

## Press release

### to project „Taste of Danubian Nature“

ID projektu: SKHU/1601/1.1/258

Slovak Environmental Agency (SAŽP) handed over a gazebo for use within a ceremony held in the Environmental Education Centre Dropie on 28th October 2019. The gazebo has been built within the cross-border project Taste of Danubian Nature. Part of the event was an improvised press briefing in the exterior of SEV Dropie, during which representatives of environmental education department and SEV Dropie informed about the development plans for the resort and the benefits of the Danube Nature Taste project.

The director of SEA Richard Müller welcomed the guests and in his speech he focused on development activities for the center realized within the project and the importance of cooperation of all key subjects in the region. He also focused on the idea of Naturparks in the context of nature conservation, as most of the area in which the project is implemented belongs to the NATURA 2000 protected area. As a result, SEV Dropie creates new spaces for experiential learning, which will become an organic part of the new concept of cross-border Naturpark with an emphasis on environmental education. Norbert Kurilla, the State Secretary of Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic (MŽP SR) also approached the model of multi-source financing of the Center on the example of SEV Dropie. At the same time, he introduced the planned project within the framework of the SK Climate Program - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, which is administered by the Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic and will be implemented as a predefined project Center for Climate Change and Environmental Education. Katka Vajliková from SEV Dropie SEA presented the activities and outputs of the project Taste of Danubian Nature in details.

The project involves environmental and state institutions from Slovakia and Hungary, 20 Slovak and 30 Hungarian municipalities, associations, entrepreneurs and local residents. It has been being implemented from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 under the Interreg V-A Slovak Republic - Hungary Cooperation Program. It is financed from the European Regional Development Fund, the state budget of Slovak Republic and Hungary and from the resources of the project partners.

The project has carried out a number of activities on both sides of the border. In the Slovak territory, for example, the Association of Municipalities of Lower Rye Island 3,500 original species of fruit trees and shrubs will be

added, there will be 35 insect hotels built, 9 rocker wells, 35 birdhouses, 4 bird observation towers, 33 photo traps, 20 rain gardens and 222 small infrastructure pieces (benches, trash cans, boards). In Gönyű, a nature trail was built on the Danube Promenade, insect hotels, info-points were placed and the Fishery Association in Gönyű reconstructed the building for the tourist-fishing center. A festival of Taste of Danubian Nature was organized in Klížská Nemá and the 247-year-old building for the Ethnographic Museum was restored in Zlatná na Ostrov.

Thanks to the project, SEV SAŽP is building the above mentioned adventure center, which includes not only a gazebo with IT and wifi connection that will serve as an external classroom and for community activities, but also a sensory path, funicular, rain garden, bird observation towers, wooden farm buildings for animals. Within the project, the center also carries out bioremediation of the lake (non-mechanical cleaning), revitalized the source of drinking water, planted a nursery of the original fruit trees of the region and carried out studies of rain gardens for the Lower Rye Island. The Bratislava Regional Conservation Association has improved the ecotourism center in Veľký Lél with new benches, gazebos, rocker wells, playground elements, trash cans, bicycle stands and a boat for educational excursions and horse carriage. Slovak Water Management Company plans to purchase a multifunctional machine for cutting and removing water plants. The project website was also created and information on the INTERREG V-A Slovak Republic - Hungary Cooperation Program was added to the partners' subpages. The Danube tourist mobile application has also been improved.

*The aim of the Taste of the Danube Nature project is to preserve the natural and cultural heritage and use it for rural development. The project is based on the Naturpark philosophy, which aims not only to protect the natural and cultural heritage, environmental, rural development, tourism and recreation, but also to shape public opinion. The implementation of know-how was provided by the main cross-border Hungarian partner, Által-ér Vízgyűjtő Helyreállítási és Fejlesztési Szövetség, who is one of the founding members of the Naturpark Gerecse in Hungary. More information about Taste of Danubian Nature project and its partners can be found on the project website [www.danubenaturpark.sk](http://www.danubenaturpark.sk).*

The content of this press release does not necessarily represent the official position of the European Union. (You can find detailed information on [www.skhu.eu](http://www.skhu.eu))

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