

A thick, curved green line arches over the title.

# Transnational Ecological Networks in Central Europe

A thick, curved green line arches under the subtitle.

Analysing and assessing landscapes  
without borders

ECONNECT International Workshop  
4 November 2009, Bernin/France

# Overview

- 1 History of the project
- 2 Project facts
- 3 Activities and outputs
- 4 Project regions
- 5 Current actions
- 6 TransECONNeCt



# 1 History of the project

Origin of the project idea based on a couple of former INTERREG projects:

→ Development of harmonised geoinformation systems in cross-border National Park regions

(INTERREG IIC NPIS 2000-2001, INTERREG IIIA GeNeSiS)

→ Building a transnational network of spatial information systems for a better management of cross-border national park regions

(INTERREG IIIB SYSTEMaPARC 2004-2006)

- Forerunner projects as starting points for the idea of investigating transnational ecological networks
- Questions which led to the development of TransEcoNet:
  - How strong are Central European protected areas connected among each other? Where do exist the main gaps?
  - How did natural landscapes develop in the past centuries?
  - What common natural and cultural heritage do cross-border protected regions link with their surrounding non-protected areas?
  - How can transnational ecological networks be extended and developed in a sustainable way?

## 2 Project facts

Priority 3	Using our environment responsibly
Area of intervention	Developing a high quality environment by managing and protecting natural resources and heritage
Budget	2.905.788 € (January 2009 – April 2012)
Project partners	16 partners from AT, CZ, DE, HU, PL, SI 22 associated institutions
Target groups	Public authorities, PA administrations, NGOs, researchers and scientists, general public

### General objectives of the project:

- to achieve a sustainable development of landscapes
- to develop strategies how to manage transnational ecological networks in Central European border regions
- to raise public awareness for natural and cultural heritage of transboundary landscapes
- to contribute to a better connectivity of European ecosystems like the Alps, the Green Belt and the Carpathians

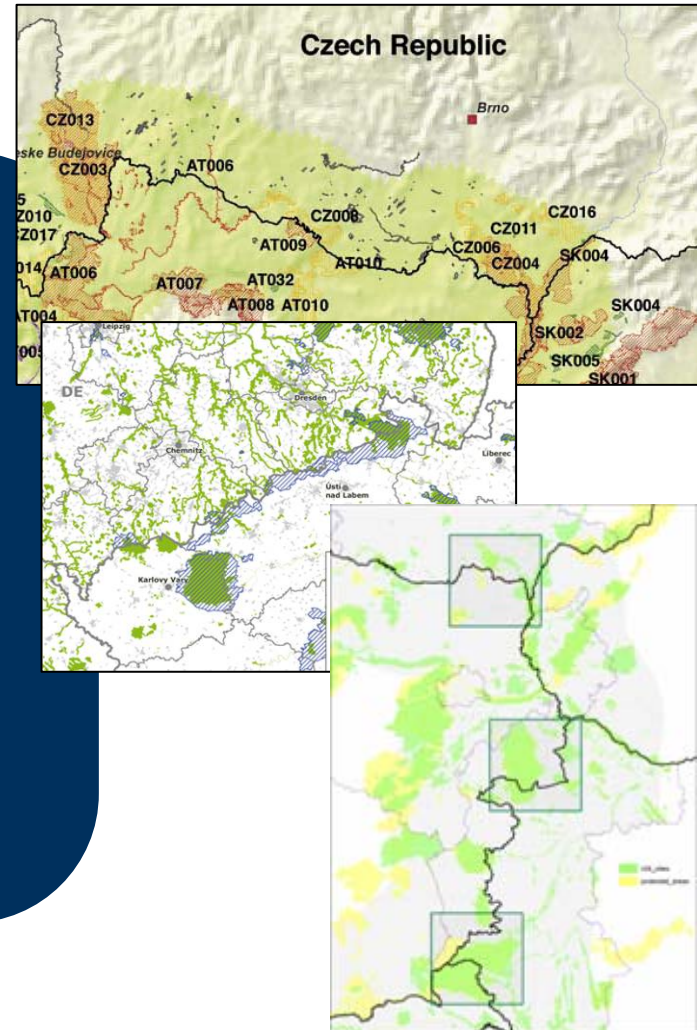


### 3 Activities and outputs

#### Inventory of transnational ecological networks (WP3)

- Gap and connectivity analysis
- Spatial structure analysis
- Investigation of existing ecological network cooperations and initiatives

