:20	Q & A Session
11:20-11:35	<p>P I-3: Fragments of snake sheds as a species identification guide</p> <p>Nikolay Natchev, <i>Road Infrastructure Agency, Bulgaria</i></p>

11:35-11:50	P I-4: Barriers and underpasses as a method to decrease reptile road mortality. The case of Milos Viper (<i>Macrovipera schweizeri</i>) in Greece Ioannis Ioannidis, <i>Ecostudies PC, Greece (online)</i>
11:50-12:05	P I-5: Evidence, tests and unknowns in reptile road ecology and infrastructure mitigation Silviu Petrovan, <i>Conservation Science Group, University of Cambridge, UK.</i>
12:05-12:30	Q & A Session
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
<u>Large Carnivores' Session</u> Large carnivore species in Kresna – specifics, conservation challenges, impacts and technical solutions for avoidance – mitigation – compensation / defragmentation, ecological reconstruction; best practices and recommendations	
14:00-14:25	Keynote speech 3 An Overview: Large carnivores and transport infrastructure Djuro Huber, <i>IENE / University of Zagreb, Croatia.</i>
14:25-14:40	P II-1: Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> studies in Kresna-Ilindenci SCI and Kresna Gorge, 2002 – 2024 Elena Tsingarska, <i>BALKANI Wildlife Society, Bulgaria</i>
14:40-14:55	P II-2: The role of Kresna river Gorge for brown bear dispersion Aleksandar Dutsov, <i>WWF Bulgaria</i>
14:55-15:10	P II-3: The use of motorway crossing structures by wolves in Poland Robert W. Mysłajek, <i>Association for Nature "Wolf", Poland (online)</i>
15:10-15:40	Q & A Session
15:40-15:55	<i>Coffee break + Poster exhibition*</i>
<u>Session on defragmentation strategies and practices</u> Specifics, conservation challenges, impacts and technical solutions for avoidance – mitigation – compensation / defragmentation, ecological reconstruction; best practices and recommendations	
15:55-16:20	Keynote speech 4 Sustainability strategies of the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR) Konstantinos Andreopoulos, <i>CEDR, Belgium</i>
16:20-16:45	Keynote speech 5 An Overview: EGNATIA Motorway in Greece, a 25 years' experience: from conflict to cooperation for joint-solutions Niki Voumvoulaki, <i>IENE / Egnatia Odos S.A., Greece</i>

16:45-17:00	<p>P III-1: A new online tool to benefit biodiversity and achieve safe, resilient transport networks: the IENE Biodiversity and infrastructure handbook</p> <p>Luis M. Fernández, <i>Minuartia, Spain (online)</i></p>
17:00-17:15	<p>P III-2: Defragmentation programme in the Netherlands</p> <p>Dennis Wansink, <i>The Netherlands (online)</i></p>
17:15-17:30	<p>P III-3: Defragmentation programme in Austria</p> <p>Elke Hahn, <i>IENE / Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria (online)</i></p>
17.30-18:00	Q & A Session
18:00-18:15	Closing of the 1st day + Presentation of the field trip!
*Posters	<p>Content and use of the European Defragmentation Map</p> <p>Marita Boettcher, <i>IENE / Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), Germany</i></p>

Day 2 – Tuesday 23rd April 2024, Field visit in the Kresna Gorge

Stops of the day	
08:00	Departure from the Interhotel Sandanski
08:30-09:30	1 st Stop: Railway Station visit
09:30-12:30	2 nd Stop: Stara Kresna coffee and visit above the east alignment tunnel
12:30-14:00	Lunch (<i>at participant's own cost</i>)
14:00-15:00	3 rd Stop: Existing tunnel visit
15:15-16:00	4 th Stop: Petrol Station (with coffee)
16:15-17:00	5 th Stop: Culvert visit
17:15-18:00	6 th Stop: Walking trail visit
18.30	Return to the hotel

Day 3 – Wednesday 24th April 2024, Round Tables day – [Interhotel Sandanski](#)

