 

**KRESNA TECHNICAL WORKSHOP**

**“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”**

***22-24 April 2024, Sandanski, Bulgaria***

**- Kresna Workshops Topics -**

**Reptiles and large carnivores during Linear Infrastructure development:**

 **Understanding the impacts, challenges and exchange of knowledge for developing best solutions adapted to the local context.**

Key species in Kresna Gorge:

Reptiles: *Eurotestudo hermanni*, *Testudo graeca*, *Elaphe quatorlineata*, *Zamenis situla*;

Large carnivores – *Canis lupus*, *Ursus arctos.*

* Biology and ecology of the key species
* Biogeographical role of the Kresna Gorge for the coherence of the NATURA 2000 network and threats
* Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation
* Road / rail traffic impact (avoidance, barrier effect, wildlife mortality; human safety, wildlife-vehicle collision)
* Environmental impact assessment
* Pairing/doubling linear infrastructure and assessment of cumulative effects
* Population dynamics
* Biodiversity and resiliency of linear infrastructure
* Defragmentation strategies, ecological reconstruction
* Policy and management
* Strategic planning
* Effective mitigation measures; Avoid – Minimise – Compensate – Decommissioning Hierarchy
* Standards and regulations
* Technical solutions
* Stakeholder engagement
* Animal passages (wildlife crossing structure)
* Infrastructure Habitats
* Landscape integration
* Transportation technology innovation to support environmental protection
* Operation of sustainable linear transport infrastructure
* Monitoring efficiency of solutions