LIFE Project Number

LIFE10 NAT/SK/079

FINAL Report

Covering the project activities from 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015

Reporting Date

<31/03/2016>

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym

Protection of Common Swift (Apus apus) and bats in buildings in Slovakia

Project Data

Project location	Slovak Republic
Project start date:	01/01/2012
Project end date:	31/12/2015 **Extension date:** NA
Total Project duration (in months)	48 months
Total budget	1,481,248 €
Total eligible budget	1,279,136.80 €
EU contribution:	639,568.40 €
(%) of total costs	50
(%) of eligible costs	50

Beneficiary Data

Name Beneficiary	Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (BROZ)
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2. Executive Summary

Nearly 99% of the Slovak swift population breeds in buildings. It is estimated that majority of Common Noctule bat population in Slovakia (thousands of individuals all year round) uses buildings as roosting sites. Both birds and bats can be found in ventilation shafts, attic roofs, cracks, church towers etc. The species also occupy artificial boxes, in particular if there are no suitable sites available in the area.

Recently the greatest threat to birds and bats in urban areas has been reconstruction and thermal insulation of buildings. This trend has been increasing and it was likely that the Swift population would collapse within the next 10-20 years in most of the country if no appropriate measures were taken.

The overall project objective was to stop the recent decline of the Common Swift and Common Noctule populations in Slovakia in urban areas and to enhance their local populations through protection of their nesting and roosting sites. As a result of concrete conservation actions applied during the project number of nesting sites for populations of Swifts as well as other birds species was increased on 417 sites in Slovakia. During the project's implementation number of roosting sites per square kilometer has been increased on more than 16 locations in all 8 regional capitals. It can be concluded that the overall project's goal was achieved.

Both target species are listed as species of European importance. Therefore the project aimed also to achieve their favourable conservation status in Slovakia. Specific project objectives were to: (1) halt the recent decline of populations in all cities in Slovakia; (2) establish and further strengthen institutional conditions through seminars and trainings for stakeholders focusing on conservation of birds and bats in buildings; (3) protect existing nesting and roosting sites and create new ones through installation of special boxes; and (4) increase public awareness on importance and protection of birds and bats in urban areas.

Through implementation of its actions the project achieved: (1) stabilization or even increasing of number of nesting sites (from 6,083 sites recorded in 2012 to 12,739 sites recorded in 2015) and roosting sites and securing local populations of the species in cities in Slovakia; (2) training of 345 stakeholders on implementation of conservation measures for birds and bats in buildings and strengthening legal protection of the species and their sites in cities; (3) protection of existing sites for the species through implementation of model conservation measures on more than 480 sites; creation of new sites through installation of 2,400 boxes for Swifts and 800 boxes for bats and creation of 3 nesting walls; (4) increased awareness of more than 3,350 participants at 312 lectures and 80 excursions, 2 workshops, 8 regional meetings and 2 international conferences.

There are several key deliverables and outputs of the project divided according to the project's actions:

Action	Deliverable / Output	Achievements
A1	Methodology for protection of Common Swift, bats and other species during the reconstructions and insulations of buildings	submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex A1.1)
A2	List of key stakeholders	submitted along with Inception report in X/2012 (Annex A2.1)
A2	Methodology for monitoring of Common Swift in urban areas	submitted along with Inception report in X/2012 (Annex A2.2)
A2	National database of nesting sites of Swifts	available online at http://aves.vtaky.sk/sk/apusbat
A2	Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2012	submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014

		(Annex A2.1)
A2	Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2013	submitted separately in V/2014 (Annex A2.2)
A2	Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2014	Annex A2.3
A2	Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2015	Annex A2.4
A2	Report from monitoring of occupancy of Swift boxes	Annex A2.5
A3	32 trainings, at least 160 participants	15 trainings, 345 participants
A3	at least 160 trained on the conservation measures for Swifts and bats	345 stakeholders trained
A4	National database of roosting sites of bats in buildings	available online at http://aves.vtaky.sk/sk/apusbat
A4	Methodology for monitoring of bats in cities	submitted along with Inception report in X/2012 (Annex A4.1)
A4	Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in 2012-2013	submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex A4.1)
A4	Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in 2013-2014	submitted separately in V/2014 (Annex A4.2)
A4	Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in 2014-2015	Annex A4.3
A4	Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in 2015-2016	Annex A4.4
A4	Report from monitoring of flying activities and summer breeding colonies of bats in 2014-2015	Annex A4.5
A5	Analysis of implementation of principles for protection of birds and bats in buildings in 2012	submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex A5.1)
A5	Guideline for protection of birds and bats during insulation and reconstruction of buildings - draft	submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex A5.2)
A5	Guideline for protection of birds and bats during insulation and reconstruction of buildings - updated	Annex A5.3
C1	at least 40 model actions for protection of Swift applied	model actions applied at more than 97 sites
C1	Catalogue of model solutions	submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex C1.1)
C2	at least 2400 boxes for Swifts installed	2400 boxes installed
C2	3 nesting walls installed	3 nesting walls installed (Revúca, Košice, Trebišov)
C2	increased population of Common Swift by approx. 20% on 16 sites	population of Common Swift increased by approx.. 20% on 16+ sites (based on the fact that number of nesting sites was increased on 417 localities in Slovakia)
C3	practical model measures for bats applied at least at 40 sites	model measures applied at more than 559 sites; (Catalogue of model solutions - submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014))
C3	at least 800 boxes for bats installed	800 boxes installed
C3	stabilized population of Common Noctule at 16 locations	population of Common Noctule stabilized on 16+ sites
D1	project's website	www.dazdovniky.vtaky.sk
D1	leaflets (20 000 copies)	73000 pcs in Slovak printed and disseminated; submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex D1.1, Annex D1.2)
D1	booklet (2000 copies)	3450 copies of booklet printed and disseminated; Annex D1.13
D1	posters (1000 copies)	1000 posters printed and disseminated; submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex D1.9)
D1	pocket calendars with a picture of Common Swift and Common Noctule Bat	250 pcs printed and disseminated; submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex D1.4)
D1	stickers (4000 copies)	28 000 pcs of stickers printed and disseminated; submitted along with Mid-term report in III/2014 (Annex D1.3)
D1	film	film produced and presented to public; Annex D1.12
D1	Layman's Report	700 copies in Slovak and 300 copies in English printed and disseminated (Annex D1.11)
D1	technical manual (1000 copies)	2000 copies of the manual printed and

		disseminated; Annex D1.7
D1	press releases (4), articles (20), reports and interviews on radio (5) and TV (4)	press releases: 3, and 1 press conference articles: 117 reports and interviews on: radio: 7 TV: 29 (updated list of media outputs in Annex D1.5)
D1	exhibition "Return of Swifts" installed at 8 locations	exhibition installed at 14 locations; design presented in Mid-term report submitted in III/2014 (Annex D1.8)
D1	notice boards (10 pieces)	notice boards were temporarily installed on 15+ dealt-with sites to inform public about ongoing conservation measures (Annex D1.10)
D2	at least 300 meetings organized with at least 3 participants per meeting	4160+ meetings with 3 participants per meeting (on average)
D3	80 lessons with excursions with at least 15 participants per meeting	312 lectures and 80 excursions organized for 3000+ participants (lists of participants – Annex D3.2)
D3	180 lessons for children with at least 20 participants per meeting	
D4	2 thematic workshops for at least 25 participants per workshop	2 workshops, 57 participants (see Annex D4.1 to Mid-term report)
D4	16 regional meeting for stakeholders with at least 20 participants	8 regional meetings, 102 participants (see Annex D4.1 to Mid-term report)
D4	2 international meetings	2 international conferences, 190 participants (Annex D4.1 to Mid-term report and Annex D4.2 to Final report)
E1	Project's questionnaire – analysis and evaluation	see Annex E1.1 to Mid-term report and Annex E1.2 to Final report
E4	8 study tours (20 person days per visit, total 160 person days)	9 study tours, 47 participants, total 202 person days; for reports from study tours see Annex E4.1 and Annex E4.2 to Mid-term report and Annex E4.3 to Final report
E4	contacts established with at least 4 projects	contacts established with 12 projects and initiatives

Brief summary of each chapter of the report:

Administrative part: The project's implementation was divided into two phases: Inception phase (finished by 30th of September 2012) and Implementation phase (finished by 31st of December 2015). According to the Grant Agreement the following reports were delivered to the European Commission: *Inception Report* (October 2012), *Mid-term Report* (March 2013), and *Progress Report* (February 2015). Project's management team was established during the Inception phase. A questionnaire was developed to assess general public awareness on the topic. Public awareness was assessed at two stages – in the middle and at the end of the project's lifetime. In average 99% of respondents supported the project and 77% of them expressed their willingness to provide financial support for installation of boxes. Detailed evaluation of the 2nd stage is attached to the report in Annex E1.2.

Six meetings of the Project Steering Committee (representatives of MoE, SNC and project's beneficiaries) were held in 2012-2015. There were five monitoring missions (including field visits to the project's sites) organized in 2012-2015. Almost all actions have been carried out according to the project timetable. Installation of boxes was slightly postponed due to the public procurement procedure. The delay did not jeopardize the overall project goals.

Detailed description of activities carried out within the A, C and D actions is in the **technical part** of the Final Report. It includes also description of Action E3 (After-LIFE Communication Plan) and Action E4 (networking with other projects). Within the A actions Methodology for protection of Common Swift, bats and other bird species during reconstruction and insulation of buildings (Annex A1.1 to Mid-term Report) was elaborated. Monitoring of swifts and bats was carried out in 270 cities (including 8 regional capitals and 79 district cities) where more than 19,000 buildings were checked. In total more than 5,250

nesting sites of Swifts and 1,800 roosting sites of bats were recorded. Distribution records as well as list of important stakeholders are stored in the online database AVES Symfony and are available for public. The database includes also a module with data on dealt-with sites (recently more than 1,600 sites) available for the project's staff. Based on the data reports from monitoring of Swifts (Annex A2.1 to Mid-term Report; in May 2014 separately delivered report from 2013; Annex A2.3, Annex A2.4) and bats (Annex A4.1 to Mid-term Report; in May 2014 separately delivered report from season 2013-2014; Annex A4.3, Annex A4.4) were elaborated. In addition to that a monitoring of occupancy of nest boxes for Swifts and boxes for bats on selected sites was carried out. Data are analysed in separate reports (Annex A2.5 for Swifts, Annex A4.4 for bats). Results from a specific monitoring targeting flying activity of bats in urban areas and breeding colonies of bats in buildings are evaluated in Annex A4.5.

Based on the experience concerning implementation of principles on protection of birds and bats in buildings a draft guideline (Annex A5.2 to Mid-term Report) and its revised version were elaborated (Annex A5.3). The guideline was updated according to the new Law on Nature and Landscape Protection that came into force as of the 1st of January 2014.

Within the C-actions practical conservation measures for birds and bats were implemented. Specific measures for protection of birds were implemented on more than 120 sites, measures for bats on more than 650 sites and conservation measures addressed to both birds and bats on more than 416 sites in all regional capitals and other cities in Slovakia. In total 2,400 boxes for birds (providing more than 7,000 nesting sites) and 800 boxes for bats on more than 350 sites were installed on buildings in the frame of the project (relevant costs covered from the project's budget). In addition to that another more than 1,700 boxes for swifts and bats were installed with financial support from stakeholders. In total 3 nesting walls for swifts (including boxes for bats) were created in Revúca, Košice and Trebišov. Through implementation of a low-cost measure – installation of modified plastic grids on ventilation shafts in attics – more than 14,400 existing nesting and roosting sites have been preserved after the insulation and reconstruction of buildings. Conservation measures were applied on prefab buildings as well as historical buildings, such as castles. Safe displacement of bats was implemented in more than 400 cases within Slovakia. Conservation measures on protection of summer colonies of bats were carried out in more than 7 sacral buildings. In 2015 preparatory actions for a Swift tower to be erected in Bratislava were carried out. Funds to construct the tower were raised through a successful StartLab campaign (platform for public to provide financial support to interesting ideas). It is expected that the tower will be erected on 27th april 2016.

To promote conservation of birds and bats in cities leaflets *Common Swift* (36,500 pcs; Annex D1.1) and *Under one roof with bats* (36,500 pcs; Annex D1.2), stickers with Common Swift and Common Noctule (28 000 pcs; Annex D1.3 to Mid-term Report), and pocket calendars (250 pcs; Annex D1.4 to Mid-term Report) were produced and disseminated. Technical manual describing in details technical measures on protection of birds and bats in buildings was printed and disseminated (2,000 pcs., Annex D1.7). For general public and school kids 3,450 copies of a booklet were printed and disseminated (Annex D1.13). LIFE+ logo and reference to the project are clearly visible on these deliverables. An intensive media campaign was carried out to raise public awareness on the topic. Project was presented at 4 press conferences and through more than 150 media outputs: 117 articles, 29 reports on TV and 7 reports on radio. Complete list of media outputs is in Annex D1.5; copies of the media outputs from 2014 and 2015 are in Annex D1.6. The project's web site was established during the inception phase. It is available at www.dazdovniky.vtaky.sk and it is regularly updated. The most important information about the project and its results are available also in English. Part of the web site (INTRANET) is accessible only for the project's staff and serves as a tool for

communication and sharing draft documents, preliminary data analysis, etc. A Facebook site focused on conservation of birds and bats in buildings was created and is regularly updated (available at: www.facebook.com/navratdazdovnikov). Design of the exhibition *Return of Swifts* was in Annex D1.8 to Mid-term Report. An exhibition *Return of Swifts* was created (design of the exhibition was attached in Annex D1.8 to Mid-term Report). The exhibition includes 6 pull-up panels and a model of prefab building with description of nesting and roosting sites of birds and bats and of applied technical measures (boxes, modified plastic grids). It was presented on 14 venues (museums, schools, public libraries, premises of MoE, EUROBATS meeting in Brussels, etc.) during the project. Posters promoting protection of birds and bats in cities (Annex D1.9 to Mid-term Report) were designed and disseminated to the public. Notice boards on the project (Annex D1.10) were developed, informing about the compensation measures for protection of birds and bats and about the support of the European Commission to the project. The notice boards were temporarily installed on buildings undergoing insulation or reconstruction (dealt-with sites). In total 1,200 copies of DVD with documentary *Return of Swifts* (ca 30 minutes) are available for public. The film is in Slovak with English subtitles. Its first public presentation took place at the project's conference in October 2015 in Žilina.

