PRESS RELEASE

Joint protection of bats in cross-border regions of Romania and Ukraine by raising environmental awareness in local communities

Satu Mare, 18 September 2026

Project ID: ROUA00346

The protection of bats has become one of today's urgent environmental priorities, given that the loss of these species can disrupt ecological balance. European bat species are particularly vulnerable due to their specific life cycles, including winter hibernation and sensitive periods in maternity colonies, as well as threats caused by human activities such as deforestation, construction, and the destruction of roosts in buildings and urban parks.

To address these challenges, a collaborative cross-border strategy is needed, as bats move and settle across landscapes without recognizing administrative boundaries. The BAT2LIFE project aims to support the protection of bats and raise environmental awareness in local communities across the Romanian-Ukrainian border region. Building on a five-year history of cross-border cooperation, the project draws inspiration from the success of previous initiatives.

The project is **led by E-Consult Association, Satu Mare**, in partnership with the **Institute of Ecological and Religious Studies (IERS)** from Uzhhorod, Ukraine. The project is funded through the Interreg VI-A NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme 2021–2027.

The total project budget is EUR 391,555.80, of which the EU contribution is EUR 352,400.22.

Over the course of 18 months, the project has focused on the joint protection of bats in Romanian-Ukrainian cross-border areas, involving local communities. A comprehensive communication and environmental education strategy was implemented, contributing to three main outcomes: increased community involvement, the promotion of sustainable bat protection practices, and greater public awareness through continuous campaigns.

The project has promoted ecological education about bats in the cross-border region of Romania and Ukraine, including a children's creative competition in Ukraine, community activities promoting good practices in bat protection, and the installation of professional bat boxes and owl nest boxes for local communities.

Innovatively, the project also introduces a mobile application to support bat conservation efforts by providing an interactive platform for information sharing and environmental education. In addition, a tabletop game centered on bat conservation makes learning about bats enjoyable and engaging for children. These creative and technological tools complement traditional environmental education methods, reaching wider audiences and encouraging a deeper understanding of bat conservation.

BAT NIGHT – A SPECIAL PROJECT EVENT IN SÁNDORHOMOK

As part of the BAT2LIFE project, a special **Bat Night** event will take place on **19 September 2026 from 16:00 at the Sándorhomoki Manor House (Sándorhomoki Kúria)**.

The event will offer an opportunity for children, families, and members of the local community to discover the fascinating world of bats through interactive and educational activities. Participants will be able to learn more about bats, their ecological importance, and the ways in which local communities can contribute to their protection.

The event will also highlight the project's environmental education activities and its efforts to promote bat conservation across the Romanian-Ukrainian cross-border region.

We warmly invite representatives of the press to attend this event where they will have the opportunity to learn more about the BAT2LIFE project, meet participants, and report on this special community event dedicated to bat conservation.

For further details about the event, please contact the project organizers.

For more information, please contact:

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