

*"Mysli globálne, konaj lokálne – Think globally, act locally"*

THE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF ECOSYSTEM  
FUNCTIONS OF UPPER  
CATCHMENT AREA  
OF RIVER ONDAVA

**ONDAVA FOR LIFE**

information booklet

ondava

pre život  
ondava for life

2014-2020  
eea  
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ondava  
pre život  
ondava for life



## INTRODUCTION



As the mayor of Nižná Polianka, the village that covers project implementation Ondava for life, I must say we have succeeded in creating one wonderful product whose legitimacy in today's world of climate change is undeniable. Our activities have not only contributed to building measures, but above all we achieved a change of mind of the local population towards accepting and appreciating as valuable what they have.

We also made people to understand how much their small steps can contribute to environmental protection. No less important indicator of the project is its social dimension in which was applied the untapped labor potential of the local population. I believe we can share our experiences so that our work will inspire the others. /Mgr. Ján Cundra, the mayor of the village/



In my opinion, project Ondava for Life, within the password – “Think globally, act locally” drew the attention of the local inhabitants to a global problem – climatic change and it pointed the inhabitants for the possibility of threats to their environment in the context of this global issue on a local scale. The project demonstrated a real possibility to realize adaptation measures “tailored” locally, to respond to the global problem and to perceive the requirement of adaptation to consequences of climate change. However, this is only the first swallow and we believe that there will be more, they are very useful. /Ing. Viera Dujakovičová, project manager/



Personally I see this project as a creative process that is very closely associated with the experience. At the beginning we have studied the experience of our predecessors who tried to achieve similar goals in the past, and also practical and theoretical knowledge of the scientific department. In the executive phase of the project we gained own experience and on the basis of our own mistakes we have been forced to rectify several original concepts and procedures. The experience which we have gained, today represents an extensive range of knowledge and we are ready to share them with the interested people, professional and lay public. We believe that our experiences will contribute to adaptation the country to the ongoing climatic change. /Ing. Vladimír Jenčurák, expert supervisor of the project/

## DURING THE PROJECT ONDAVA FOR LIFE

### **V1 activity – Creation of adaptation strategy**

Regional strategy of adaptation of upper catchment area of river Ondava (RASHO) is the first regional strategy of adaptation in Slovakia that was prepared after approval by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2014, The strategy of adaptation of Slovakia to the adverse effects of climate change. This national strategy recommends that regions develop their own strategies, but in terms of methodology of their preparation, it leaves them more or less free rein. When we had been realizing RASHO, we had not had any generally accepted and proven work procedure, therefore we had been working on the basis of our own knowledge and some examples from the European Union.

Our natural effort was to detect the potential susceptibility of country to climate change and compare it with its current state. According to the type of potential risks and fair values of individual types of ecosystems, we have subsequently suggested a range of eco-stabilizing measures which we believe they will help the country to adapt to the ongoing processes caused by climate change.

The objectives were achieved by combination of modern software's landscape ecological GIS applications based on a detailed field survey at 44 cadastral areas. Logically, we assumed that the proposals of adaptation measures will be followed in the area where their effectiveness will be their maximum. In this phase of the project we faced of the barrier of ownership relations and more often user relations. Several subjects have refused their participation in the project and we were forced their areas excluding from the project area. The most common reason for refusal were doubts of complicated movement of vehicles on their today's large, unspoiled plots. The greater thanks go to the owners and farmers who supported our efforts and gave us their plots available. Slovak Land Fund is a very helpful provider, whose consent was indispensable for us.

The result of communication with farmers and was a compromise between the ideal and possible placement of adaptation measures. It has been proposed 505 adaptation measures with minimal ability to hold water 625,000 cubic meters of water in line with our commitment. Each proposed measure was in accordance with the Building Act and we obtained a decision on its siting.

The first step towards the implementation of concrete measures was to analyze the project area in terms of ecosystems, vulnerability and way of usage. As a part of this activity it was charted a territory of 44 municipalities involved in the project.