During the project more than 4,160 personal meetings with on average 3 participants per meeting were held to improve cooperation with stakeholders. For each dealt-with-site usually several personal meetings are necessary to secure appropriate implementation of conservation measures. Cooperation with SNC, universities and experts on protection of cultural heritage (regarding protection of bat colonies in historical buildings), foresters, eco-centres etc. has been established as well.
In total 312 lectures and excursions were organized for public, mainly at schools (more than 3,000 participants in total).
Within the project two national workshops and 8 regional meetings were organized for more than 150 participants, including the project's staff, external experts and volunteers. In October 2012 an international conference focused on protection of birds and bats during reconstruction and insulation of buildings (first such an event held in the region of Central Europe) was organized. The conference was attended by 120 experts and stakeholders from Slovakia and other European countries such as the Czech Republic, Spain, U.K, Poland, etc. Final international conference of the project was held in October 2015 in Žilina and was attended by 80 experts, including representatives of state authorities from Slovakia and Czech Republic.
In total 9 study tours to the Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Poland, U.K., Hungary (47 participants, 202 total person days) were organized in the frame of the project. These include also study tours of experts from Poland to Slovakia in order to exchange know-how and visit the project's sites with implemented conservation measures. Reports from the study tours are in Annex E4.3. The project and its results were presented at meeting of the Advisory Committee of EUROBATS as well as on other national and international conferences and workshops. Contacts with 12 projects and initiatives on protection of birds and bats in buildings have been established over the first two years of the project implementation. In December 2014 the project was awarded the ***CEEweb for Biodiversity Award of excellence in biodiversity protection*** in the category "Connecting and restoring habitats and greening up urban spaces". Through this award and related information campaign **the project and its results has reached approximately 100,000 people** in the EU member as well as non-member states, including representatives of EC and international organizations such as IUCN, WWF, ECNC, EHF, etc.

Evaluation of project implementation: The main immediately visible project results are: (1) results of the monitoring of Swifts and bats in cities; (2) implementation of conservation measures to preserve existing nesting and roosting sites, measures on protection of birds and bats such as safe displacement of bats from buildings; (3) media campaign, including workshops, lectures, excursions, etc.; and (4) international conferences and networking.
Effectiveness of conservation measures such as installation of boxes will be evaluated after a certain period of time because birds and bats are likely to shift to these artificial sites only if there is a lack of sites situated on not yet insulated and/or reconstructed buildings. To assess effectiveness of implementation of the updated version of the *Guideline* will be possible only after its official approval by the relevant state authority and at least 1 year of its implementation in the field.
Benefits and sustainability of the project: Implementation of conservation measures for birds and bats on buildings has become mandatory and has been incorporated into the Law on Nature and Landscape Protection and Operation Program *Quality of Environment*, the Capital Priority No. 3, Priority Axis No. 4. The state authorities responsible for implementation the relevant policy are MoE of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Interior (through environmental authorities) and Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (through building authorities).

Based on the project's intervention the municipalities of Bratislava-Karlova Ves and Púchov have adopted and successfully applied principles for the protection of Swifts and bats in buildings with support from their own budget.

In total 345 stakeholders, including decision makers and environmental officers were trained on implementation of principles for protection of birds and bats in buildings. They will be involved in the process of issuing construction permits where these principles will be included. List of experts on protection of species in buildings has been elaborated and provided to stakeholders.

The project succeeded to initiate implementation of principles on protection of birds and bats in buildings with active involvement of the state authorities, stakeholders as well as public. Above described actions are the main tools to secure its long-term sustainability.

The project itself has created 25 new jobs out of which 13 were full-time jobs. Other new jobs are rising based on the demand for services (e.g. manufacturing boxes), expertise, etc.
EU added value of the project: (1) Protection of common European natural heritage (both Common Swift and Common Noctule are migratory species); (2) Demonstration and replicability of the project in other EU and non-EU countries; and (3) The project is based on know-how and best-practice available and applied in Europe, setting viable and repeatable example of protection of species that are not sufficiently protected by national and EU legislation. The first positive results in terms of replicability are already visible. The Bulgarian state authorities asked for some of the project's outcomes (Catalogue of model solutions, Technical manual) to be translated into Bulgarian and applied in Bulgaria. An excursion for experts from Poland was organized in January 2015 to visit the project's sites where conservation measures for bats were applied. The excursion was very well received by the participants proved by an official acknowledgment issued by the Ministry of Environment of Poland (Annex E4.5).

At pan-European level the project significantly contributed to adoption of the **"Resolution 7.11 Bats and Building Insulation".** The resolution was adopted by 36 EUROBATS party states.

From the total budget of 1,481,248 EUR, in total 1,279,136.80 EUR has been incurred by 31/12/2015. This represents 86.36 % of the total project budget.
The maximal EU contribution represents 50% of total eligible costs, 25% contribution of co-financer Ministry of Environment and 25% contribution of beneficiaries.

Coordinating Beneficiary as well as both Associated Beneficiaries may not recover VAT. Therefore expenditures including VAT are considered as eligible. All expenses included in the financial report were paid and duly booked in the accounting system of the beneficiaries and were audited according to the requirements of the European Commission.

3. Introduction

The project main objective was to stop the recent decline of the populations of Common Swift and bats, in particular Common Noctule bat in Slovakia caused by insulation and reconstruction of buildings in urban areas. It aimed to enhance local populations of the species through protection of their nesting and roosting sites, introduction and implementation of appropriate conservation measures and through it reaching a favourable conservation status of the species and their habitats.

Project was implemented within the whole Slovakia, with focus on urban areas. The project area included all 8 regional capitals, 40 district cities as well as other cities and villages with important local populations of target species. The project actions took place mainly on prefabs and other man-made structures such as schools, chimneys, also church towers and sacral buildings in general. If necessary the conservation measures were applied on historical buildings, e.g. castles (Vígľaš, Čachtice).

Thermal insulation and reconstruction of buildings that result in destruction of existing nesting and roosting opportunities for birds and bats were the main conservation issues targeted by this project. From the socio-economic point of view the project helped stakeholders to respect legal requirements related to biodiversity conservation. It contributed to increasing effectiveness of the construction works and minimizing cases of delayed construction works. Sharing know-how and providing assistance helped state authorities and decision makers to successfully implement national and European legislation on biodiversity conservation. Through project small private companies were supported as well (manufacturing and installation of boxes). The implementation of the project's actions resulted in effective spending of financial sources allocated to both the construction activities (e.g. funds from State Housing Development Fund) and biodiversity conservation (e.g. funds provided by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic). The long-term project objective was to increase population size of Common Swift by at least 20% (on average) on 16 pilot sites and to stabilize the population size of Common Noctule bat on at least 16 locations.

4. Administrative part

4.1 Description of the management system

Project implementation period was set up for 4 years (01/01/2012-31/12/2015) and was divided into 2 main phases according to the project reports schedule.

Phase 01 – Inception phase: Phase 01 started on 01/01/2012 and ended on 31/08/2012. During the Inception phase the project management team (PMT), including the project manager, financial manager and representatives of the project partners SON and SOS/BirdLife Slovakia was established. Other project personnel, including 8 project assistants were employed as well. Information about the project and its preliminary outcomes is presented via project web site that was established in the Inception phase. More details about the project progress and activities carried out in the phase can be found in the Inception report submitted in October 2012.

Phase 02 – Implementation phase: Phase 02 started on 01/09/2012 and ended on 31/12/2015. During this phase the main focus was given to implementation of the project actions A (preparatory actions), C (conservation actions), D (dissemination and public awareness actions), and E actions (project monitoring and management). To assess general public awareness and level of acceptance of implemented conservation measures a questionnaire was elaborated, disseminated and analysed during the project. Analysis of the 1st stage was delivered along with the mid-term report; the 2nd stage evaluation is attached to this report (Annex E1.2).

A detailed work plan was developed to monitor the project's progress. The plan was discussed and updated during PMT meetings. PMT meetings were organised on a regular basis at least 6 times per year. In addition an intensive communication between members of PMT was carried out via e-mail and phone.

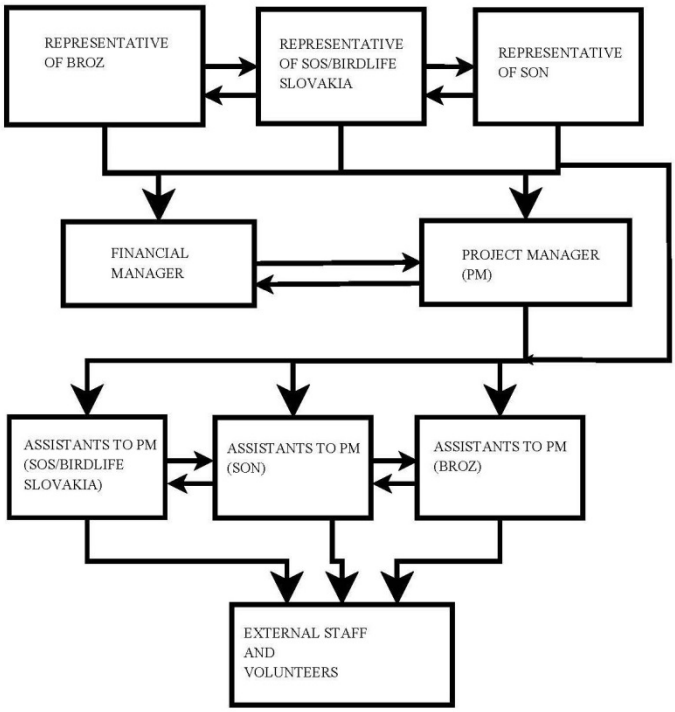
In accordance with national legislation, permission to manipulate with protected species and their habitats was obtained for the project staff. Its duration was by the end of the project's lifetime. To continue in implementation of the project's actions after the end of the project a new permission was obtained in January 2016. For the project's staff 4 trainings on work safety (BOZP) were organized within the project (25/05/2012 in Bratislava, 29/05/2012, 26/02/2013, and 14/04/2014 in Zvolen). All members of the project team received certificates allowing them to be present on the spot during construction works and to move on scaffoldings while following the respective safety rules. Lists of participants were attached to the previous reports.

Partnership agreements between the coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries were signed during the Inception phase and attached to the Inception Report submitted to EC on in October 2012.

First amendment to the Grant Agreement related to the modifications in the project's co-financing was signed in January 2014. As of 1st of January 2015 the associated beneficiary SON withdrew from the project due to limited own financial resources. BROZ as the coordinating beneficiary took over the full responsibility for implementation of all project's actions previously in responsibility of SON. Amendment to the Grant Agreement signed by EC was received in September 2015.

Project Steering Committee (PSC):
Members of PSC were representatives of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE), State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) and project's beneficiaries (BROZ, SON, and SOS/BirdLife Slovakia). The 1st PSC meeting was held on 24/09/2012 and results achieved in the Inception phase were presented. Additional 5 meetings of PSC were held during the project's implementation (25/03/2013, 30/10/2013, 22/09/2014, 18/06/2015, and 24/11/2015). List of participants is attached in Annex E1.3. In May 2014 the EC Monitoring mission took place and was attended also by members of PSC. Therefore there was no need to organise a separate PSC meeting. In June 2015 an e-meeting of PSC took place (in advance agreed by all members) since the members were fully occupied with other tasks. All members were provided with update on the project's progress and specific issues were discussed via e-mail or consulted via phone.

Project organigramme:



Representatives of the project beneficiaries served as supervisors of the project implementation and provided expert consultations to the project staff when required (e.g. in elaboration of official statements and documents addressed to decision makers). Project manager (BROZ) was in charge of the overall project implementation, including reporting and communication with the European Commission and external monitoring team. She regularly communicated with all members of the PSC and PMT, including assistants to PM, project assistants and supervisors. In May 2014 the project manager Dr. J. Šíbl was replaced by Dr. Ľ. Vavrová. Personnel changes had no negative impact on the overall project management and communication with partners. Financial manager (BROZ) was responsible for correct accounting and elaboration of financial reports. Assistants to PM coordinated and implemented project activities in the respective regions and communicated with the project assistants and volunteers. They also elaborated partial progress reports according to the partnership agreements. External staff and volunteers helped with the monitoring and conservation actions in the field.