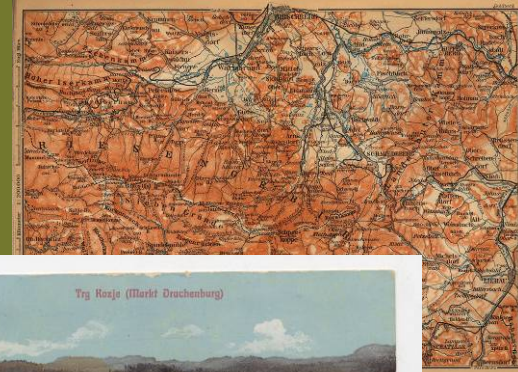
Outputs: Recommendations for a sustainable management of ecological networks



## History of ecological networks (WP4)

- Assessment of landscape change: land use and vegetation
- Comparative analysis of historical maps
- Evaluation of non-cartographic documents (e.g. photos, postcards, artworks, legends and myths)

Outputs: Spatial database with information of historical landscape development; recommendations for future land use within ecological networks





## Ecosystem services and biodiversity (WP5)

- Investigation of landscape fragmentation and of spatial dispersion of species
- Case studies for a sustainable management of ecosystem services

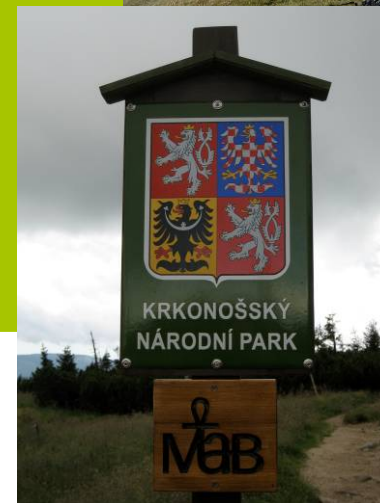
Outputs: Strategies for the development of transnational ecological networks and for a sustainable management of ecosystem services



## Awareness for natural and cultural heritage (WP6)

- Communication of ecological networks as biodiversity „lifelines“
- Strengthening peoples identification with their natural and cultural environment
- Visualisation of landscape change in maps, photos, documentary films etc.

