



# Protected Wildlife, Shared Environment

*Preserving Habitats and Overcoming Myths*

## Vanishing Shelters and the Threat to Biodiversity

For years, Romanian and Ukrainian experts worked together to monitor bat populations and their natural habitats. Through this fieldwork, partners discovered a shared crisis on both sides of the border: bats are rapidly losing their nesting shelters due to urban development, building renovations, and habitat degradation.

When bat habitats disappear, regional biodiversity is placed at risk. These night mammals are essential guardians of our environment—acting as natural pest controllers and maintaining the balance of shared ecosystems. Yet, deep-rooted myths still cloud public perception, preventing local communities from recognizing bats as key allies in biodiversity conservation.



## The Next Step

The findings from earlier research made one thing clear: protecting regional biodiversity could no longer stop at scientific data collection. There was an urgent need to translate academic studies into active, field-based conservation.

To bridge this gap, partners from Romania and Ukraine joined forces to involve local citizens, schools, and youth directly in safeguarding wildlife and taking active responsibility for the survival of these critical ecosystem protectors.





## Two organisations combining their expertise ...

**E-Consult Association Satu-Mare, Romania, Romania**



biodiversity research, environmental education, and community conservation coordinator

**Institute of Ecological and Religious Studies (IERS), Ukraine**



ecological research, wildlife educational materials, and local community mobilization

## ... and the project

***BAT2LIFE - Joint protection of bats in cross border regions of Romania and Ukraine by raising environmental awareness in local communities (ROUA00346)***

*Together, the partners are building a long-term collaboration focused on wildlife protection, innovative biodiversity education, and sustainable cross-border environmental responsibility.*

*"Before the project, many children knew bats only from stories and myths. Today they learn about their ecological importance and their vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems through games and direct observation."*

*- Participant in an environmental education activity*



- Developing **Europe's first bat identification mobile application** to offer a freely accessible digital tool that connects citizens directly with local wildlife tracking and biodiversity monitoring.
- Creating interactive ecological tools such as a specialized thematic board game, creative competitions, and targeted biodiversity awareness packages for schools.
- Deploying practical shelter solutions by constructing and installing 200 artificial bat boxes across the cross-border region to actively replace lost natural habitats and restore safe breeding zones.
- Organizing direct community activities including youth workshops, wildlife protection training, and hands-on conservation sessions to teach the public how to coexist with protected species.
- Formulating a Joint Strategy to ensure sustained, long-term cross-border policy coordination for the permanent protection of regional bat species and their habitats.



## What changes with the project ...

- In communities, **citizens transform into active biodiversity guardians**, learning the ecological value of bats, dismantling harmful myths, and actively maintaining artificial wildlife shelters.
- Inside institutions, **schools and environmental centers receive specialized ecological toolkits** and digital learning assets to teach biodiversity effectively, scientifically, and attractively.
- Across the border, Romanian and Ukrainian partners **build a unified ecological network**, successfully matching scientific wildlife data with synchronized practical protection on the ground.
- The **mobile application and joint strategy** will continue serving as open, long-term public tools for wildlife education, environmental tracking, and cross-border biodiversity mapping long after the project ends.



## ... and the lessons learned

Ecosystem conservation becomes truly effective when scientific research is translated into visible, practical community action to protect wildlife.

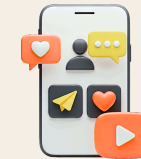
Overcoming misconceptions about protected species requires continuous, creative environmental communication and early educational intervention.

Interactive tools successfully bridge the gap between youth engagement, wildlife empathy, and active biodiversity awareness.

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The ecological cooperation network established through BAT2LIFE will continue far beyond the implementation period, maintaining a secure cross-border habitat infrastructure and a permanent human alliance for wildlife protection.



Scan and watch ...

## Project Info

- Implementation period: 18 months
- Start / End: March-25 to September-26
- Budget: 391,555.80 EUR (352,400.22 EUR grant)
- Contact: Mr. Tamás Sike -Project Manager  
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Nature and biodiversity do not stop at borders. The **legacy of this project will be a resilient network of safe wildlife shelters**, better-informed communities, and a profound respect for the species that keep our cross-border ecosystems alive and healthy.

By combining science, interactive education, and active local cooperation, Romania and Ukraine are transforming ecological knowledge into **a shared, secure future for regional wildlife conservation.**

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