Project office was set up in Bratislava at BROZ's premises. As of January 2014 the address is: Na Riviére 7/a, 841 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Partner's offices are in Bardejov (SON) and Bratislava (SOS/BirdLife Slovakia).
In 2012 a table of indicators to monitor the project's progress was elaborated and submitted along with Inception Report in October 2012. The final table of indicators is attached in Annex E1.4.

4.2 Evaluation of the management system

The project's beneficiaries were NGOs well-experienced in regard to the project's topics and overall project management. They sufficiently fulfilled their tasks and achieved expected results. The beneficiaries established an internal accounting system to keep all expenditures related to the project transparent and according to the requirements. Although SON withdrew from the project as of the 1st of January 2015, its staff provided support to the project's implementation during 2015.

Communication with EC and External monitoring team was done mostly by BROZ as the coordinating beneficiary. Non-significant amendments to the budget as well as a purchase of items not listed in the approved proposal were communicated with EC in advance. During the project 5 monitoring missions were carried out:
18-19/04/2012 – Introduction of PMT and presentation of working plans for the Inception period; field visit on project sites in Bratislava.
26-27/11/2012 – Evaluation of the Inception report and presentation of preliminary results; field visit to project sites in Bratislava, Nitra and Nové Zámky and participation at a seminar for stakeholders in Zvolen.
10-11/12/2013 – Presentation of preliminary results; field visit to project sites in Považská Bystrica and Púchov, meeting with the head of the district environmental office in Považská Bystrica.
20-22/05/2014 – Monitoring mission with participation of representatives of EC. Presentation of preliminary results, checking financial and personnel documents; field visit to the project sites in Bratislava, Považská Bystrica, Púchov, Brezová pod Bradlom, Malacky, Dolná Mariková and meetings with stakeholders.
24/07/2015 and 28/07/2015 – Presentation of the project's progress; field visit to the project's sites in Rožňava, Košice, and Moldava nad Bodvou.
Lists of participants are in Annex E1.4.

Gantt-chart – overall implementation of the project (01/01/2012 - 31/12/2015)

Action	2012				2013				2014				2015			
Number	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans:																
A.1	X	X	X	X												
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
A.2		X	X			X	X			X	X			X	X	
	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
A.3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X						
A.4			X				X				X				X	
			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A.5					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights:																

Action	2012				2013				2014				2015			
Number	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
NA																
C. Concrete conservation actions:																
C.1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C.2		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C.3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results:																
D.1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D.2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D.3		X	X			X	X			X	X			X	X	
		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
D.4		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																
E.1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
E.2															X	
												X				X
E.3															X	
															X	X
E.4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

X - proposed timetable

X – real timetable

During the project's implementation no significant problems that would jeopardize achievement of the project's goals appeared. Withdrawal of one of the associated beneficiaries from the project and termination of the respective partnership agreement did not have negative impact on the further implementation of the project's actions. BROZ as the coordinating beneficiary took over the responsibilities to deliver expected results of the actions originally allocated to SON. Problems related to implementation of the actions (e.g. communication with stakeholders and media, etc.) and their solutions are described in details in description of the respective actions.

Project's partnership between BROZ, SOS/BirdLife Slovakia and SON was established for the first time. Cooperation between these NGOs proved effective in terms of the expert input as well as overall project management. Based on their long-term experience all beneficiaries provided their expertise in monitoring and protection of birds and bats in urban areas, communication with stakeholders and media, rising public awareness and also in the project management. The project intensified existing cooperation between the beneficiaries and created a platform for further cooperation in the future.

5. Technical part

5.1. Technical progress, per task

5.1.1 Action A1: Elaboration of methodology for protection of Common Swift, bats and other species during reconstruction and insulation of buildings

Responsible beneficiary: SOS/BirdLife Slovakia

Deliverables of the action:
Methodology for protection of Common Swift, bats and other species during reconstruction and insulation of buildings – e-version available online at the project's website (Annex A1.1 to Mid-term Report)

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
The methodology was finished in the first half of the project's implementation and was delivered along with the Mid-term Report in March 2014. It includes general information about birds and bats occurring in buildings and detailed information on conservation measures to protect them during reconstruction of buildings. The methodology is available in Slovak language and has been distributed to the project's staff, professional conservationists, state authorities, etc.
The methodology is considered as an open document and it is foreseen to be updated according to the new information available and conservation techniques applied in the field.

Problems and their solution:
There were no significant problems during implementation of the action.

Implementation of the action:
As indicated in description of the project action, the methodology includes general characteristics of target birds and bats species that are threatened by reconstruction and insulation of buildings, methods of their monitoring in urban areas and main threats to the species. National and international legislation related to construction works and species conservation is described as well. The most important part of the methodology is detailed description of existing suitable measures on protection of species in buildings and best-practice examples on their implementation in Slovakia as well as in other European countries. During the project's implementation it served also as a source of information for presentations at meetings and workshops addressed to the relevant stakeholders and also at international events held abroad.
The methodology is considered an open document that will be regularly updated based on up-to-date knowledge and experience on protection of species in buildings and implementation of the relevant technical measures. Therefore it is not foreseen to produce a paper version of the document. Priority is given to its dissemination via electronic media, mainly the project web site and web sites of the project's partners and state institutions.

5.1.2 Action A2: Monitoring of populations of Common Swift on selected urban areas

Responsible beneficiary: SOS/BirdLife Slovakia

Deliverables of the action:
Methodology for monitoring of Common Swift in urban areas – attached to the Inception Report submitted in October 2012 (Annex A2.2)
National Database of nesting sites of Swifts – available online at http://aves.vtaky.sk/sk/apusbat
List (database) of building keepers (managers) – attached to the Inception Report delivered in October 2012 (Annex A2.1); available and regularly updated at http://aves.vtaky.sk/sk/apusbat
Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2012 – attached to the Mid-term Report delivered in March 2014 (Annex A2.1)
Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2013 –delivered separately in May 2014 (Annex A2.2)
Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2014 **(Annex A2.3)**
Report from monitoring of Common Swift in 2015 **(Annex A2.4)**

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
According to the project proposal monitoring reports on Common Swift separately for 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 were supposed to be delivered by the end of September of the respective year. Detailed processing and interpretation of the data gathered during the monitoring took more time and personal capacities than envisaged. This fact in combination with problems described below resulted in a delay in delivering the reports to the European Commission. However, this delay did not have any negative impact on the implementation of the other project's activities according to the project's timetable. Reports from the monitoring carried on in 2014 and 2015 are attached to this report.
In addition to the general monitoring of Common Swift distribution in cities, occupancy of Swift boxes installed in the frame of the project was monitored in 2014 and 2015. Its results are in the Annex A2.5 (Report from monitoring of occupancy of Swift boxes in selected localities in 2014-2015).

Problems and their solution:
The only problems impacting implementation of the action were those related to inappropriate weather conditions that significantly influenced the occurrence of swifts and their diurnal activity.

Implementation of the action:
Monitoring of Common Swift was carried out in all 8 regional capitals and in all 79 district cities. In addition to that the project staff and volunteers undertook monitoring in another 183 cities. Detailed annual monitoring was carried out in 48 cities (including 8 regional capitals). These cities were selected according to data gathered during the initial monitoring. In total almost 19,100 buildings in 270 cities in Slovakia were checked during the project's implementation. Monitoring was carried out mostly during the nesting season (May – August), partly also before and after the season. Project staff was sufficiently trained and capable to identify buildings suitable for nesting of Swifts even without direct observation of birds. In total 5,250 nesting sites of Common Swift were recorded on buildings. In addition to

that another 10 nesting sites of Common Swift were recorded in roofs of sacral constructions, mainly churches. Data were collected by the project's staff as well as volunteers. Volunteers were trained and supervised by the project's staff. The volunteers did the work free of charge. If necessary incurred travel costs were reimbursed.
To be able to check also not-easily accessible places on buildings (e.g. ventilation shafts, crevices between panels) 8 micro-cameras were purchased and distributed to all 8 project assistants. Purchase of the cameras was approved in advance by EC letter No. 860242, dated on July 13, 2012.
Standard methodology for monitoring developed during the inception stage of the project implementation was used. Data were gathered and processed in the online database AVES Symfony in the module APUS/BAT. There are two specific sub-modules developed: (i) records on distribution of the species targeted (public access); and (ii) "dealt with" sites, i.e. the sites where some of the C-actions have been suggested or implemented (restricted access only for the project staff).

Records on distribution
Recently there are more than 10,800 records on occurrence of Common Swift and bats in buildings in Slovakia. This module is open for public and includes records on the existing nesting sites and suitable buildings (i.e. potential nesting sites). Each locality/building is recorded separately. Each record includes the following information: full address, geographical coordinates, date of the record, weather conditions, number of floors in the building, contact details on owners/managers, name of species and number of individuals, species behaviour characteristics (nesting, building nest, feeding young, etc.). Data can be downloaded as a "notebook record", including a map of the exact location of the site. Filter tool is available to select data from a specific city, location, for specific species (e.g. Common Swift, house martin) etc.

Picture A2-1: Swift nesting in a ventilation hole in attic.

"Dealt with" sites
Recently there are more than 1,600 records on such sites in the module. This module was developed to help the project management and staff to monitor reconstruction, insulation and other activities ongoing on the buildings with recorded nesting sites of birds and bats. It includes general information on the locality, number of nesting sites before and after the insulation or reconstruction works as well as detailed information on the applied measures (e.g. number and type of Swift boxes, number of ventilation shafts opened, etc.). It also includes "working" (confidential) data addressed to the project staff. Therefore the module as

such is not accessible for general public. “Dealt with” sites are monitored regularly and data are recorded (grouped) in “seasons” (1 season = 1 year). Records from seasons (e.g. number of individuals observed) are connected with the previous module (records on distribution) and through this connection are available for public.

Occupancy of Swift boxes

To analyze effectiveness of installation of special nesting boxes for Swifts to compensate the loss of nesting sites due to reconstruction and thermal insulation of buildings, data on occupancy of boxes by birds on the selected sites were collected in 2014 and 2015. It has to be pointed out that a 2-years period is too short to credibly assess effectiveness of this action. For the assessment a set of 28 sites with installed boxes was selected. On these sites in total 104 nests were occupied in 2014, out of which 74 records on nesting Swifts. In 2015 it was 177 nests with 121 records on nesting Swifts. Swift boxes occupancy rate increased by 70.19% in 2015 comparing to the rate observed in 2014. Number of Swift pairs on the selected sites increased by 63.51% in 2015 comparing to the number recorded pairs in 2014. It has to be pointed out that a 2-years period is too short to credibly assess effectiveness of this action. However, the preliminary results clearly indicate that installation of nesting boxes is an effective solution to compensate the loss of original nesting sites. It is expected that the occupancy rate will be increasing in coming years as a result of growing birds’ adaptation to the new sites. For more details see Annex A2.5.

Along with monitoring contact details on building keepers and construction companies were recorded. These data are also available in the online database Aves Symfony. List of contacts of the most important stakeholders was elaborated and attached to the Inception report.

Based on the data processed in the online database, the annual reports from monitoring of Common Swift were elaborated. Annual reports for 2014 and 2015 are attached to this report (Annex A2.3 and Annex A2.4). In the reports a list of mapped cities was elaborated for each of the 8 regions separately. For all the listed cities the following maps using the Open Street maps tool were prepared: (i) map of distribution of existing and potential nesting sites, (ii) map of existing nesting sites after implementation of conservation measures. Data were evaluated and presented per 1 x 1 km square grid. In addition a table with applied measures including the name of the site and status of nesting possibilities before and after the implementation of the conservation measures was elaborated for all evaluated cities. Different colours are used to distinguish squares with different results:

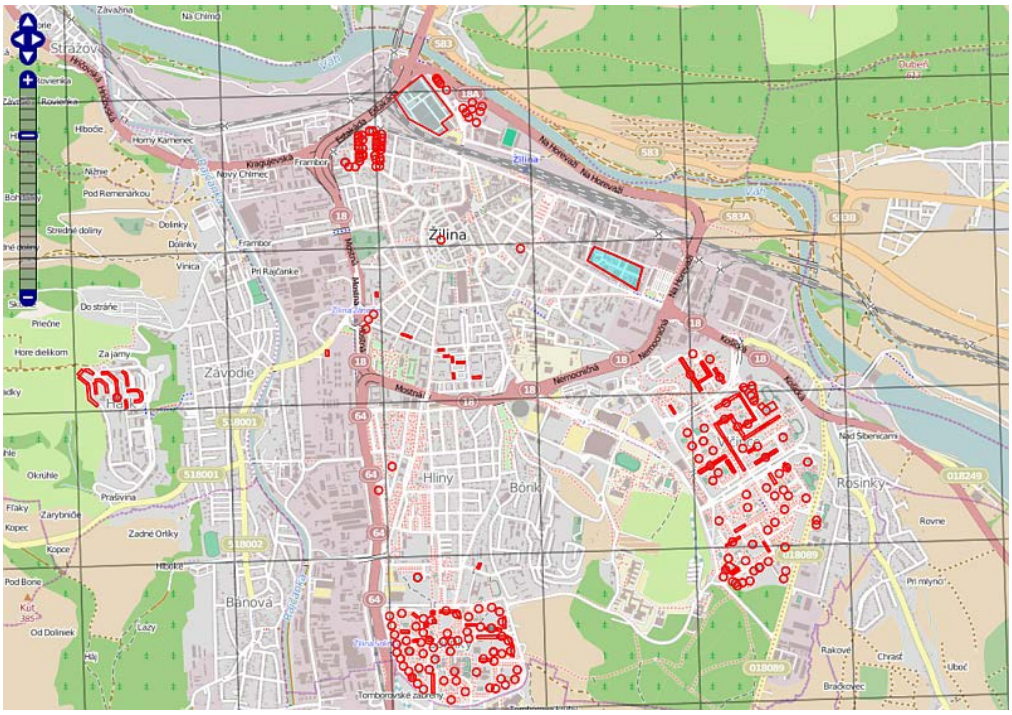
Blue colour – number of localities with preserved (unchanged) number and status of nesting sites/hollows achieved through intervention of the project staff; localities with the same number of nesting sites/hollows achieved through preservation of existing possibilities and/or implementation of compensation measures (e.g. installation of Swift boxes) as it was before insulation and/or reconstruction of buildings.