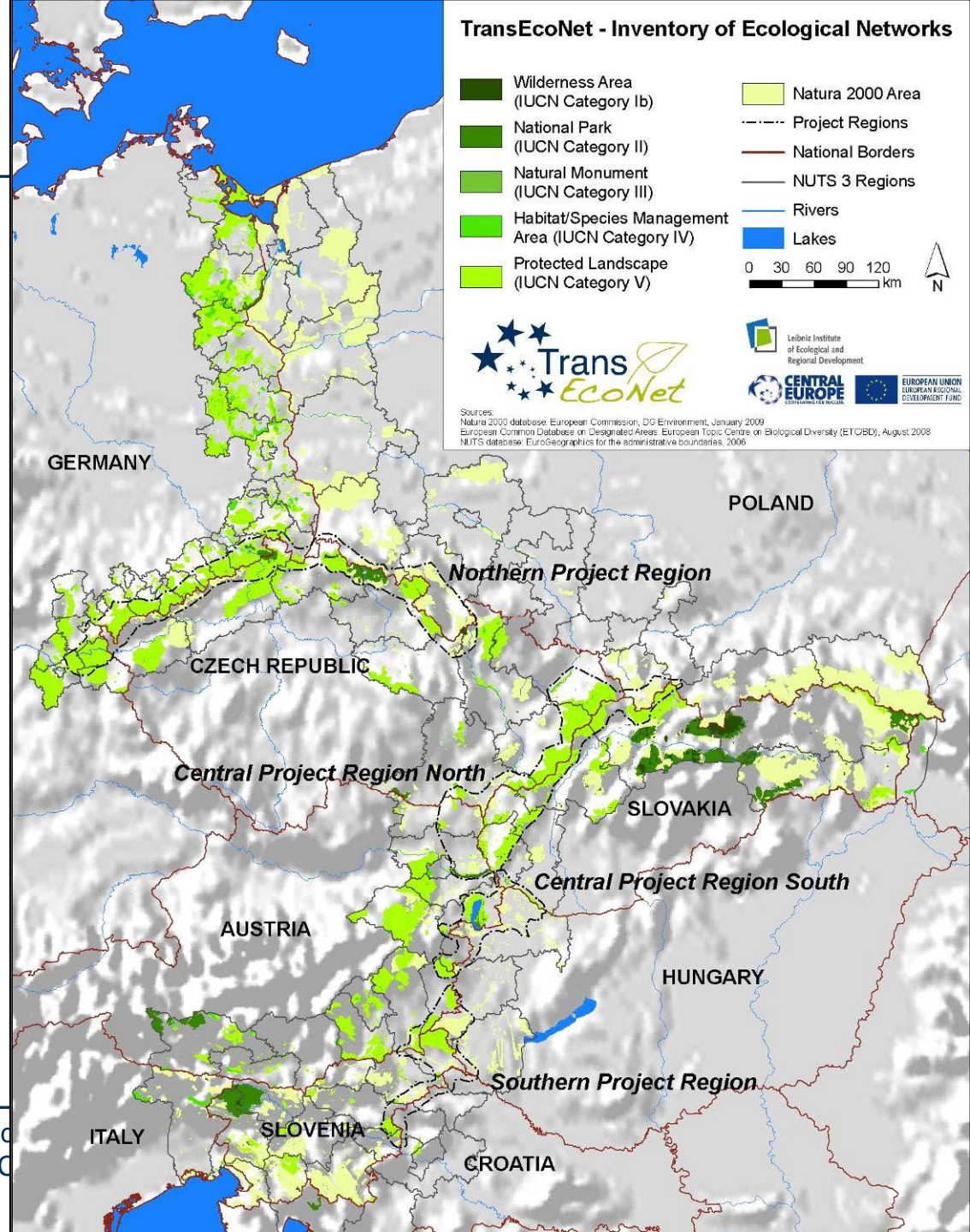
Outputs: International exhibitions and presentations, regional workshops and seminars, excursions, case studies