*Opening conference was held at Ozone in Bardejov Spa*



*View on the participants of the opening conference*



*Professional staff of the project at the field survey*



*Professional staff of the project at the field survey*



*The regional adaptation strategy of the upper catchment area of the river Ondava was officially presented to the public at a professional conference in Nižná Polianka*

### **V2 activity – Realization of adaption measures**

Unemployed residents were approached with a particular proposition on the work in the implementation of adaptation measures in the field at the time of finalisation of the adaptation strategies. There were over 1400 job seekers in evidence of UPSVaR the districts of Svidník and Bardejov /44 municipalities of the project territories/ at the time of recruitment. The selection was implemented in close cooperation with UPSVaR and local communities of the project which have expressed an interest of cooperation, through public meetings and informational activities. 22 meetings were held in 14 municipalities. More than 400 of the unemployed showed the interest and 150 of them were involved in the project implementation over a period of 9 months. After the training they started to work on the seepage strips and excavation of erosive trenches and later they were involved in the implementation of adaptation measures in the form of wooden, gabion dams etc. More than 1900 trees and bushes were planted in the framework of the project.



*The interest in work within the project was big, also from women.*



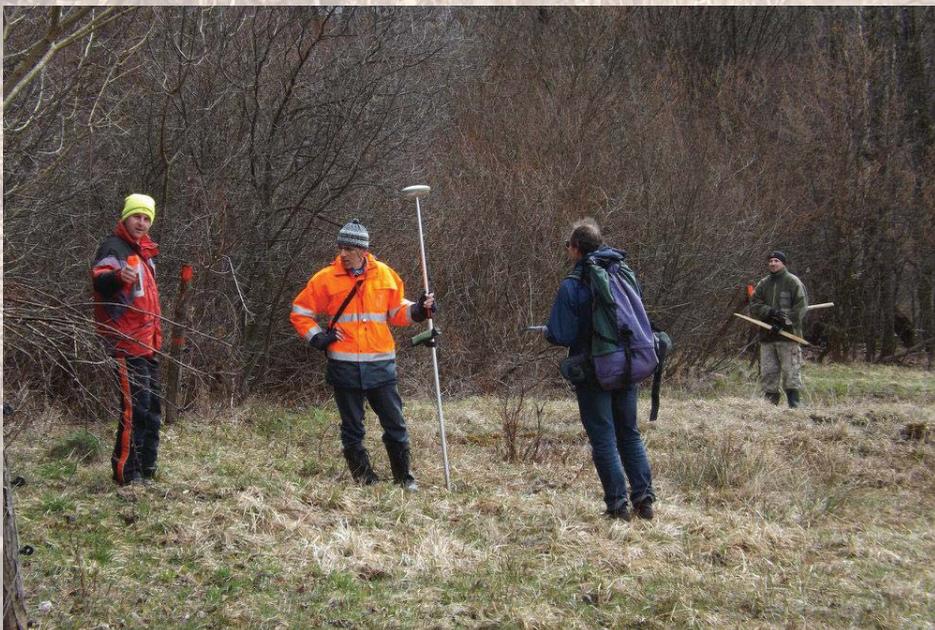
*Planting trees in the village Dubová*



*Implementation of wooden dam in Kečkovce*



*Mentoring for building of gabion dams in Vagrinec*



*The place where we can place an adaptation measure, must be precisely localized*



*Working group in implementing of retention ditch*

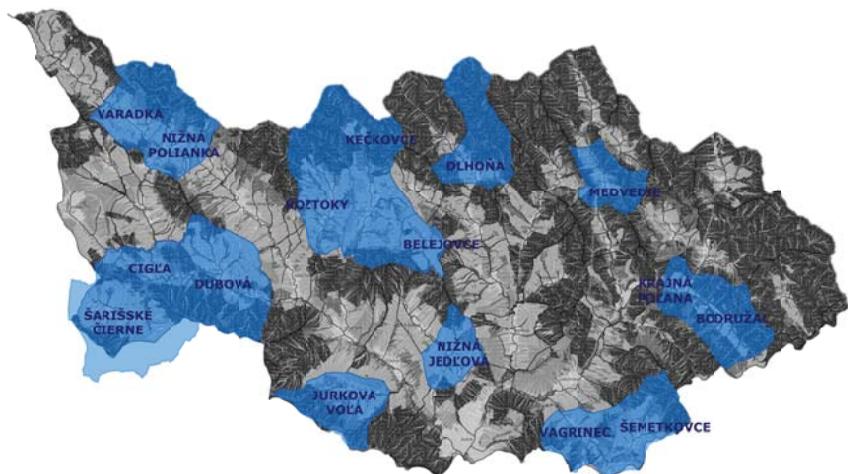


*Visiting of Norwegian experts and a representative of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Slovak republic and representatives of the program manager of the Slovak Government Office*

The consequences of heavy fighting have arisen during project implementation on the project site during the 1st and 2nd World War. Work had to be suspended due to found artillery shells, mines and other munition.