Green colour – number of localities with increased number of nesting sites/hollows.

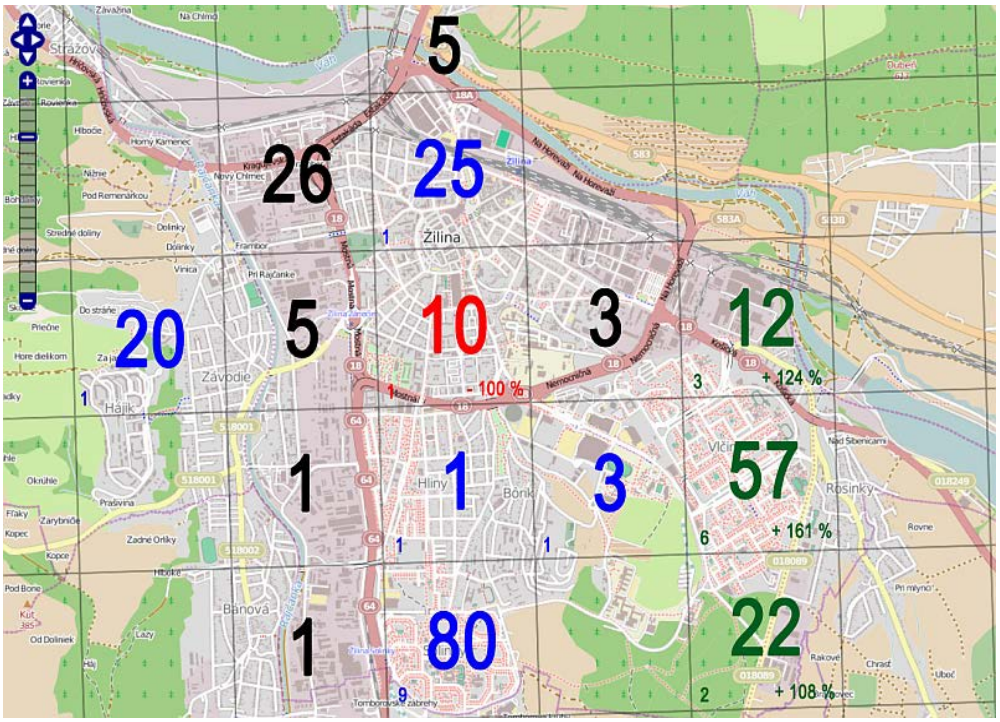
Red colour – number of localities with declined number of nesting sites/hollows due to reconstruction and insulation of buildings.

Below is an example of a map with existing and potential nesting sites **before** (Map A) and **after** (Map B) implementation of conservation measures in Žilina (figures refer to number of sites).

Map A:


Žilina
Závodie
Hliny
Bánová
Bôrik
Rosinky

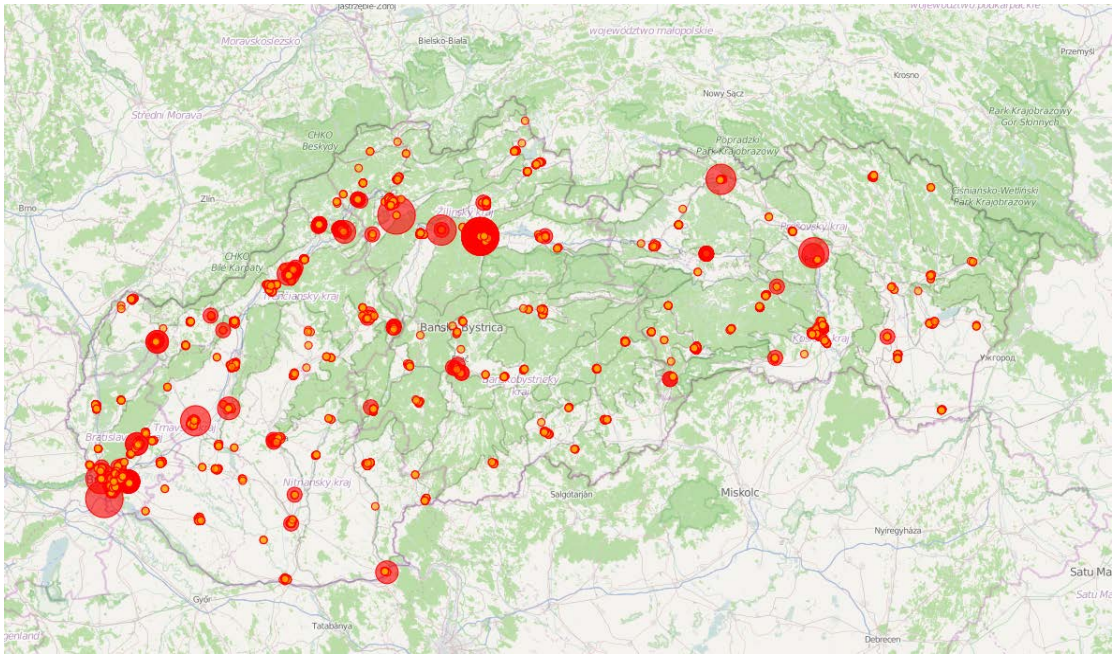
Map B:


5
26
25
1
Žilina
20
5
10
3
12
3
+ 124 %
- 100 %
Závodie
Hliny
1
1
3
57
6
+ 161 %
Bôrik
Rosinky
1
80
22
2
+ 108 %

In Slovakia 23,547-23,697 nesting pairs of Common Swift were recorded during the monitoring in 2012-2015. The following table presents estimated number of nesting pairs per region:

Region	Population of Common Swift
Bratislava region	6,935
Trnava region	511
Nitra region	670 – 1,040
Trenčín region	4,757
Žilina region	794
Banská Bystrica region	780
Prešov region	4,010
Košice region	4,870
TOTAL	**23,327 – 23,697**

Distribution and number of nesting sites in 2012-2015 is presented in the following map:



Applied scale (number of nesting pairs recorded in 2012-2015): ***1.*** *< 50,* ***2.*** *from 50 to 100,* ***3.*** *from 100 to 200,* ***4.*** *from 200 to 400,* ***5.*** *> 400, maximum number is 800.*

In total 6,639 nesting localities of Common Swift on buildings were recorded in 2012-2015. Reconstruction and insulation works were carried out on 998 buildings with the total number of 11,018 nesting sites/hollows occupied by birds (out of the total number of 42,853 existing sites/hollows on these buildings). Through technical and compensation measures, mostly installation of modified plastic grids on ventilation shafts and special nesting Swift boxes, in total 30,915 nesting sites/hollows have been preserved, respectively created. It can be concluded that the original nesting conditions for Common Swift on the buildings have been preserved (and even increased on some sites) despite of their insulation and reconstruction.

Based on the results from the initial monitoring carried out in 2012, 8 regional capitals and another 40 cities were selected for further monitoring of Common Swift in 2013-2015. In the project it was foreseen that all district cities would be included. However, the monitoring data gathered in 2012 revealed that there were several other (non-district) cities with more important (numerous) populations of Common Swift. Therefore the list of cities for further monitoring was elaborated with focus on the most important local populations of Common Swift within the country. Thus the regular monitoring was undertaken in the following cities since 2013:
Bratislava region – Bratislava, Malacky, Pezinok, Senec; **Trnava region** – Trnava, Galanta, Hlohovec, Piešťany, Dunajská Streda; **Nitra region** – Nitra, Komárno, Šaľa, Topoľčany, Nové Zámky, Levice; **Trenčín region** – Trenčín, Prievidza, Púchov, Považská Bystrica, Dubnica nad Váhom, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Myjava; **Žilina region** – Žilina, Martin, Ružomberok, Námestovo, Liptovský Mikuláš; **Banská Bystrica region** – Banská Bystrica, Brezno, Revúca, Žiar nad Hronom, Lučenec, Zvolen, Rimavská Sobota; **Prešov region** – Prešov, Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Sabinov, Lipany, Poprad, Stará Ľubovňa; **Košice region** – Košice, Gelnica, Rožňava, Michalovce, Spišská Nová Ves, Moldava nad Bodvou.

Concrete conservation actions (C actions) positively affected approximately 50% of the population of Common Swift in Slovakia. It is assumed that without any intervention 30-50% of the existing nesting sites would be destroyed and consequently the population of Common Swift in Slovakia would decline by 20-30%. For more details see Annex A2.4.

5.1.3 Action A3: Education and training of key stakeholders and decision makers

Responsible beneficiary: SOS/BirdLife Slovakia

Deliverables of the action:
In total 15 trainings and seminars for 345 stakeholders were organized in 2012-2015. For lists of participants see Annex A3.1 to Mid-term Report.

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
Although the foreseen number of 32 trainings to be organized during the project was not met, the expected number of 160 stakeholders trained in protection of birds and bats during reconstruction and insulation of buildings was reached and exceeded.

Problems and their solution:
Since beginning of the project Action A3 was very much linked with Action D2 (meetings with stakeholders). In the course of the project implementation we learned that most of the stakeholders tend to prefer smaller informal on-site meetings rather than larger "official" meetings (with more participants, official invitations, speakers, etc.). Therefore main focus was given to on-the-spot meetings (see also realization of Action D2).

Implementation of the action:
Trainings were focused on technical and conservation measures and relevant legislation related to the protection of birds and bats in buildings. Best-practice examples from Slovakia and other European countries were presented as well. Some of the seminars were organized jointly with municipalities (e.g. in Bratislava and Žilina). That is a very positive signal on the increasing interest and active participation in awareness building on the topic.

No.	Date	Place	Number of participants
1.	April 2012	Banská Bystrica	25 (decision makers, architects)
2.	April 2012	Jelšava	58 (voluntary members of Nature guard)
3.	February 2013	Bratislava	19 (representatives of WEBER-TERRANOVA)
4.	March 2013	Košice	18 (construction companies, building managers, architects)
5.	March 2013	Prešov	37 (decision makers, construction companies, building managers, architects)
6.	March 2013	Žilina	9 (decision makers, professionals from the State Nature Conservancy)
7.	April 2013	Trenčín	30 (building managers, decision makers, architects)
8.	April 2013	Bratislava	34 (decision makers)
9.	October 2013	Košice	10 (representatives of INNOVIA)
10.	October 2013	Prešov	3 (building managers, construction companies)
11.	November 2013	Žilina	14 (decision makers, building managers, architects, construction companies)
12.	December 2013	Bratislava	21 (architects, decision makers, students)
13.	spring 2014	Bratislava	9 (staff of WEBER-TERRANOVA Ltd. dealing with reconstruction of buildings)
14.	March 2014	Nitra	50 (decision makers, construction companies, building managers)
15.	June 2014	Nitra	8 (construction companies, building managers)

Note: Lists of participants were attached to the previous reports.

The project staff members were communicating with the stakeholders on a daily basis and there were more than 4,160 face-to-face meetings over the reporting period. The purpose of and the topics discussed at these meetings (under Action D2) were very similar to those presented at trainings and seminars (under Action A3). Best-practice examples were presented at these small on-site meetings in the field by using electronic tools, pictures etc. Thus the seminars and trainings with stakeholders (Action A3) were partly replaced by these personal on-site meetings (Action D2). Therefore it has to be pointed out that although the expected number of the seminars organized in regional capitals during the project's implementation was not met, the goals of Action A3 (increased awareness of decision makers, construction companies, architects and other stakeholders on the protection of birds and bats in buildings) was in a large extent reached and even exceeded by these personal on-site meetings (Action D2).