# 4 Project regions

Overview of the four TransEcoNet project regions

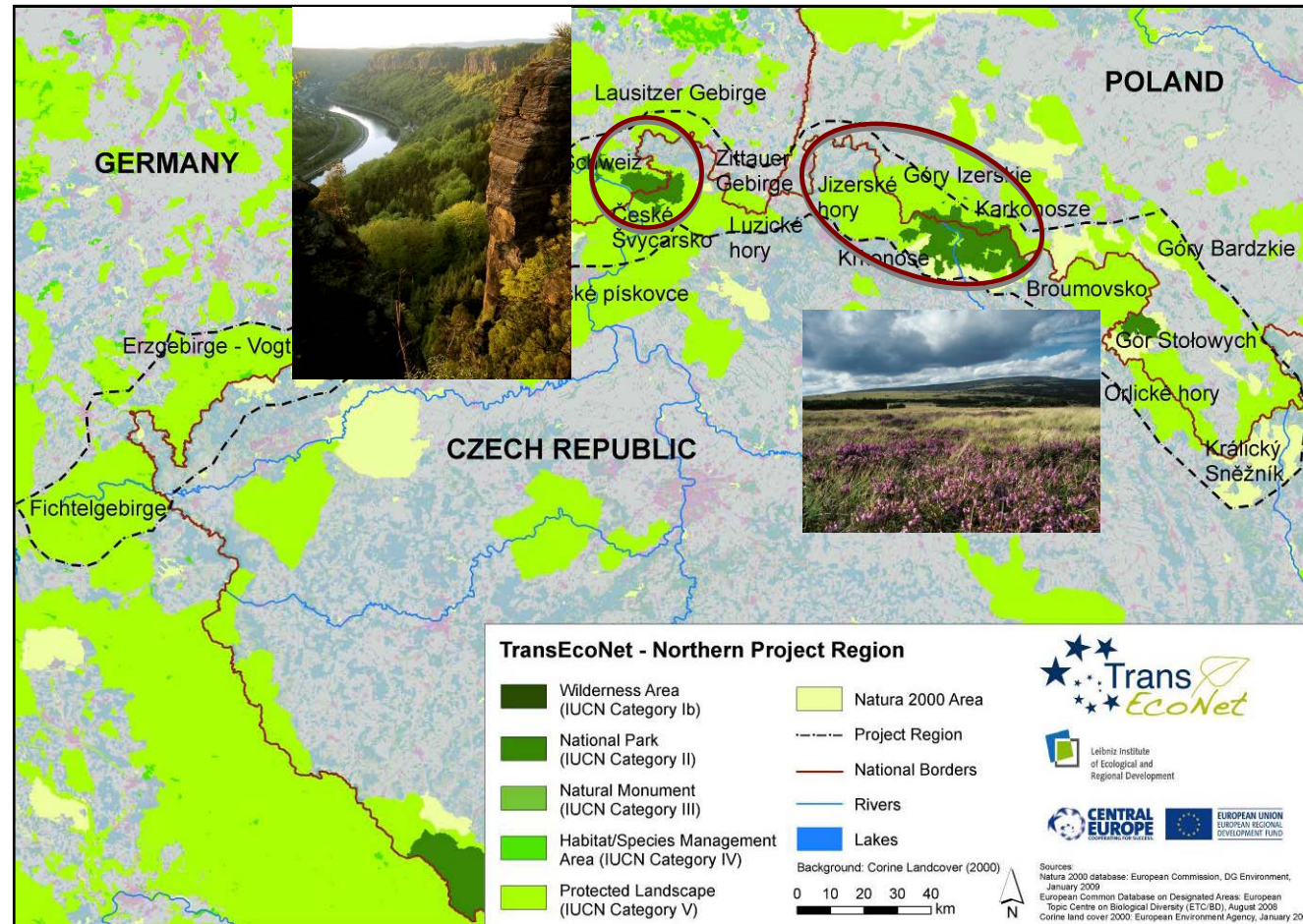




## Northern Project Region

Transboundary focal areas:

- Elbe Sandstone Mountains (CZ/DE)
- Giant and Jizera Mountains (CZ/PL)

