

LECA - Project overview and presentation of preliminary outcomes

Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by
the European Union

LECA

Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores

LECA - CE0100170



Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on Large Carnivores
Strasbourg and online | 10-11 May 2025

Mgr. Martin Duľa, Ph.D.
project coordinator
Mendel University in Brno

Introduction

Why project LECA?

- Carpathians host abundant native populations
- Increasing human-carnivore conflict
- Need for coordinated transnational cooperation & harmonised policies and data collection & joint conservation approaches
- Revision of International Action plan on the conservation of large carnivores and ensuring ecological connectivity in Carpathians



Project partnership

Lead partner

- Mendel
- University
- in Brno
-

Project partners



Tatrzanski
Park Narodowy



STATE
NATURE CONSERVANCY
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



SK PL HU



ZAVOD za GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE
Slovenia Forest Service



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN ZVOLEN



CARNIVORES.cz



Friends of the Earth
Czech Republic
Carnivore Conservation Programme

Project overview

Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores

The Carpathians are home to large populations of lynx, wolves and bears. In recent years, conflicts between large carnivores and humans have increased, but no one knows if this is due to growing populations because data are not collected in a harmonised way across borders. The LECA project introduces a consistent and efficient monitoring approach, which involves local stakeholders. It will result in up-to-date population information, coupled with effective conflict prevention measures.