Picture A3-1: Participants at a seminar held in Jelšava

5.1.4 Action A4: Monitoring of populations of Common Noctule on selected sites

Responsible beneficiary: SON

Deliverables of the action:
National Database of roosting sites of bats – available online at http://aves.vtaky.sk/sk/apusbat
Methodology for monitoring of bats in urban areas – attached to the Inception Report delivered in October 2012 (Annex A4.1)
Report from monitoring of Common Noctule bat in urban areas in winter season 2012-2013 – attached to the Mid-term Report delivered in March 2014 (Annex A4.1)
Report from monitoring of Common Noctule bat in urban areas in winter season 2013-2014 – delivered separately in May 2014 (Annex A4.2)
Report from monitoring of Common Noctule bat in urban areas in winter season 2014-2015 **(Annex A4.3)**
Report from monitoring of Common Noctule bat in urban areas in winter season 2015-2016 **(Annex A4.4)**

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
According to the project proposal monitoring reports on Common Noctule separately for 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 were supposed to be delivered by the end of September of the respective year. Detailed processing and interpretation of the data gathered during the monitoring took more time and personal capacities than envisaged. This fact in combination with problems described below resulted in a delay in delivering the reports to the European Commission. However, this delay did not have any negative impact on the implementation of the other project's activities according to the project's timetable.
Based on the ecology of bats and applied monitoring methods it was agreed that data collected during one full winter season will be analyzed in annual reports from monitoring of bats in cities. Therefore the reports include data recorded from October till March-April of the following year. Data were processed in detail, evaluated per 1 x 1 km square for all 8 regional capitals. In addition to monitoring of roosting sites of bats in buildings, data on flying activity

of bats, especially Common Noctule bat in urban areas were collected in 2014-2015 and analyzed. In 2014-2015 monitoring of summer breeding colonies of bats (mainly females with young ones) in Slovakia was carried out as well (Report from monitoring of flying activity and summer breeding colonies in Slovakia in 2014-2015 - **Annex A4.5)**. In 2014-2015 monitoring of occupancy of bat boxes installed within the project on selected sites was carried out. Data analysis is part of the report from monitoring of bats in cities (Annex A4.4).

Problems and their solution:
Originally foreseen methods of monitoring of bats do require special expertise and experience. In order to involve volunteers and less-experienced staff in terms of bats monitoring into the implementation of the action and to collect as much data as possible it was decided to apply the method of monitoring of potential and existing roosting sites in buildings.

Implementation of the action:
Monitoring of Common Noctule and other bats was carried out in all 8 regional capitals and in all 79 district cities. In addition to that, buildings in another 183 cities were checked as well. Detailed monitoring was carried out in 8 regional capitals. In total almost 19,100 buildings in 270 cities in Slovakia were checked during the project's implementation and more than 1,800 roosting sites of bats were recorded. Data were collected by the project's staff as well as volunteers. Volunteers were trained and supervised by the project's staff. The volunteers have done the work free of charge. If necessary incurred travel costs were reimbursed.
Besides the Common Noctule also the other bat species were recorded in cities (e.g. *Pippistrellus pippistrellus, Eptesicus serotinus, Vespertilio murinus*).

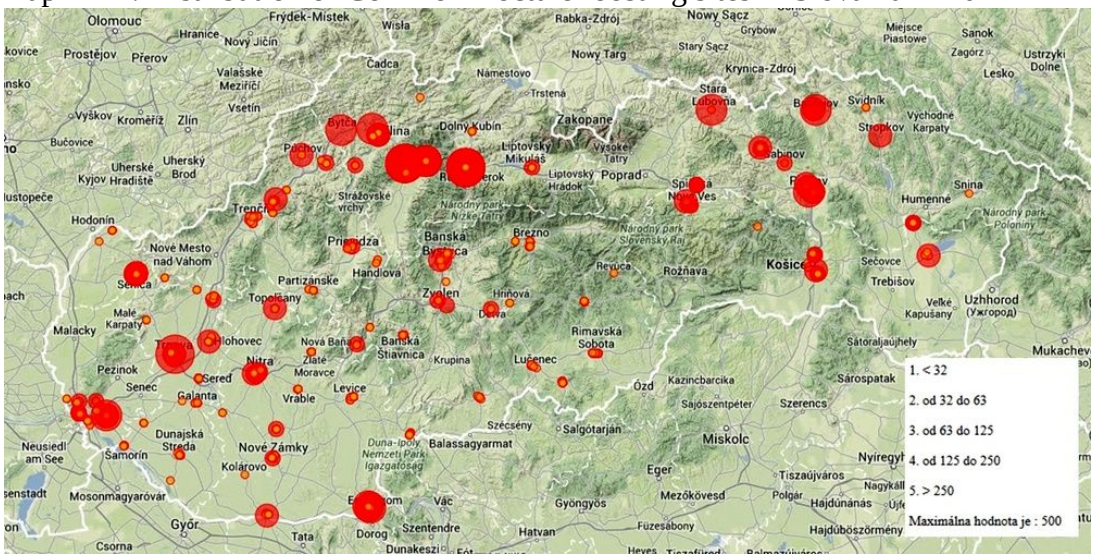
Standard methodology for monitoring of bats developed during the inception stage of the project implementation was used. Data were gathered and processed in the online database AVES Symfony in the module APUS/BAT (its detailed description is given under Action A2). Method of visual observation of roosting sites on buildings proved to be very useful in terms of the project goals. To be able to check also not-easily accessible places on buildings (e.g. ventilation shafts, crevices between panels) 8 micro-cameras were purchased and distributed to all 8 project assistants. Purchase of the cameras was approved in advance by EC letter No. 860242, dated on July 13, 2012. Moreover, all 8 project assistants were provided with easy-to-use bat detectors that were very helpful for monitoring of flying activity of bats. Purchase of the bat-detectors was approved in advance by EC letter No. 1323552, dated on May 24, 2013.

Visual monitoring of roosting sites of bats in buildings
Monitoring was carried out using the above described method of visual observations. Results of the monitoring and their evaluation are presented in separate reports for each season (see Annexes to the project's reports). Number of buildings with roosting sites per square was evaluated for all 8 regional capitals. Roosting sites and their distribution differ between cities. At the beginning of the project's lifetime (season 2012-2013) the highest density was recorded in Prešov. In the season 2015-2016 the highest density of roosting sites per square kilometer was observed in Trnava and Trenčín also due to intensive monitoring and location of new roosting sites in these cities.
Maps showing distribution of roosting sites of bats in cities in Slovakia are presented below.

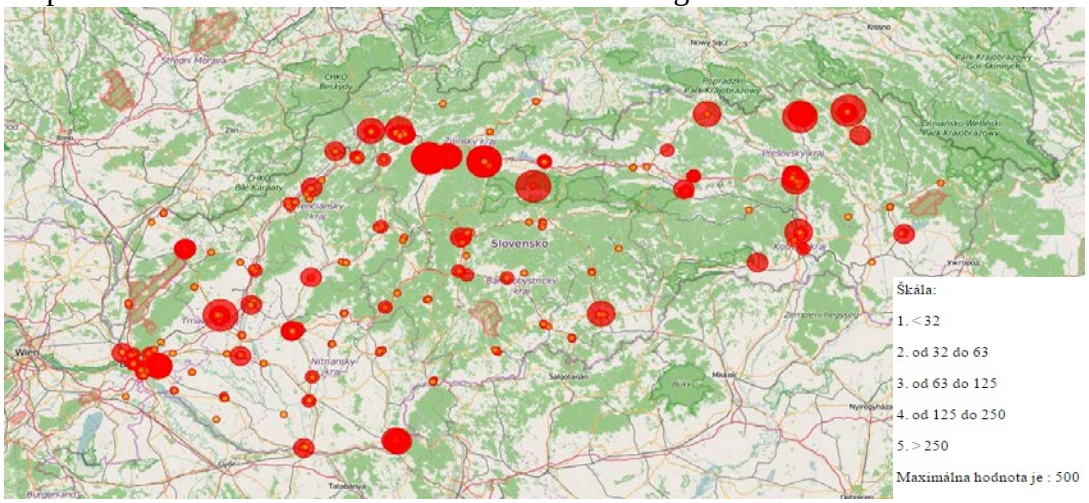
It is known that in urban areas bats roost in different types of sites, mainly buildings but also other constructions (road-bridge, road columns, etc.). Occasionally such places were explored during the monitoring as well.

Picture A4-1 (left): Monitoring of roosting sites of bats in a road-construction
Picture A4-2 (right): Common Noctule bat in a ventilation hole recorded with a micro-camera

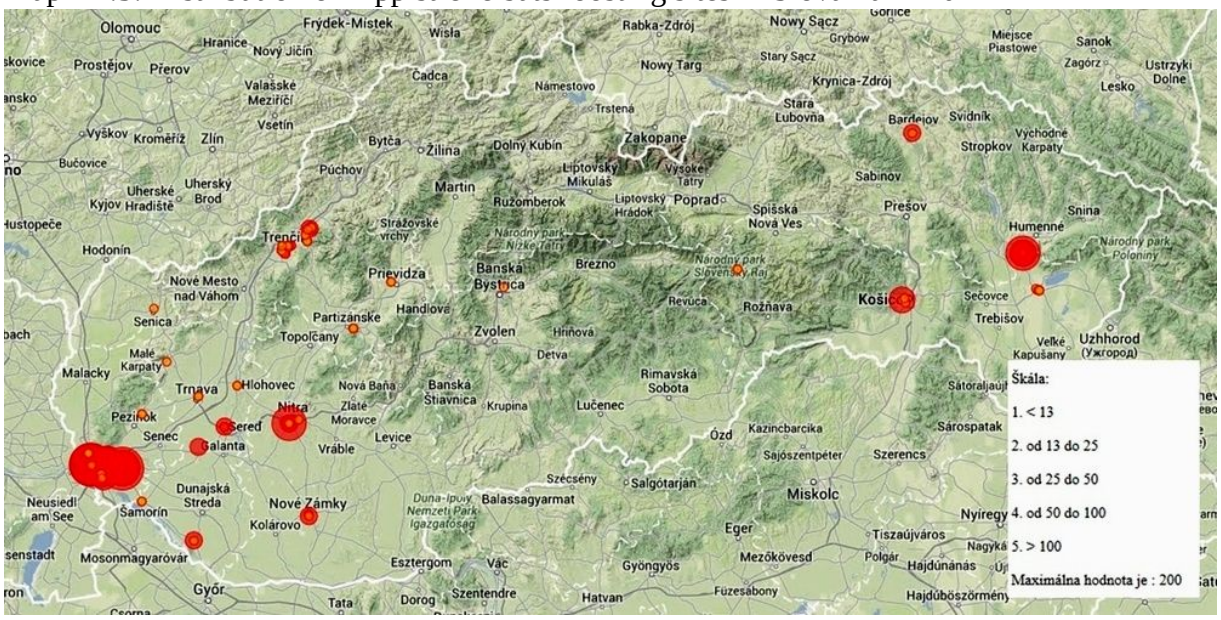
Map A4-1: Distribution of Common Noctule roosting sites in Slovakia in 2012



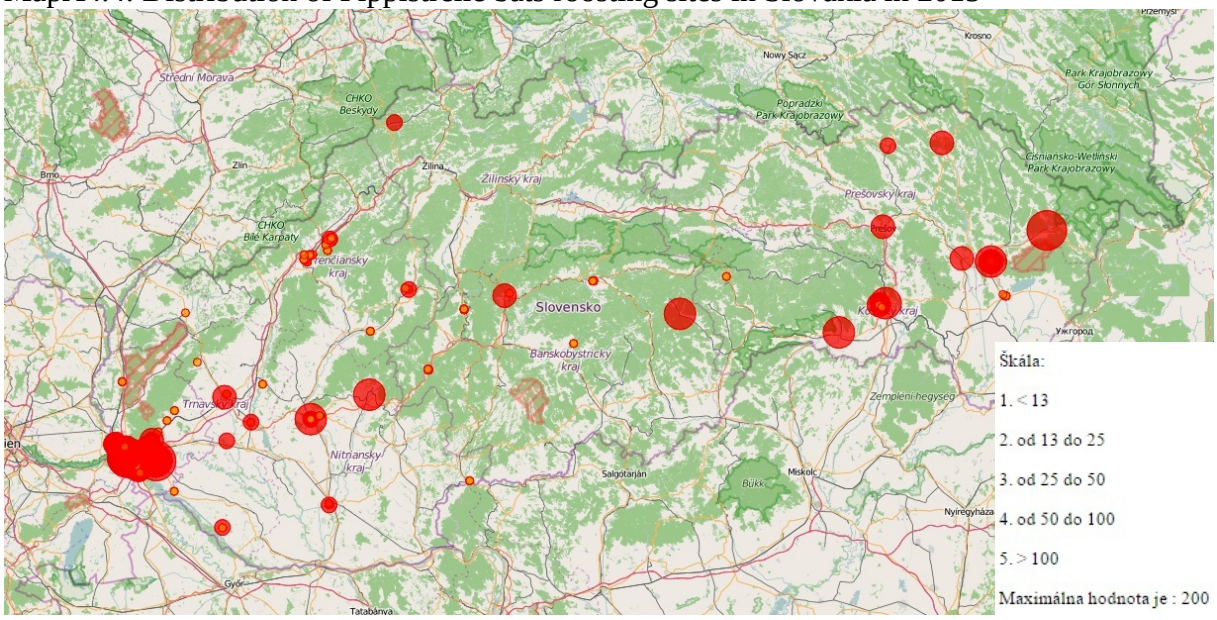
Map A4.2: Distribution of Common Noctule roosting sites in Slovakia in 2015



Map A4.3: Distribution of Pippistrelle bats roosting sites in Slovakia in 2012



MapA4.4: Distribution of Pippistrelle bats roosting sites in Slovakia in 2015



To assess effectiveness of installation of bat boxes, a monitoring of occupancy of bat boxes on selected sites was carried out in 2014-2015. It needs to be pointed out that monitoring of bat boxes includes boxes installed in the frame of the project's budget (2013-2015) as well as boxes which installation was financed by public (in 2012). Colonizing of bat boxes is rapid and level of acceptance is high. Common Noctule Bat accepts this new roosts very well and bat boxes type Maxi B are more suitable for hibernation than other types due to thermal stability and higher temperature than external or wood-concrete boxes. In total 526 bat boxes were checked during the monitoring. In 2015 53% of the total number of checked boxes was occupied by bats.