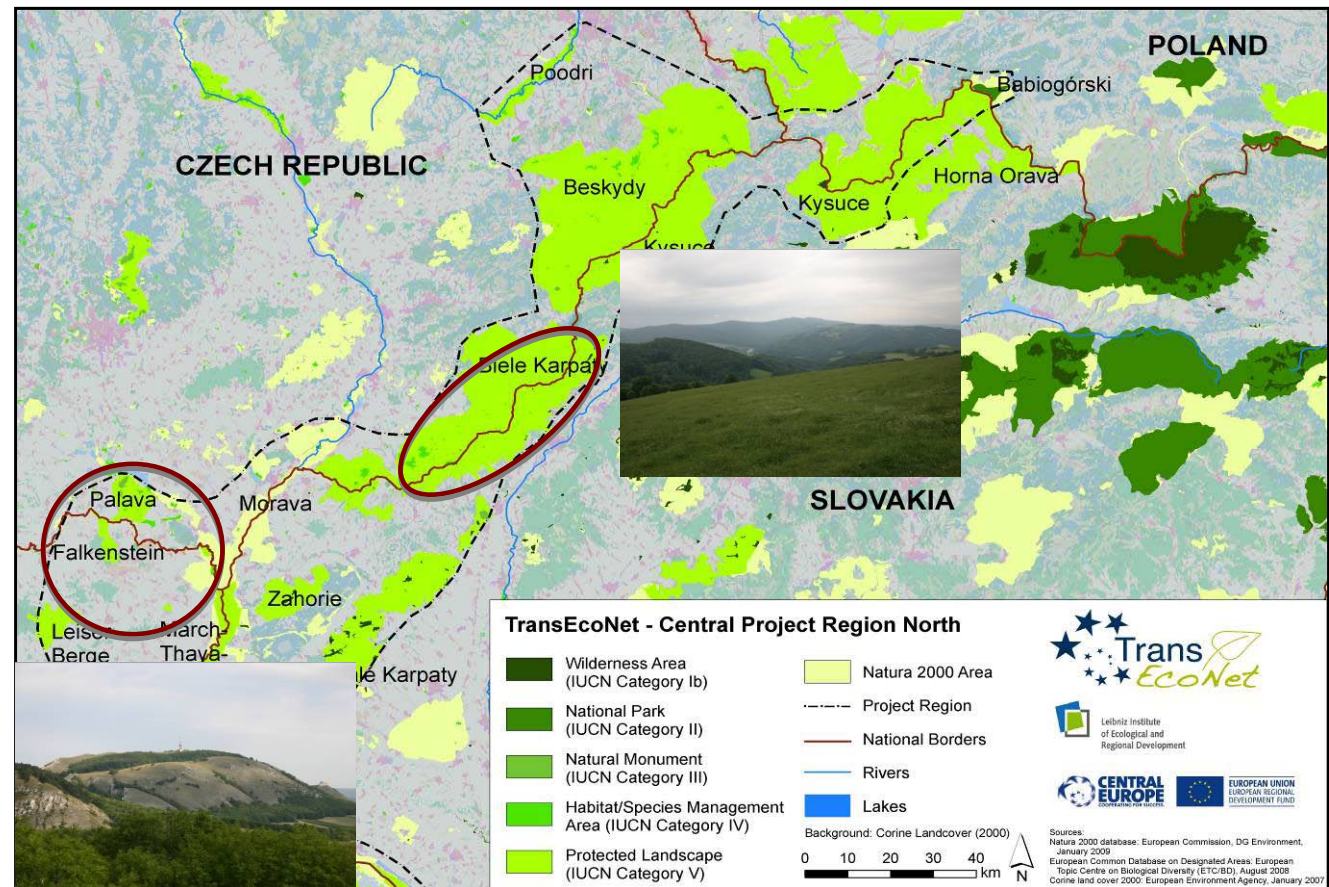




## Central Project Region North

Transboundary focal areas:

- Lower Dyje River/Northeastern Weinviertel (CZ/AT)
- White Carpathians (CZ/SK)