2,93 m €
Project Budget

80%
of the budget is funded
by ERDF

6
Countries

11
Regions

12
Partners

4
Pilots

Duration

Start date 04.2023

End date 03.2026

Project progress

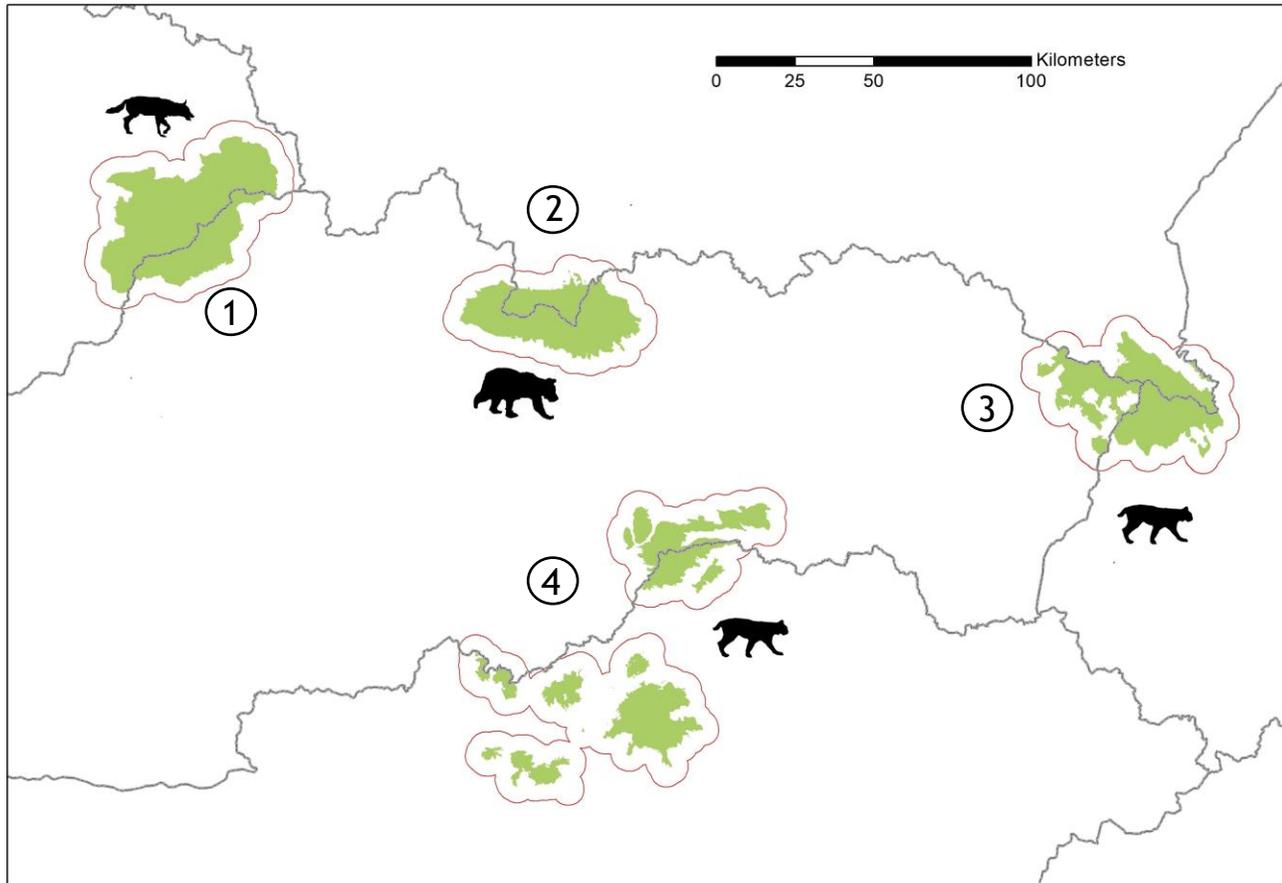
73%

Overall objective & thematic pillars

- LECA supports SO2.4 objective of biodiversity conservation by building a comprehensive, sustainable system of monitoring large carnivores (wolves, bears, lynxes) and offering joint solutions to tackle poaching and resolve human-carnivore conflicts across the Carpathians
- Novel Thematic Guidances based on primary data collection in 4 cross-border areas will be the basis for validated solutions and strategies disseminated and scaled up for uptake at national, transnational and Carpathian level.



Pilot & reference areas

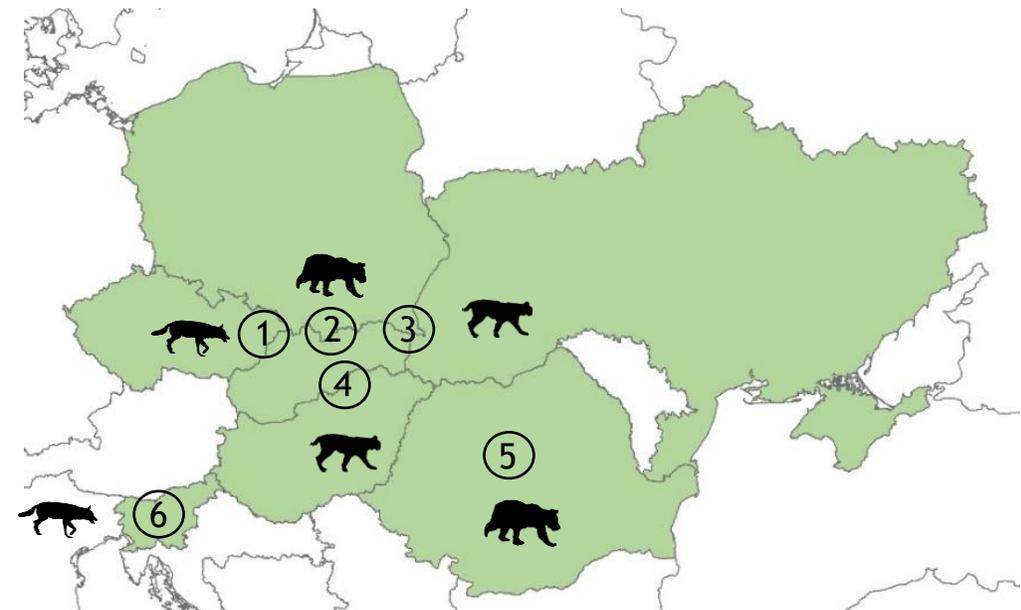


Cross-border pilot areas:

- ① Beskydy-Kysuce (CZ-SK)
- ② Tatra Mountains (SK-PL)
- ③ East Carpathians (SK-PL-UA)
- ④ Slovak Karst-North Hungarian Mountains (SK-HU)

Reference areas:

- ⑤ Apusemi & Tusnad region (RO)
- ⑥ Pre-Alpine region (SI)



Implementation of Pilot Actions in 4 pilot areas in the Carpathians

Beskydy-Kysuce pilot

Overview of main pilot activities

- Non-invasive monitoring - camera trapping, snow tracking, non-invasive genetic sampling etc.
- Invasive monitoring - telemetry
- Cooperation with local hunters and foresters
- Cooperation with livestock-breeders: application & testing of preventive measures
- Organisation of winter tracking of large carnivores events for public
- Cross-border stakeholder platforms, satekohodler visits, local info days

