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IENE advice

The planned Lugoj–Deva motorway and its potential impact on the connectivity of Natura 2000 sites within the Carpathian mountains of Romania.

The Lugoj–Deva motorway in Romania is an important part of the Pan European Transportation TENT-T Corridor IV. It is co-funded by the European Commission, through the Cohesion Fund, and by the Romanian Government [Europe Aid/122273/D/SER/RO] and is expected to significantly improve transport and communication opportunities in the region.

Unfortunately, the motorway will intersect an important habitat corridor for large carnivores and other species that move between Natura 2000 sites in the Southern and Western Carpathians (Apuseni Mountains). This corridor already suffers from existing transportation infrastructure impact and land use developments, and will completely lose its function if the motorway is constructed without making provision for ecological connectivity.

To protect the biodiversity capital of the region and avoid future claims for reparation of the Natura 2000 network, it is necessary to include appropriate mitigation options in the planning and design of the motorway. Such mitigation measures may consist of fauna passages, ecoducts or other facilities that allow wildlife to safely cross the motorway. Experience shows that the earlier such mitigation can be integrated in the planning process, the less costly and the more effective it is upon completion. Knowledge on how to plan, design and place such measures has been developed in long-term European collaboration and expert advice or assistance can now be easily accessed through the Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE).

IENE is a pan-European network of experts on transport infrastructure, landscape ecology and wildlife mitigation. Since 1996, the network helps national agencies and governmental bodies to exchange knowledge with and benefit from experiences in other countries. It has had an advisory role in many infrastructure development projects across Europe as it bridges between the sectors of transport and environment, between practice and science, planning and implementation.

We therefore gladly invite the respective parties involved in the planning of the Lugoj–Deva motorway to make contact with IENE experts and take advantage of the combined European expertise on how to design a state-of-the-art infrastructure. If planned and built appropriately, the costs for an environmentally sustainable infrastructure may be considerably less than anticipated, and the long term benefits may far exceed the original goal.

We also believe that such foresight will yield a significant value for the political and economic development of the eastern European countries

With best regards,

on behalf of the IENE Steering committee,

Lazaros Georgiadis, Andreas Seiler and Anders Sjölund (IENE chair person)