*Findings during the project (ammunition from the fighting which lasted during the 2nd World War) in the village Nižná Jedlová*



*The upper catchment area of river Ondava – project area, showing sixteen actively involved cadasters.*

Specific measures utilised mainly proposals of their own measures according to Catalogue of adaptation measures, but when we carried out the detailed current evaluation of the actual situation in the field, we had to change a modification of the shape and construction reasonably.

The created and gradually developed source of solutions like this, in the following periods should assist the owners, users and administrators in the sequel of the implementation of measures well beyond the scope of this project, in the interest of the joint fulfilment of its objectives.

Catalogue and the actual design solution measures which were presented, now they are appropriate inspiration for the municipalities, their mayors, or municipal enterprises to apply our knowledge as their solutions to fight climate change in their region in these specific conditions.



*R – retention ditch - Šarišské Čierne*



*J – section of holes - Roztoky*



*P – adjustment of culvert - Kečkovce*



*G – gabion dam - Dlhoňa*



*G – gabion dam - Vagrinec*



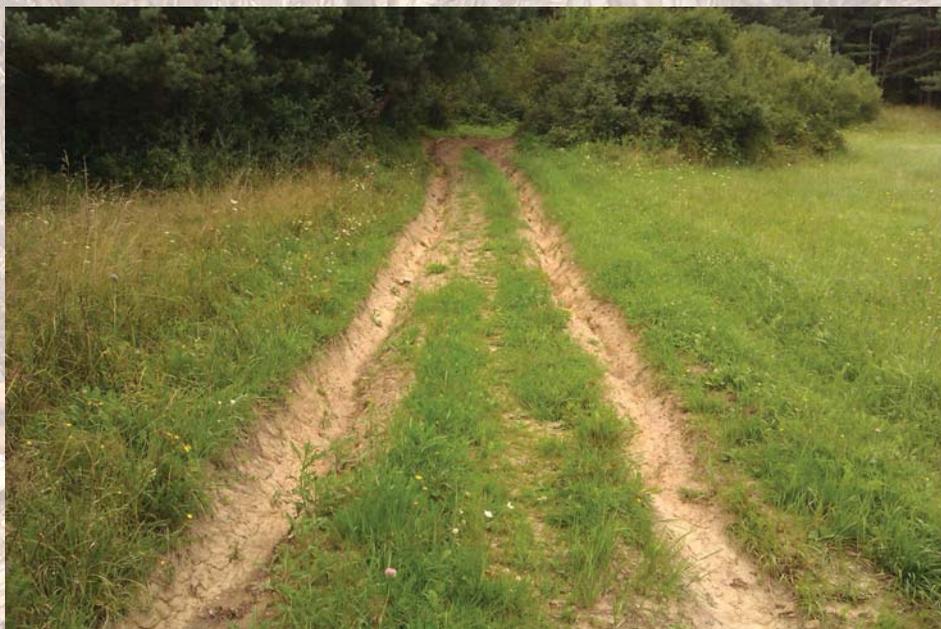
*V – abutment of waterside - Jurkova Voľa*