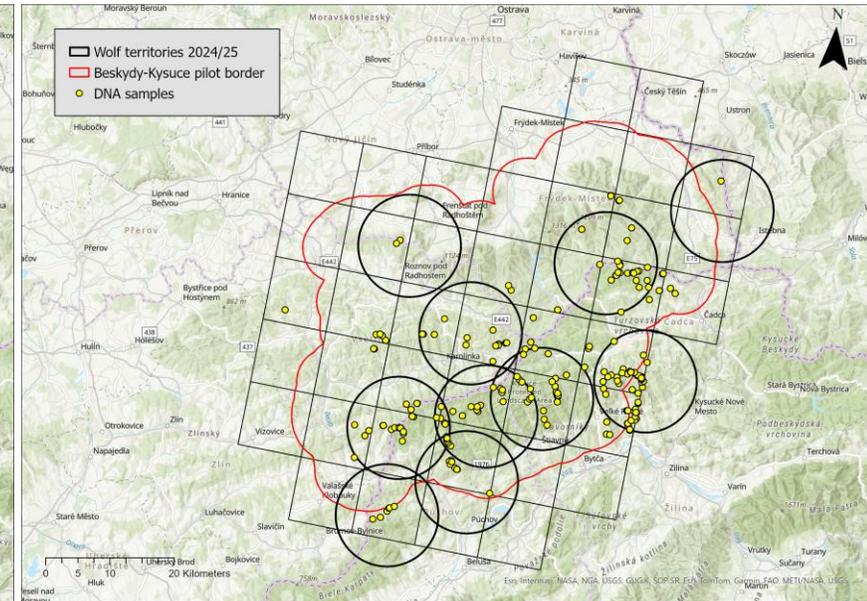
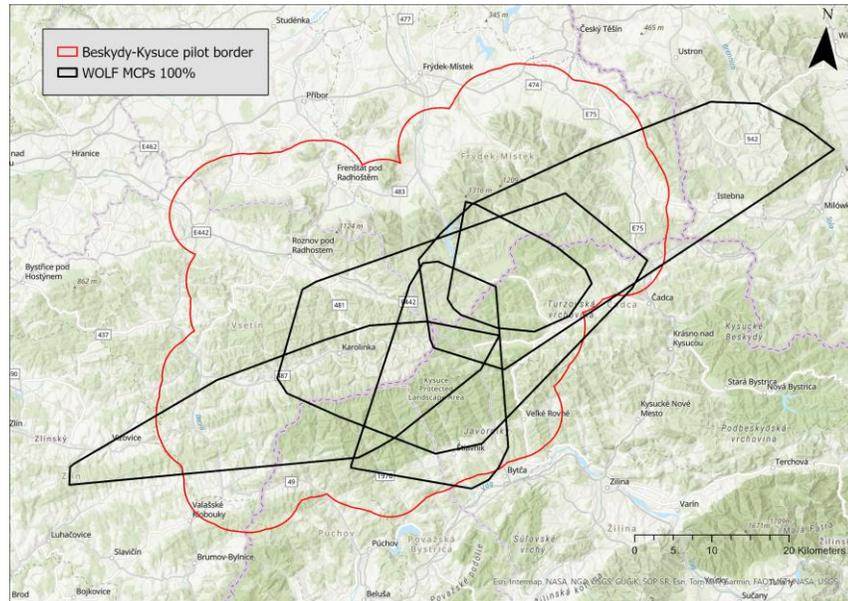


Beskydy-Kysuce pilot



Key achievements in monitoring and data collection

- **5 wolf females collared;** more than 10 000 GPS positions obtained
- more than **3800 camera records** and **1100 signs of occurrence** recorded in two wolf years (2023/24, 2024/25)
- **278 transects visited** and **226 DNA samples** collected during four months of non-invasive genetic sampling