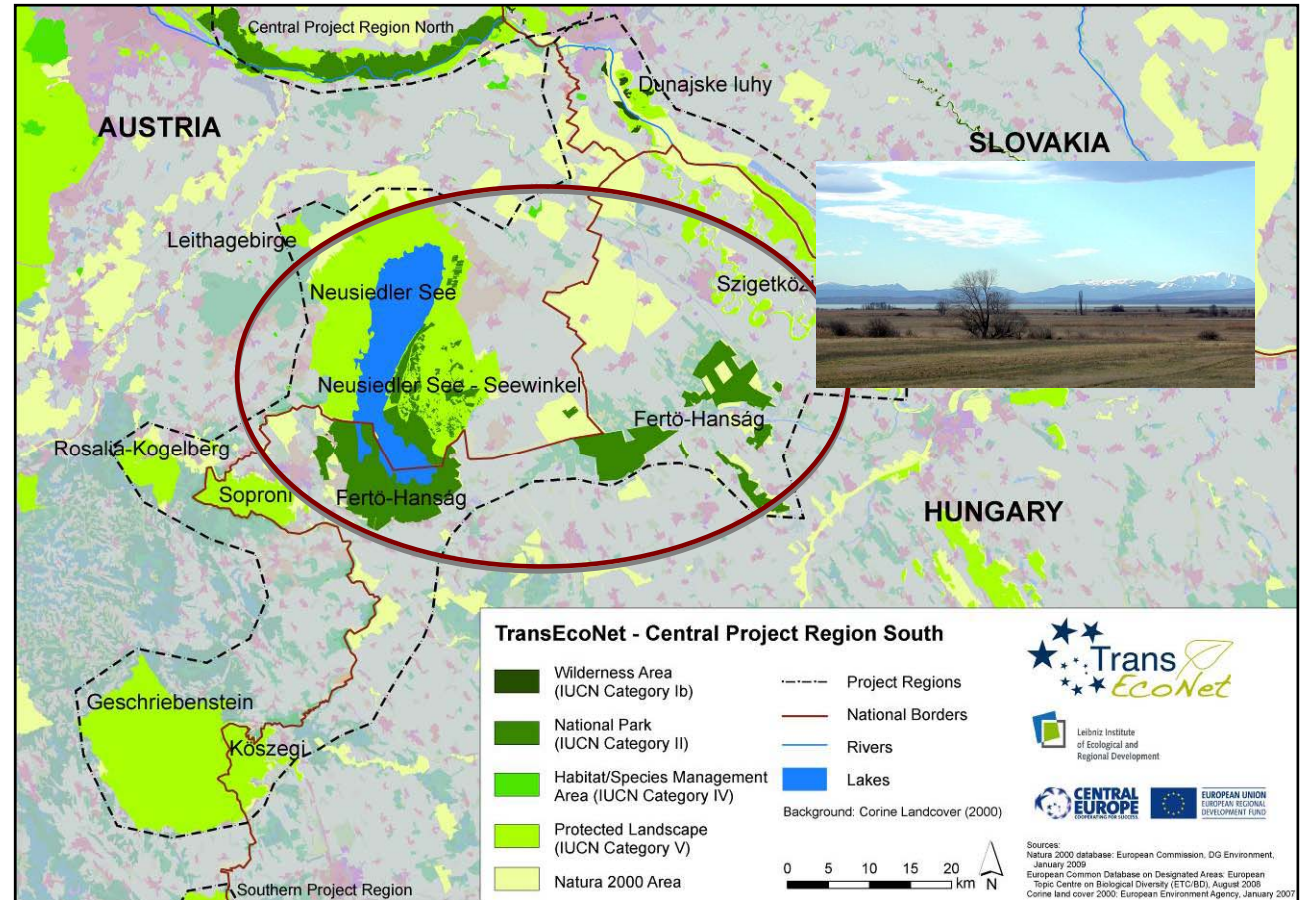




## Central Project Region South

Transboundary focal area:

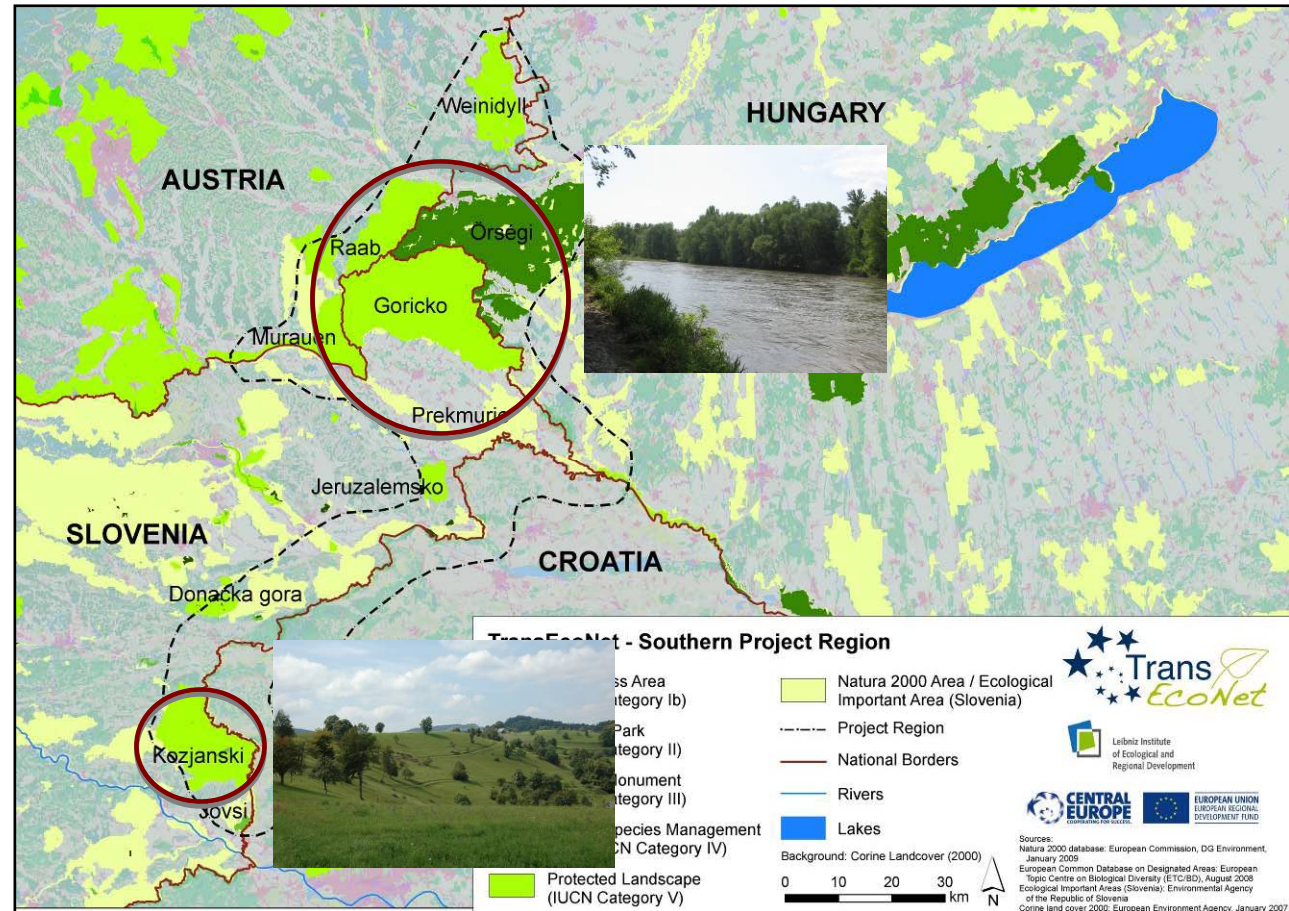
- Northern Burgenland/ Fertő-Hanság area (AT/HU)



## Southern Project Region

Transboundary focal area(s):

- Southern Burgenland/Örsegi NP area/Pomurje (AT/HU/SI)
- Kozjanski Park (SI)





## 5 Current actions

### WP3: Inventory of ecological networks

- Compilation of geographical maps on ecological networks in Central Europe on the Geoportal
- Spatial analyses of their transboundary connectivity
- Detection of distribution ranges of animal and plant species
- Mapping of potential ecological networks for wetland, woodland and mountainous habitats
- Investigation of existing initiatives on transnational ecological networks

### WP4: History of ecological networks

- Collection of historical maps and non-cartographic documents on natural and cultural heritage of the focal areas
- Assessment of land use and vegetation cover change
- Development of a spatial data model and structure for comparative historical map analysis
- Manual of tools for transnational matching of historical maps

### WP5: Ecosystem services and biodiversity

- Elaboration of basic concept for assessing landscape functionality and for evaluating ecosystem services at local and regional levels

### WP6: Awareness for natural and cultural heritage

- Production of documentary films showing the landscape change and interviews with contemporary witnesses in selected focal areas



## 6 TransECONeCt

- Transnational exchange of strategies, methods and tools
- Collaboration for raising political awareness of the importance of transnational ecological networks for nature protection in Europe
- Enhancement of the trans-European ecological network
- Support research activities on ecological networks → detection of common approaches, interests and ideas

Thank you!  
Merci!  
Danke!  
Grazie!  
Hvala!

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