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Welcome session	
08:30-08:45	Introductory remarks (Organisers)
Round Table 1 – Reptiles and strategic solutions	
08:45-09:00	Setting the scene / Questions and challenges identified by the experts
09:00–10:30	Moderated round table discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raising key questions from participants ➤ Feedback & Discussion ➤ Directions for Solutions
10:30-10:45	Wrap up and short conclusions of the Round Table discussions
10:45-11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Round Table 2 – Large Carnivores and strategic solutions	
11:00-11:15	Setting the scene / Questions and challenges by the experts
11:15-12:45	Moderated round table discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raising key questions from participants ➤ Feedback & Discussion ➤ Directions for Solutions
12:45-13:00	Wrap up and short conclusions of the Round Table discussions
Wrap up and Conclusion	
13:00-13:30	Wrap up and main conclusions of the Workshop, proposing a system of solutions and next steps, press releases etc. TBD

Appendix – List of Abstracts

Keynote speech 1: Introduction: Defragmentation measures in linear infrastructure projects – perspectives of planning, development, operation and monitoring in light of EU environmental protection requirements

Lise Praestegaard, *JASPERS, EIB / Regional Transport Advisory Division, Austria.*

Keynote speech 2: An Overview: Reptiles and transport infrastructure

Lars Briggs, *IENE / AmphiConsult, Denmark.*

P I-1: Monitoring of the populations of *Testudo hermanni*, *T. graeca*, *Zamenis situla*, and *Elaphe quatuorlineata* along the section of the first-class international road E-79 (I-1) passing through the Kresna Gorge

Emanuil Mitrevichin¹, Denitza Pavlova², Krasimir Stoyanov¹, Alexander Pulev¹, ¹*South-West University “Neofit Rilski”,
2**Denkstatt Bulgaria OOD, Bulgaria.*

P I-2: Fine-scale distribution in four reptile species of high conservation value in the Kresna Gorge, Bulgaria

Popgeorgiev Georgi¹, Vacheva Emiliya², Dyugmedzhiev Angel², Lukanov Simeon², Naumov Borislav², ¹*National Museum of Natural History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria, 2**Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria.*

P I-3: Fragments of snake sheds as a species identification guide

Nikolay Natchev, Nikolay Kolev, Pavlina Marinova, Kiril Valkanov – RIA, Bulgaria.

P I-4: Barriers and underpasses as a method to decrease reptile road mortality. The case of Milos Viper (*Macrovipera schweizeri*) in Greece

Ioannis Ioannidis¹, ¹*Ecostreams PC, Greece (online).*

P I-5: Evidence, tests and unknowns in reptile road ecology and infrastructure mitigation

Silviu Petrovan¹, ¹*Conservation Science Group, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.*

Keynote speech 3: An Overview: Large carnivores and transport infrastructure

Djuro Huber, *IENE / University of Zagreb, Croatia.*

P II-1: Wolf *Canis lupus* studies in Kresna-Ilindenci SCI and Kresna Gorge, 2002 – 2024

Tsingarska Elena^{1,3}, Kircheva Magdalena², ¹*BALKANI Wildlife Society, Bulgaria, 2**University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Bulgaria, 3**Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Biology, Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection, Bulgaria.*

P II-2: Role of Kresna river Gorge for brown bear dispersion

Dutsov Aleksandar¹, Elena Tsingarska^{2,4}, Magdalena Kircheva³, ¹*WWF Bulgaria, 2**BALKANI Wildlife Society, 3**University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, 4**Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Biology, Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection, Bulgaria.*

P II-3: The use of motorway crossing structures by wolves in Poland

Sabina Nowak¹, Robert W. Mysłajek², ¹*University of Warsaw, 2**Association for Nature “Wolf”, Poland (online).*

Keynote speech 4: Sustainability strategies of the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR)

Konstantinos Andreopoulos, *CEDR, Belgium*

Keynote speech 5: An Overview: EGNATIA Motorway in Greece, a 25 years’ experience: from conflict to cooperation for joint-solutions

Niki Voumvoulaki, *IENE / Egnatia Odos S.A., Greece*

P III-1: A new online tool to benefit biodiversity and achieve safe, resilient transport networks: the IENE Biodiversity and infrastructure handbook

Luis M. Fernández¹, Carme Rosell^{1,2}, ¹*Minuartia, 2**IENE, Spain (online).*

P III-2: Defragmentation in the Netherlands

Dennis Wansink¹, ¹*The Netherlands* (online).

P II-3: Defragmentation programme in Austria

Elke Hahn^{1,2}, ¹*IENE*, ²*Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria*, (online).

[Poster exhibition] Content and use of the European Defragmentation Map, Marita Böttcher¹, Heinrich Reck², Cindy Baierl³,
¹*Bundesamt für Naturschutz*, ²*Universität Kiel*, ³*Universität Kassel, Germany*.