Implementation of Pilot Actions in 4 pilot areas in the Carpathians

Tatras pilot

Overview of main pilot activities

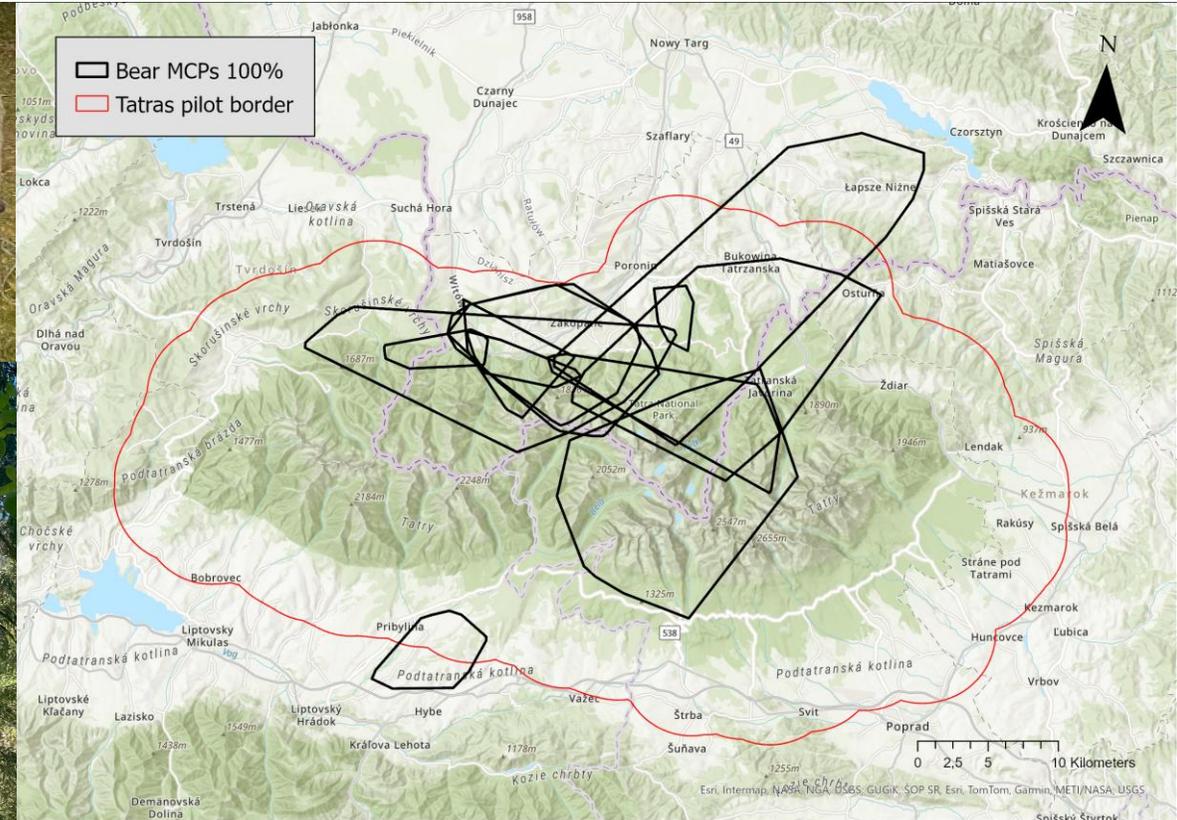
- Invasive monitoring of bears: telemetry
- Collection samples for hormonal and diet analyses (metabarcoding)
- Cooperation with all relevant stakeholders - application of preventive measures and interventions if needed



Tatras pilot

Key achievements in monitoring and data collection

- 14 bears equipped with GPS collar so far (5 with video-collars), more than 15 000 GPS positions obtained)
- More than 150 samples for diet/hormonal analyses collected



Implementation of Pilot Actions in 4 pilot areas in the Carpathians

East Carpathians & Slovak Karst-North HU Mts. pilot

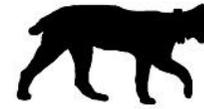
Overview of main pilot activities

- Non-invasive monitoring : extensive and deterministic intensive camera trapping of lynx
- Cooperation with livestock-breeders, NP administrations and municipalities: application of preventive measures
- Cooperation with local hunters, foresters, border and foreign Police sharing experiences and photos of lynxes (cross-border stakeholder platforms, satekohodler visits, local info days etc.)