*DH - wooden dams - Šarišské Čierne*



*O - catchwater drain on the road - Dubová*



*D – situation before the implementation of the drainage rib - Roztoky*



*D – situation after the implementation of the drainage rib - Roztoky*



*K - stone backfilling - Šarišské Čierne*



*B - ford - Nižná Polianka*



*VJ – seepage pit - Vagrinec*



*K – vegetation corridor - Šarišské Čierne*



*DH – wooden dam- Jurkova Voľa*



*G – gabion dam - Krajná Poľana*



*DH – wooden dam - Kečkovce*



*G – gabion retaining wall - Šarišské Čierne*

### **V3 activity – The networking of partners**

An important part of the project is to ensure its sustainability and adult education of the local population in the questions of the consequences of climate change. To ensure this task were carried out several meetings with different groups of local inhabitants / local government, pupils, the general public/ and 2 conferences for the general public, children and young people. The representatives of municipalities, farmers, forest managers, the representatives of forest union, volunteer fire departments and all who are interested in their environment and the consequences of climate change were invited at the meetings in the municipalities of the region, to the workshops and conferences. The non-profit organization Ondava for Life was the result of the creation and it will be in addition to maintenance of constructed measures and their gradual expansion, to perform also educational and awareness-raising activities. The very important was also the work with children for who were organized several competitions and workshops with an ecological theme in cooperation with all elementary schools in the region.



*The local populations, farmers, the representatives of municipalities, firefighters and the others were invited at the meetings. The project managers were interested in to obtaining information for the analysis of RASHO and at the same time they offered cooperation to other project activities.*



*Picture of a working meeting of project management*



*Picture of a climate change workshop for children and youth in Nižná Polianka*



*Active participants of competition: Ondava eyes of children*



*All eight schools in the project area were engaged in the competition Ondava eyes of children. More than 200 children of elementary school level showed us how they are aware of their surroundings, environment, streams and rivers with their collages, drawings and paintings.*



*The best pictures were exhibited for public during the training conference in January 2015*

In the framework of the awareness-raising activities was organized a workshop for the local government and workers of the project Ondava for Life with a topic of invasive plants which are also one of the phenomena of the consequences of climate change and they occur in the project area. It was obvious, according to the activity of the local population that the topic was interesting and the issue occurs in their territory.



*Workshop about invasive plants in the village Hunkovce*

## Thanks

An important and positive role in the whole process of the project implementation played except managers, experts, our staff from the ranks of the unemployed and also our partners – the Embassy of the Norwegian kingdom, the administrator of the program – the Office of the Government of Slovak republic, SPF, without their aid and cooperation we could not realize the project as we present in this short informative booklet.



*Close cooperation between the project participants and representatives of the Administrator of the program*

## **BASIC INFO ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The name of the project:

**The reconstruction of ecosystem functioning of the landscape within the upper site of the Ondava river catchment area – ONDAVA FOR LIFE**

program: Financial mechanism EHP 2009 – 2014

the administrator of the program: The Office of the government of the Slovak republic

the challenge: ACC01 in the framework of Adaptation to climate change – prevention of floods and drought

the name of the programme area: Adapting to climate change – prevention of floods and drought

the date of project commencement : **02.07.2014**

the date of the project completion: **30.04.2016**

duration: **22 months**

the applicant/recipient of the financial contribution: **Municipality Nižná Polianka**

partners:

**The association of towns and municipalities of Slovakia  
Forests of the Slovak Republic**

**State nature conservancy of the Slovak republic**

**Foundation for the protection of biodiversity of the Carpathians /till 02.12.2015/**

**Municipality Šarišské Čierne /from 22.01.2016/**

**Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute (Norwegian kingdom) The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)**

the nature of the project: an integrated project which uses the principles of multisector partnerships

the main objective of the project: **Adapting to climate change, the prevention of flood and drought**

specific objectives of the project: **Developed strategy and measures for adapting to climate changing**

main activities:

**Creation of the adaptatin strategy**

**Implementation of the proposed measures in the country**

**The networking of partners**

The results of the project:

**The number of the developed strategic documents devoted to out by adaptation measures – 1**

**The total number of created individual seepage measures – 505**

**The capacity of created seepage measures ( m3) – 625000**

**The number of elaborated project documentation of flood protection measures– 1**

**The number of communities involved in the implementation of the project – 44**

**The number of national and foreign institutions involved in the project– 10**

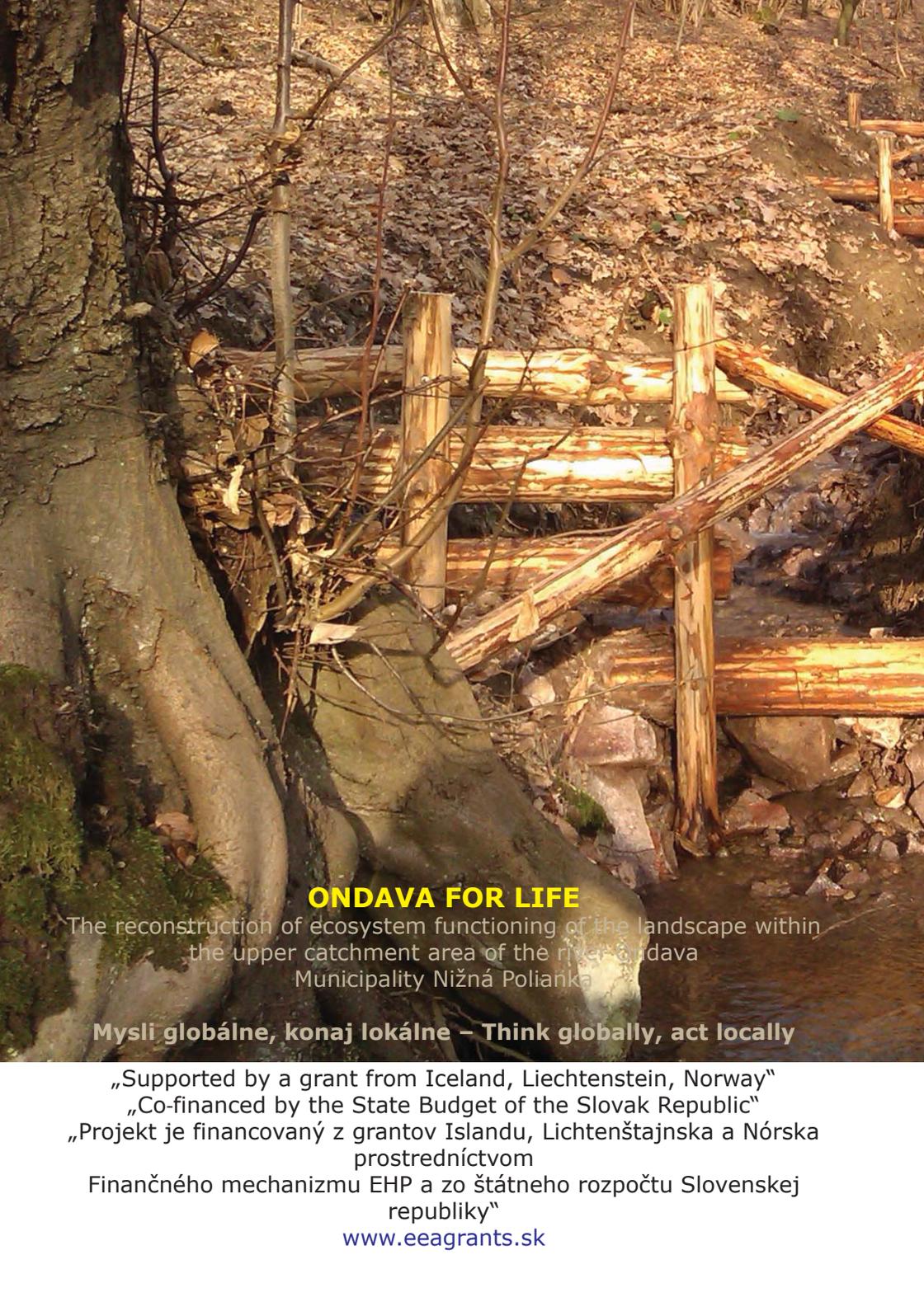
**The number of newborn institutions: non-profit organization responsible for the sustainability of the project results – 1**

The total eligible expenditure of the project: **1 681 738 €**

Project grant Funds EHP and ŠR SR: **1 429 477 € (85% from the total budget of the project)**

Co-financing from own resources: **252 261 € (15% from the total budget of the project)**

Website : [www.ondavaprezivot.sk](http://www.ondavaprezivot.sk)



## **ONDAVA FOR LIFE**

The reconstruction of ecosystem functioning of the landscape within  
the upper catchment area of the river Ondava  
Municipality Nižná Polianka

**Mysli globálne, konaj lokálne – Think globally, act locally**

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prostredníctvom

Finančného mechanizmu EHP a zo štátneho rozpočtu Slovenskej  
republiky“

[www.eegrants.sk](http://www.eegrants.sk)