During the project's implementation existing roosting sites of bats were successfully preserved and density of roosting sites per square kilometre has increased in all 8 surveyed

cities. Installation of bat boxes has proved as a very effective compensation measure, especially for Common Noctule bat during hibernation.
Detailed results of the monitoring are in Annex A4.4.

Acoustic monitoring of flying activity of Common Noctule bat
For the first time car-transects were used in Slovakia to acoustically monitor flight activity of Common Noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*). This method is successfully used in Great Britain, Ireland and other countries. Based on this monitoring method it is possible to assess changes in population of the species. Fifty two transects each of 20 km length (in total 1,040 km) were surveyed using bat-detector on a car-roof during autumn 2014 and 2015 in the whole country. The selected transects covered mostly bigger cities, housing-estates, and agricultural land and water habitats. Almost 6,700 bat species records were collected and analysed. Besides Common Noctule bat distributional data of other 6 species were recorded as well. Common Noctule bat was recorded on 90% of the selected transects in 2014 resp. 98% in 2015 and recordings of this species represent 42 % of all the data obtained during the monitoring. Based on the presented data, the flight activity of Common Noctule bat is assessed as stable. Even though extensive data were recorded during the monitoring, these are not sufficient to credibly assess changes in population of Common Noctule bat during the monitoring period. To collect sufficient data-set and increase significance of the results it is necessary to apply the same methodology and carry out the monitoring in the next years.
Detailed report from the monitoring (in Slovak) is in Annex A4.5.

Map A4-5: Distribution of car-transects for acoustic monitoring of bats

Monitoring of summer breeding colonies of bats
To collect data standard methods – visual checking of sites during day and counting of bats flying out of the buildings in the evening were applied. In 2014 and 2015 in total 318 buildings were checked for bat colonies; in total 85,500 individuals of 9 bat species were observed. To credibly assess changes in abundance of the species in the sites data collected over a longer period would be needed. Based on the data collected during a 2-year period in 2014-2015 priority localities for implementation of conservation measures were selected. In general, the data significantly improved knowledge on distribution and ecology of bats occurring in Slovakia. Detailed report from the monitoring (in Slovak) is in Annex A4.5.

5.1.5 Action A5: Elaboration of guideline for protection of birds and bats during insulation and reconstruction works in the buildings

Responsible beneficiary: BROZ

Deliverables of the action:
Guideline for protection of birds and bats during insulation and reconstruction works in buildings - updated **(Annex A5.3)**

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. Analysis of implementation of principles on protection of species in buildings - attached to Mid-term Report delivered in March 2014 (Annex A5.1) – was elaborated in order to improve the Guideline and minimize problems with its implementation.

Problems and their solution:
There were no significant problems in implementation of the action. Updated guideline has been submitted to the ministry of Environment which is supposed to call an official meeting with representatives of relevant state authorities and institutions as well as NGOs.

Implementation of the action:
In the preparatory stage of the project in 2011 the representatives of two ministries (the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic) have approved the document named ”General principles on protection of species in buildings”. These principles have been determined mainly for and applied by the state authorities (e.g. State nature conservancy, nature conservation offices and construction offices). Project staff was trained on the application of these principles and was assisting the stakeholders with their proper implementation if required. Our personnel in close cooperation with professional conservationists also monitored if the principles were applied appropriately.

Based on the field experience gained in 2012, an analysis on implementation of the principles, including recommendations on their improvement was submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The analysis (attached to mid-term report) shows that the main weaknesses of its implementation are: (i) insufficient legal competencies of nature conservation offices towards construction offices; (ii) lack of information about technical conservation measures; and (iii) insufficient capacity to control implementation of the measures. Due to these facts it has happened very often that technical conservation measures are not explicitly included in the official statements of the state authorities. On the other hand if these measures were included in the documentation, the state authorities usually did not have sufficient capacity to control if the measures are applied correctly or at all. There have been several cases that investors or owners rejected installation of special boxes for birds and bats as a compensation measure although it was listed as an obligatory precondition for realization of reconstruction of the respective building. According to the at that time valid legislation nature conservation offices neither State nature conservancy had no tool to force investors to apply the measures. The analysis included also possibilities for improvement of the situation. The most important was incorporation of requirements and rights related to protection of birds and bats in buildings into the amendments to the Law on Nature and Landscape Protection.

Referring to the conclusions of the analysis the project staff in cooperation with external experts was also actively involved in preparation of amendments to the Law on Nature and Landscape Protection. Huge efforts were given to convince the state authorities to include the principles of protection of species in buildings into this new legislation. Finally we succeeded to strengthen the position of environmental offices in the process of authorization of construction works, including thermal insulation and reconstruction of buildings. The new legislation has come into force as of the 1st of January 2014. Now the nature conservation offices must be involved in the process of issuing a construction permit and their official statement is obligatory in case that construction works are to be carried out on buildings with confirmed presence of protected species or their habitats. Conservation measures and other requirements included in the statements must be accepted by construction offices and included in the final construction permit as obligatory preconditions. District nature conservation offices should inform the construction offices about occurrence of protected species in buildings that are going to undertake reconstruction or insulation.
The analysis and especially an intensive communication with state authorities significantly contributed into official adoption of the principles that are recently reflected also in mandatory conditions for providing state subsidies for reconstruction and thermal insulation of buildings. An expert survey on occurrence of protected birds and bats in buildings and measures to be implemented to protect the species and their sites is a mandatory annex to application for financial support from the state.
These are significant improvements to the legislation that will force all respective authorities and stakeholders to take into account protection of species and habitats on buildings and apply the conservation measures. In the past we faced such serious problems especially because of lack of power and competencies of the state nature conservation authorities and contradictions between respective legal tools on nature conservation and construction. These new developments in the respective legislation contribute to securing an appropriate conservation of birds and bats in urban areas.

Since beginning of 2013 the project staff has been also actively involved in discussion on new legislation related to building and landscape planning (Construction Law). It is important to incorporate regulations resulting from the nature conservation legislation into the Construction Law and strengthen the position of nature conservation authorities in the whole process. The process of adopting a new construction law is still ongoing.

5.1.6 Action C1: Implementation of practical model measures for protection of Common Swift and other bird species during reconstructions and insulations of buildings

Responsible beneficiary: SOS/BirdLife Slovakia

Deliverables of the action:
NA

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
Model technical measures for swifts and other birds (e.g. House Martin, Common Kestrel) applied in more than 120 cases (both in regional capitals and other cities).
"Combined" measures focused on both birds and bats implemented on more than 416 sites (in all regional capitals as well as in other cities).

Catalogue of model solutions – e-version – attached to Mid-term Report delivered in March 2014 (Annex C1.1)
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. The overall goal – to apply at least 40 model actions for swifts – was achieved and significantly exceeded.

Problems and their solution:
In some cases building managers and owners do not accept preservation of nesting sites of birds on their buildings. In such cases the project staff put efforts to force the stakeholders to support installation of swift boxes on other buildings (e.g. schools) or other constructions (e.g. chimneys) in the vicinity of their building in order to support local populations of swifts.

Implementation of the action:
Within this action several types of model measures (technical solutions) are reported. These include specific new types of boxes which were developed within the project and were installed on schools, chimneys, road-bridge and other places (other than prefabs). The "common" types of boxes for swifts that were installed on prefabs are reported within the Action C2, so there is no overlap in reporting the achievements of these two actions (C1 and C2).
In total more than 1,600 sites/buildings were dealt with regarding the protection of birds and bats during the project's implementation. Out of this total number model technical measures for swifts and other birds (e.g. House Martin, Common Kestrel) were applied in more than 120 cases (both in regional capitals and other cities). In addition to that "combined" measures focused on both birds and bats were implemented on more than 416 sites (in all regional capitals as well as in other cities).
The most often implemented technical measures are those to keep ventilation holes in the attic open and accessible for birds also after the insulation and reconstruction of the buildings. This is done through modification of plastic grids that are installed on the openings. Within the project more than 14,400 modified plastic grids were installed on more than 400 sites (buildings) in Slovakia. It is a very efficient and low-cost solution, since the original nesting sites for swifts and roosting sites for bats are preserved.
Specific model measures included also adjustments of existing nesting sites in empty spaces hidden under building roofs or roofs on balconies, adjustment of construction works to allow birds to continue in feeding young (Swifts, House Martin, Common Kestrel), modification of plastic grids on already reconstructed buildings, installation of specific boxes in attics with aerogel thermal insulation, creation of nesting sites on historical buildings (e.g. castle in Vígľaš), etc.
Some of the sites were selected according to the results of swifts monitoring in urban areas carried out within Action A.2. The individual sites for installation of boxes (e.g. chimneys, motorway overpass) were carefully chosen also according to the occurrence of birds and possibility of boxes' occupancy by birds in a short period. This approach ensures high efficiency of the implemented measures.

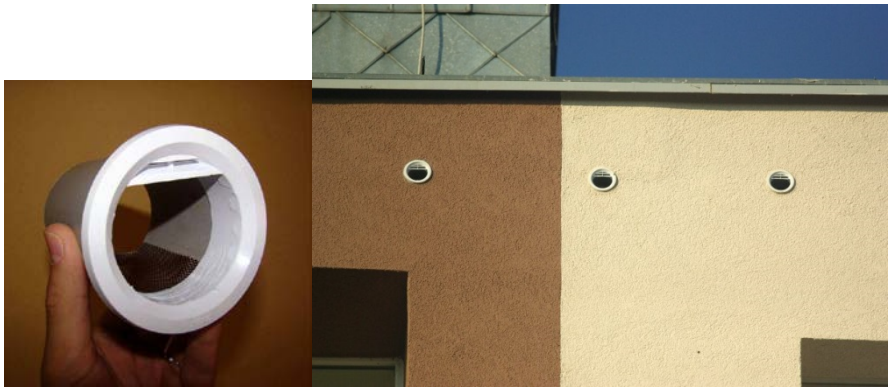
Individual cases of the model protection measures implemented were documented, described in detail and listed in the "Catalogue of model solutions" that was developed as an internal tool to enable for sharing the relevant experience and know-how within and outside the project's implementation team (attached to mid-term report).

All "dealt with" sites have been recorded in the online database AVES Symfony. The sub-module is accessible only for project staff and includes detailed information on the sites where conservation measures or other intervention of the project personnel have been applied.

Overview on practical model measures implemented in 2012-2015:

No.	Type of measure	Number of cases	Locality
Conservation measures for birds			
1.	nesting holes in castle walls	1	Vígľaš (near Zvolen)
2.	boxes installed on road bridge	1	Malacky
3.	protection of nesting site in a space under roof	1	Košice
4.	boxes installed on schools	7	Žilina, Dubnica nad Váhom, Bratislava
5.	replacement of young Common Kestrels	2	Košice
6.	installation of special “triangle-shaped” boxes	2	Dubnica nad Váhom
7.	nest boxes incorporated in blown thermal isolation	1	Považská Bystrica
8.	changed timing of construction works	70+	whole Slovakia
9.	access to nesting sites in crevices between panels preserved also after the reconstruction of building	4	Považská Bystrica, Bratislava
10.	measure to protect birds eggs and young from falling out of nest	1	Zvolen
11.	boxes for swifts installed on trees	1	Oravská Lesná
12.	re-opening of ventilation shafts in attics by using modified plastic grids	2	Veľké Rovne, Bratislava
13.	boxes installed on schools, administrative and private buildings (e.g. a lodging house)	3+	Michalovce, Bratislava, Dubnica nad Váhom
14.	boxes installed on chimneys	4	Bratislava, Smižany, Dolný Kubín
15.	installation of artificial nests for House Martin	20+	whole Slovakia
	TOTAL	**120+**	
Conservation measures for birds and bats			
13.	installation of boxes on stokehold close to existing sites in prefabs	2	Rajec, Bratislava
14.	new types of boxes installed on prefabs	7	Nitra, Komárno, Brezová pod Bradlom, Bratislava, Handlová, Prievidza, Bytča
15.	boxes installed on schools and administrative buildings	5	Bratislava, Brvnište
16.	protection of nesting and roosting sites under roof	2	Bratislava, Liptovský Mikuláš
17.	installation of 14,400+ modified plastic grids on ventilation shafts in attics	400+	whole Slovakia
	TOTAL	**416+**	