East Carpathians & Slovak Karst -North HU Mts. pilot

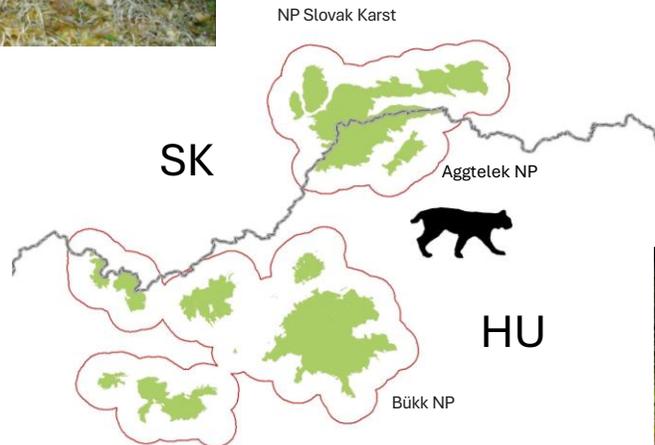
Key achievements in monitoring and data collection



Extensive CT: 10/23-10/24
Deterministic CT: 11/24-2/25; 41 camera stations
Only 2 independent lynxes identified



PL



Extensive CT: 10/23-10/24
Deterministic CT: 11/24-2/25; more than 100 camera stations
At minimum 22 independent lynxes identified



Implementation of actions in 2 reference areas

Romania reference area (Apuseni & Tusnad region)

Overview of main pilot activities

- Non-invasive monitoring - documenting signs of occurrence, camera trapping, non-invasive genetic sampling etc.
- Invasive monitoring - telemetry
- Cooperation with municipalities, local hunters and foresters
- Cooperation with local people, livestock-breeders, beekeepers: application of preventive measures



Implementation of actions in 2 reference areas

Slovenia reference area (Pre-alpine region)

Overview of main pilot activities

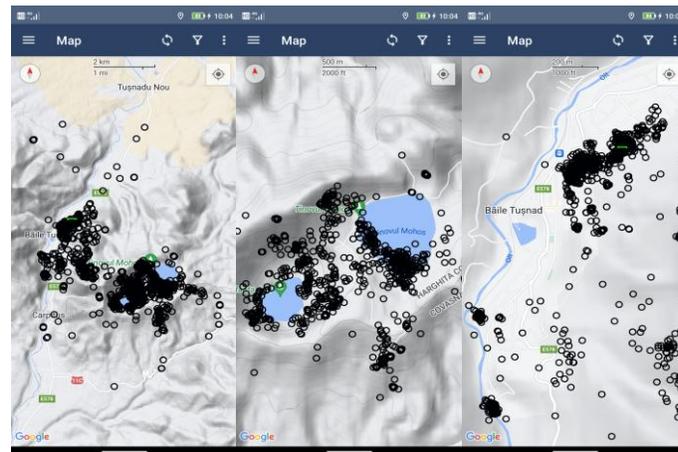
- Non-invasive monitoring - camera trapping
- Invasive monitoring - telemetry
- Cooperation with local hunters and foresters - telemetry & monitoring
- Cooperation with livestock-breeders: application of preventive measures



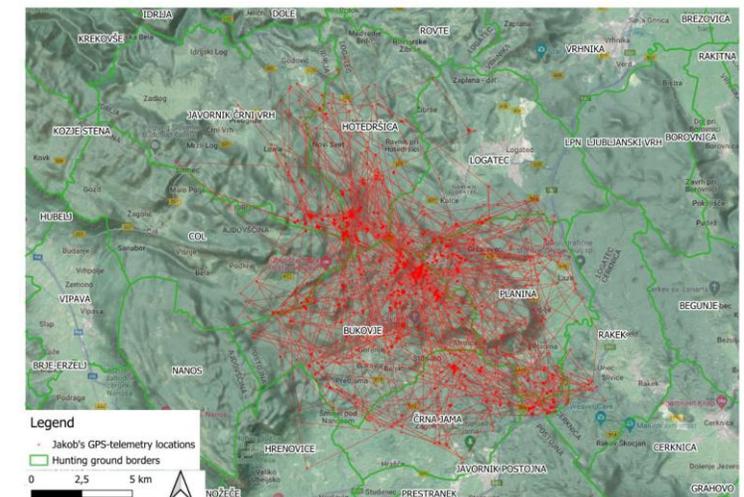
Reference area Romania & Slovenia

Key achievements in monitoring and data collection

- 2 bears equipped with GPS video-collars in Tusnad region



- 2 wolves equipped with GPS collars in pre-Alpine region



Key project outputs

Name, status and expected delivery

2. Poaching investigation Thematic Guidance on Large Carnivore conservation in the Carpathians

Thematic Guidance aimed at introducing scientifically well-founded, efficient and coordinated poaching investigation practices and tools, to be the basis for similar or identical anti-poaching regulations and procedures across the borders of the Carpathian countries. The draft Guidance will be validated and revised via Pilot Actions and consulted with relevant bodies of the Carpathian Convention and Alpine Convention for policy uptake , roll-out and upscale towards regional and EU level.