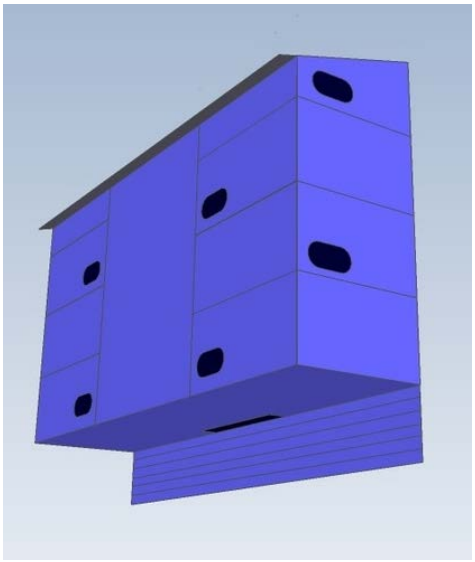
Emergency cases were dealt with immediately. For instance transfer of young of Common Kestrel or House Martin that were directly threatened by construction works, saving birds that were stuck in ventilation holes in attics etc. The measures to be applied were chosen by the experienced project staff based on the specific situation and species concerned.
Conservation measures suggested were communicated in advance with the relevant stakeholders, including architects, state authorities, owners and managers of respective buildings.
Relevant costs were covered from the project budget. However, as it was envisaged in the project proposal, due to increasing public awareness and positive attitude of professionals and public towards protection of birds in urban areas, it was achieved that some of the implemented measures were financially supported by the respective stakeholders.
Since the intensity of thermal insulation and reconstruction works was very high the project staff was focused mainly on solving emergency cases and on the protection of existing nesting sites on buildings. Besides that we intensively communicated with relevant state authorities as well as architects in order to include conservation measures already into the stage of preparation of documentation of construction projects. This approach proved to be more effective also in terms of implementation of the principles described in action A.5. It also allows investors to include relevant costs into overall budget of the respective reconstruction project.
Another efficient tool that was widely used was undertaking a so-called “expert surveys on protection of birds and bats in buildings”. The surveys include on-the-spot checking the building as well as detailed description of technical and compensation measures to be applied. These documents serve the state authorities and architects as an expert basis for elaboration of their official statements and construction projects. In total more than 800 such expert surveys were elaborated during the project’s lifetime. Thanks to active participation of the project’s team in working groups conservation measures for birds and bats were officially adopted and included in updated policy documents According to the Law on Nature and Landscape Protection that came into force on the 1st of January 2014, the position of nature conservation offices in the process of issuing permission for construction works is now stronger than it was before. Existing legislation should help in securing that appropriate conservation measures aiming to protect birds in buildings will be carried out also after the end of the project. The surveys became a mandatory annex to application for state subsidies for reconstruction in buildings since 2016.



Picture C1-1: Modified plastic grid and its application

Picture C1-2 (left): Installation of Swift boxes on a chimney in Rajec
Picture C1-3 (right): Artificial nests for House Martin

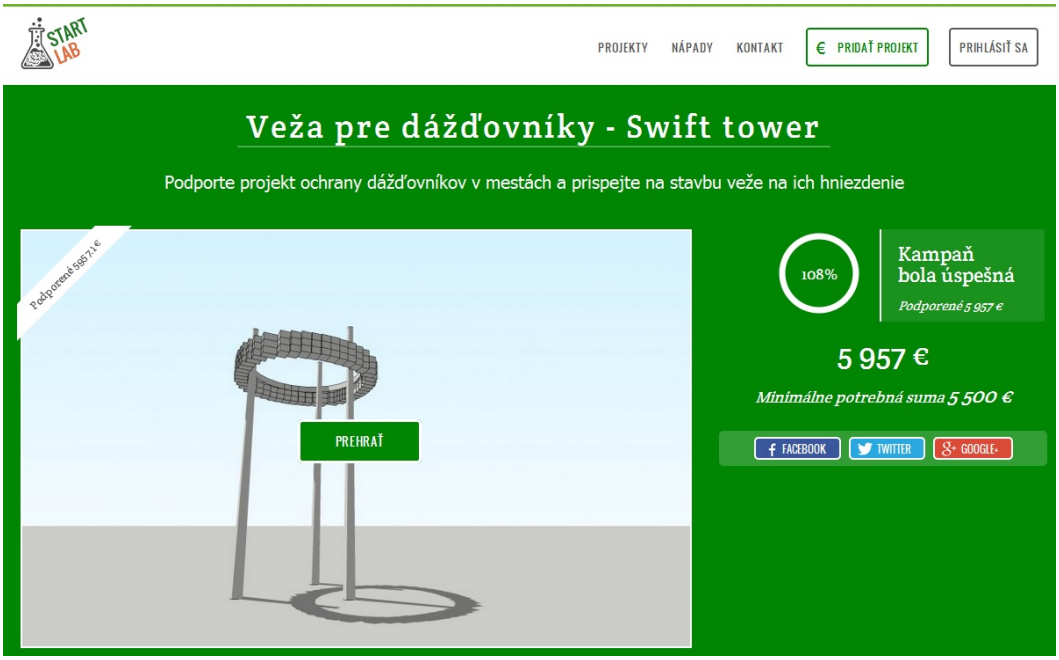
Picture C1-4: Preserved nesting holes on castle in Vígľaš (close to Zvolen) after its reconstruction



Picture C1-5: Combined box for Swifts and bats – a new type developed during the project

Protection of Swifts in cities is intensive also in other European countries. In the U.K. or Poland special "Swift towers" were erected in urban areas not only to provide nesting opportunities for birds but also to inform public and increase public awareness. Based on these examples we developed an idea to build such a tower also in Bratislava. A crowd-finding campaign was carried out using a public portal StartLab.sk, by which we succeeded to raise part of the required funds for co-financing and has already gained significant attention of public and media. The tower as a special promoting object is also important for dissemination of LIFE project activities and its "message" of preserving and creating of habitats for species bound to urban areas.

The design of the swift tower was created in cooperation with architectonic studio. Specially designed and modified nest boxes were created and attached on a carrying steel construction. All preparatory works were finished within the project duration (by 31/12/2015). The building permission is already issued and it is only the land lease contract to be officially acknowledged by the relevant state authority. This is due to prescribed administrative procedure – although the leasing contract is already signed by owner of the respective parcel, it also has to be acknowledged by the state authority (it is expected to be acknowledged by end of may). Nesting boxes for Swifts are fixed in metal circle and the construction of the tower is ready to be erected on the selected site. The erecting and finishing of the tower will be provided free of charge by the Západoslovenská Distribučná, a.s. (Western Slovakian Distributory company). Hence, the construction works can start shortly after the leasing contract is acknowledged and it is estimated, that the tower can be erected and fully available for birds and people within 3-5 days after the works start. It is expected that the tower will be erected in spring 2016 before arrival of Swifts from their winter sites. More details on construction of the Swift tower can be found in Annex C1.2 (FR).



Picture C1-6: Successful StartLab campaign for building the very first Swift tower in Slovakia

5.1.7 Action C2: Installation of special nest boxes for Common Swift

Responsible beneficiary: BROZ

Deliverables of the action:
NA

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. In the approved project proposal it was foreseen that 1,200 Swift boxes will be purchased and installed on buildings in the frame of the project. However, based on increased demand, positive communication with stakeholders as well as cost-effective implementation of conservation actions the number was increased to 2,400 bat boxes. Relevant budget changes were communicated and approved in advance by the European Commission. Through the installation of swift boxes more than 7,000 nesting sites were created.
Three nesting walls created (in Revúca, Košice, and Trebišov).
It is assumed that significant higher number of nesting sites recorded in 2015 (12,739 sites) comparing to 6,083 sites recorded in 2012 indicates increased size of local populations of Commons Swift. Number of nesting sites was increased on 417 localities in Slovakia. It can be concluded that size of local populations of Swifts has been increased on more than 16 sites and the project goal was achieved and even exceeded. Taking into account nesting biology and behavioral of Common Swifts, including the fact that sub-adult individuals younger than 2 years do not breed, to assess changes in population size of the species more precisely would require data from at least 5-years-long monitoring.

Problems and their solution:

In some cases building managers and owners do not accept installation of swift boxes on their buildings. In such cases the project staff put efforts to force the stakeholders to support installation of swift boxes on other buildings (e.g. schools) or other constructions (e.g. chimneys) in the vicinity of their building in order to support local populations of swifts.

Implementation of the action:
Although in the original project it was envisaged that boxes would be installed on 16 pilot sites, field experience proved the necessity to apply this conservation measure on a significantly higher number of localities (more than 350). There are technologies used during reconstruction and thermal insulation of buildings that do not allow preserving nesting sites in ventilation holes in attics. In such a situation the only suitable solution for preserving existing local populations of Swifts is installation of boxes. As mentioned above, installation of boxes was applied on both preliminary selected sites (according to data from monitoring) as well as on ad-hoc identified sites with ongoing or planning construction works.

The special swift boxes were purchased through public procurement procedure. Project management team was communicating with the suppliers in terms of specific requirements (e.g. material, size, shape, number of nesting holes).
Installation of boxes was communicated with the stakeholders concerned. The increased communication and awareness rising resulted in the fact that in many cases investors or owners have purchased some additional boxes from their own financial resources (in total more than 800 nest boxes for swifts). Supported by the recently adopted legislation it is expected that this trend will be increasing in the coming years and will secure sustainability of the project action also after the end of the project lifetime.

Picture C2-1: Nesting wall in Revúca

Picture C2-2: Nesting wall in Košice

Picture C2-3: Nesting wall in Trebišov



Picture C2-4: Different types of Swift boxes installed on buildings

5.1.7 Action C3: Implementation of practical model measures for the protection of bats during reconstructions and insulations of buildings

Responsible beneficiary: SON

Deliverables of the action:
NA

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
Model technical measures for bats applied in more than 650 cases (both in regional capitals and other cities).
More than 14,400 modified plastic grids installed on more than 400 sites.
"Combined" measures focused on both bats and birds implemented on more than 416 sites (in all regional capitals as well as in other cities) (see Action C1)
Catalogue of model solutions – e-version – submitted along with Mid-term Report (Annex C1.1)
In total 800 bat boxes installed on buildings and other constructions (stokehold, chimneys, etc.).
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. The overall goal – to apply model actions for bats at least at 40 sites – was achieved and significantly exceeded.
In the approved project proposal it was foreseen that 400 bat boxes will be purchased and installed on buildings in the frame of the project. However, based on increased demand and positive communication with stakeholders the number was increased to 800 bat boxes. Installation of bat boxes, especially boxes for hibernation, proved as an effective solution with an average occupancy reaching 76% of the total number of boxes installed within the project. Relevant budget changes were communicated and approved in advance by EC.
During the project's implementation number of roosting sites per square kilometer has been increased in all 8 regional capitals. It can be concluded that the population size of bats has been preserved and even increased on more than 16 locations. The project goal was achieved and even exceeded.

Problems and their solution:
In some cases building managers and owners do not accept preservation of roosting sites or installation of bat boxes on their buildings. In such cases the project staff put efforts to force the stakeholders to support installation of bat boxes on other buildings (e.g. schools) or other constructions (e.g. chimneys) in the vicinity of their building in order to support local populations of bats. Concerning summer colonies of bats in sacral buildings the project staff and volunteers organized actions to remove guano and clean attics of the buildings. In many cases this is sufficient to convince building owners and managers to accept seasonal presence of bat colonies.

Implementation of the action:
Within the project more than 1,600 buildings were dealt with concerning the protection of birds and bats.
Similarly to Actions C1 and C2, conservation measures for bats were applied on both the preliminary selected localities as well as on ad-hoc localities and in emergency cases, respectively. Some of them were presented to public via media (TV, e-newspapers). For more details see description of D actions.

Overview on practical model measures for bats implemented in 2012-2015:

No.	Type of measure	Number of sites	Location
Conservation measures for bats			
1.	installation of 800 bat boxes mainly on prefabs	200+	whole Slovakia
2.	installation of straight-through-hole bat-boxes	3+	Bratislava (including City Hotel in Bratislava)
3.	displacement of bats (11,500+ individuals) from ventilation holes in attics and from crevices between panels	400+ sites	whole Slovakia
4.	saving bats (100+ individuals) trapped in ventilation and elevator shafts, basements, etc.	4	Bratislava, Stropkov, Nitra, Bardejov
5.	cleaning and re-opening of ventilation holes in attics	1	Prešov
6.	displacement of bats from ventilation holes of pantries	1	Bardejov
7.	installation of boxes on schools	2	Bratislava
8.	installation of special grid into ventilation shaft to help bats trapped in ventilation shaft to climb out of the shaft	1	Turany pri Martine
9.	protection of timbers in sacral buildings from negative impact of guano	4	Nemecká, Rajec, Kamenná Poruba, Višňové
10.	removing of guano from churches and protection of summer colonies of bats on roofs	8	Dolná Maríková, Petrovice, Rajec, Fačkov, Višňové, Konská, Kamenná Poruba, Horný Vadičov
11.	adjusted timing of construction works in order to protect bats	22+	whole Slovakia
12.	adjustment of project documentation and incorporation of conservation measures into construction permit in order to protect a colony of 2400 bats in Elementary School of Art	1	Dolný Kubín
13.	installation of bat boxes on a hospital	1	Ilava
14.	installation of boxes made from OSB (oriented strand boards) material	2	Košice, Michalovce
	TOTAL	**650+**	

Besides conservation measures for bats also actions aiming both species – bats and birds – were implemented (see description of Action C.1).

Displacement of bats - The most often implemented technical measures were those aiming to safely displace bats from their roosting sites in buildings during reconstruction works. In the past a high number of bats were killed due to the fact that bats were simply ignored and trapped in their roosting sites with no possibility to escape (construction works are carried out during daytime when bats are inactive and resting deep in ventilation holes and other suitable places in buildings). Through communication with stakeholders and media campaign we achieved that the project staff and external experts are contacted in advance firstly to check if bats are present in the respective buildings and secondly to carry out appropriate measures to displace bats from the buildings. In 2012-2015 such actions were implemented on more than 400 sites within Slovakia.