Type of output: **Solutions**

Status: **In development**

Delivery: **The outputs are expected to be finalized and published during winter - spring 2026**

1. Monitoring Thematic Guidance on Large Carnivore conservation in the Carpathians

Thematic Guidance aimed at introducing effective, harmonized practices on monitoring of LC in cross border areas to yield a sustained flow of reliable data on LC populations in the Carpathians and a foundation of evidence-based policy making. The draft Thematic Guidance will be validated and revised through Pilot Actions and consulted with the relevant bodies of the Carpathian Convention and Alpine Convention for policy uptake , roll-out and upscale towards regional and EU level.

3. Conflict prevention Thematic Guidance on Large Carnivore conservation in the Carpathians

Thematic Guidance aimed at introducing a set of measures following a symmetrical (human - LC) approach, to effectively protect both LCs, humans and their property and livestock from conflicts and damage in a resource-efficient way, offering adoptable and feasible limitations to all. Draft Guidance will be validated and revised via pilots and consulted with relevant bodies of the Carpathian Convention and Alpine Convention for policy uptake, roll-out and upscale to regional and EU level.

Key project outputs

Name, status and expected delivery

4. Recommendations for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Action Plan on large carnivores

Thematic Guidance aimed at introducing effective, harmonized practices on monitoring of LC in cross border areas to yield a sustained flow of reliable data on LC populations in the Carpathians and a foundation of evidence-based policy making. The draft Thematic Guidance will be validated and revised through Pilot Actions and consulted with the relevant bodies of the Carpathian Convention and Alpine Convention for policy uptake, roll-out and upscale towards regional and EU level.

5. Cross-border recommendations for Carpathian border regions

Pilot area specific, strategic documents transnationally validated via peer-reviews for each of the 4 pilot cross-border areas uptaken by stakeholders laying down the standard methodology, practices, equipment needs and approaches to provide a basis for recurring and ongoing assessment of large carnivore conservation issues (esp. monitoring, poaching, human-wildlife conflicts) elaborated through the engagement of local stakeholder platforms.

Type of output: **Strategies and action plans**

Status: **In development**

Delivery: **The outputs are expected to be finalized and published during autumn 2025 - spring 2026**

6. IT Solution for stakeholder involvement

An application tracking occurrences of large carnivores in the Carpathian region. It helps monitoring populations of bears, lynx and wolves across borders.

The app is available at Google Play, public and relevant stakeholders can download and use it.

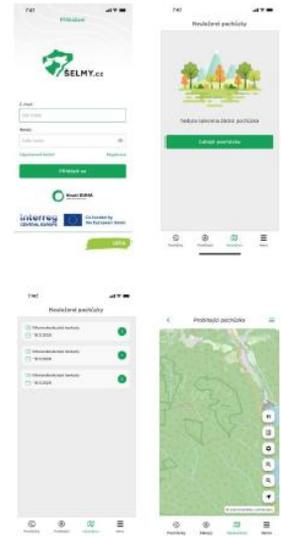
The app can be used by a wide variety of stakeholders (hunters, foresters, livestock keepers, researchers, nature conservationists etc.) and lay people who benefit from information about LCs populations.

CarniTrack



<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=carnitrack&tc=apps>

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/carnitrack/id6737628977>



Type of output: **Solutions**

Status: **Finalised**

Delivery: **Delivered in 2024**

Thank you for your attention!



LECA

[Home](#)

[Roadmap](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Outputs](#)

[Media](#)

News

P2 Green

NEWS

24.03.2025



P2 Green

NEWS

04.03.2025



P2 Green

NEWS

17.02.2025



Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by
the European Union

LECA



LECA

Lead partner: Mendel University in Brno



<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/leca/>



martin.dula@mendelu.cz



+420 770 137 635