Preservation of existing roosting sites - Main effort was given to preserve existing roosting sites on buildings. Although in many cases this was not possible due to applied insulation technologies, the project staff succeeded in convincing the respective stakeholders to preserve for instance some of the existing crevices between panels accessible for bats. This was achieved through installation of special straight-through-hole boxes or modified plastic grids that enable bats to use the original roosting sites also after thermal insulation of buildings.

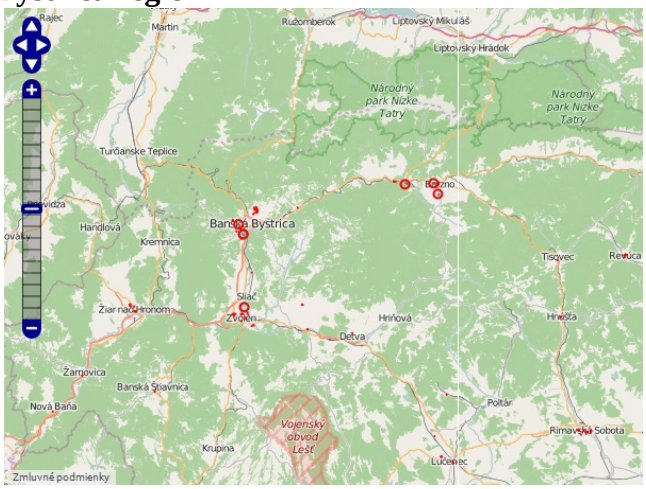
Installation of bat boxes - As a compensation measure for roosting sites between panels and in ventilation openings that could not be preserved after the reconstruction and insulation of buildings, special bat boxes were installed. In total 800 bat boxes were installed on prefabs, schools, and other buildings within the frame of the project (relevant costs were covered from the project budget). In addition to that another 950+bat boxes were installed with financial support of investors and other owners. Bat boxes were installed also on the swift nesting wall (see Action C2).

Emergency cases - The project staff also dealt with ad-hoc and emergency cases, such as sudden occurrence of bat colonies in flats, on balconies, bats trapped in ventilation shafts and other narrow spaces in buildings (Common Noctule Bat is a large bat species that is not able to fly out from a deep narrow space such as shafts), etc.

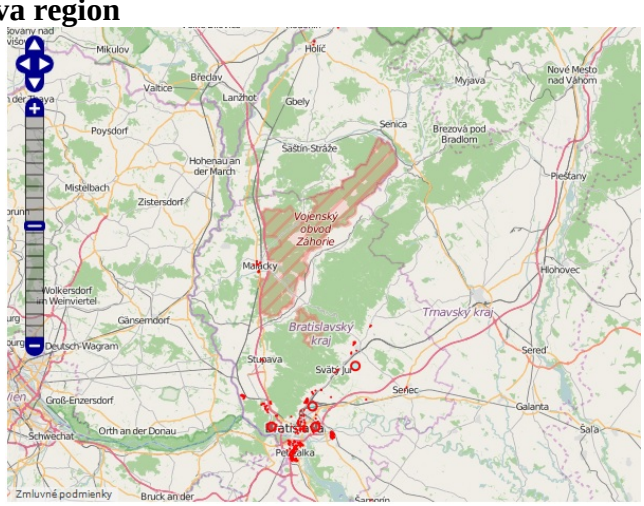
Protection of summer breeding colonies - Based on the data from the monitoring of summer bat colonies (breeding colonies of females with young) and communication with the respective stakeholders, special activities were carried out to protect these summer colonies of bats, mainly in historical and sacral buildings (churches). In many cases the main problem was not the presence of bats as such (usually they are roosting hidden in lofts and church towers) but the guano which they produce and its negative impact on the old wooden constructions (mainly timber). Over the years the considerable amounts of guano have accumulated on some sites, causing serious problems.
In many cases it was agreed between the project staff and the respective owners and/or managers of the buildings that any actions that may threaten bats and their sites will be consulted with professional zoologists in advance while nature conservationists will clean up guano from the sites. If needed, special measures to protect timbers (especially in old churches) from guano were applied. So far experience has proved that if these measures are taken the respective owners and managers of buildings in principle accept presence of bats colonies in their buildings.
As the most simple “first aid” measure the guano was removed from churches in several villages (e.g. Višňové, Petrovice, Dolná Maríková, Turzovka, and Fačkov). In Rajec a special wooden construction (additional floor) was built inside the church tower to protect the lower parts of the loft and to make collecting of guano easier. In the church in Nemecká with a large colony of *Myotis myotis* simple covers made from plastic tubes were installed to protect timbers.

The location of “dealt-with” sites within the actions C1, C2 and C3 in each of 8 regions is presented in the following maps:

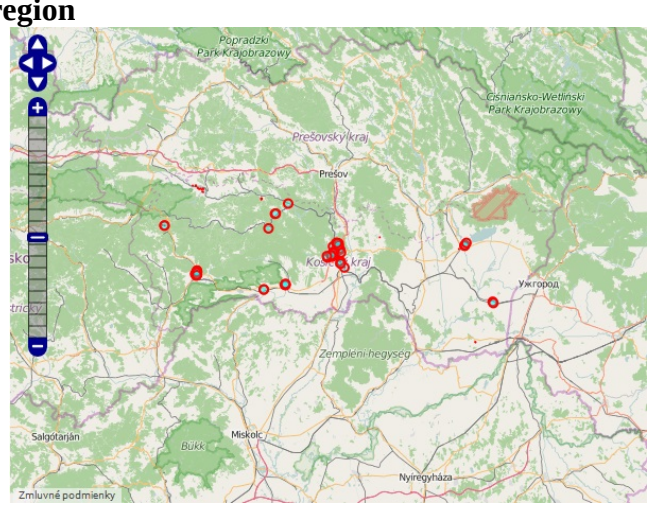
Map C3.2 – Banská Bystrica region



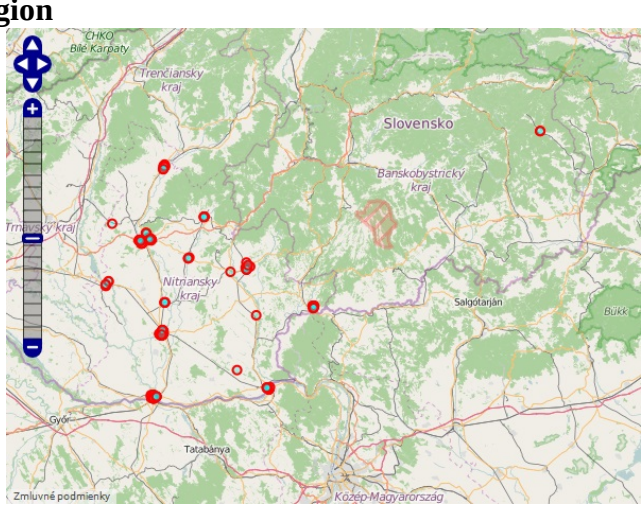
Map C3.1 – Bratislava region



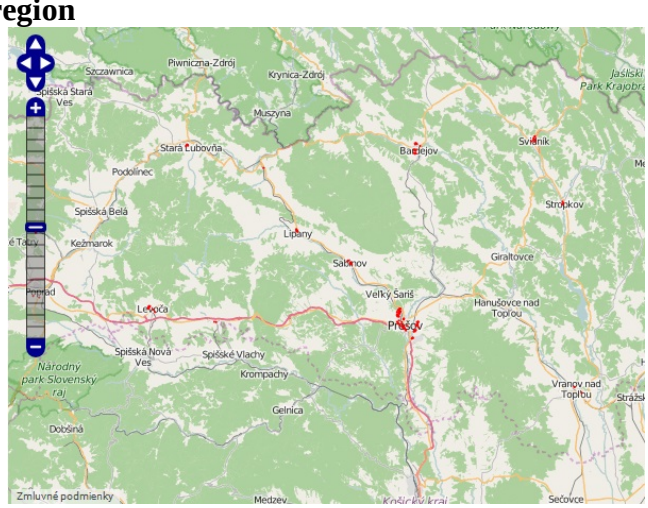
Map C3.8 – Košice region



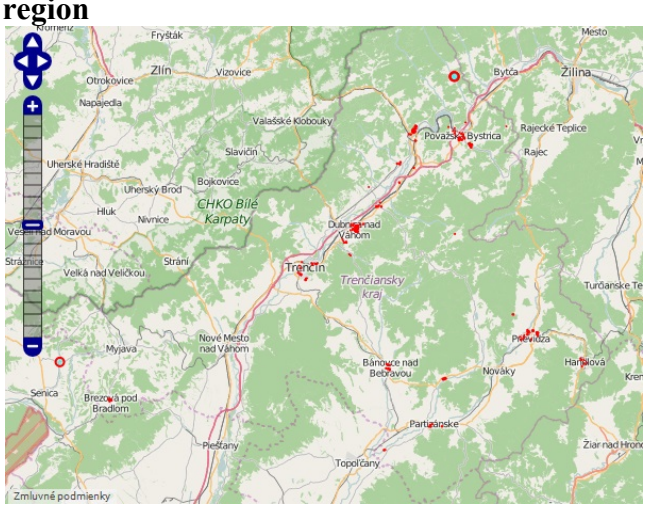
Map C3.4 – Nitra region



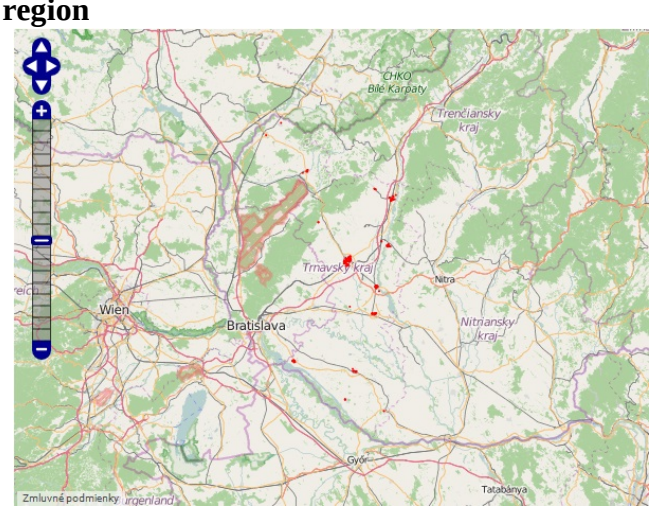
Map C3.7 – Prešov region



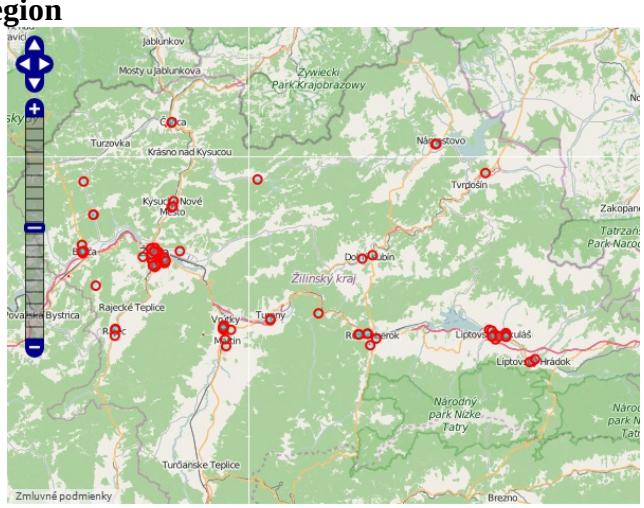
Map C3.5 – Trenčín region



Map C3.3 – Trnava region



Map C3.6 – Žilina region



Picture C3-1: Measures for safe displacing of bats from roosting sites in buildings


Picture C3-2: Installation of bat boxes suitable for hibernation


Picture C3-3: Bat boxes implemented in thermal insulation


Picture C3-4 (left): Cleaning timbers and removing guano from church attics in Rajec
Picture C3-5 (right): Protection of beams in church-attics in Nemecká from guano by installing plastic tubes in

Picture C3-6 (left): Open entrance to roosting site of bats
Picture C3-7 (right): Special straight-through-hole batbox through which bats can access their original roosting sites in the crevices between panels

5.2 Dissemination actions

5.2.1 Objectives

Overview on progress regarding the project's deliverables and milestones:

Deliverable and Milestones	Associated action	Deadline	Progress / Adjustments
Methodology for protection of Common Swift, bats and other species during reconstructions and insulations of buildings	A1	31/12/2012	**finished**; Annex A1.1 to mid-term report (28/02/2014)
1st report from the monitoring	A2, A4	30/09/2012	**finished**; Annex A2.1, Annex A4.1 to mid-term report (28/02/2014)
2nd report from the monitoring	A2, A4	30/09/2013	**finished;** delivered in May 2014 (Annex A2.2 and Annex A4.2)
3rd report from the monitoring	A2, A4	30/09/2014	**finished;** **Common Swift** – Annex A2.3 **Common Noctule** – Annex A4.3
4th report from the monitoring	A2, A4	30/09/2015	**finished;** **Common Swift** – Annex A2.4 **Common Noctule** – Annex A4.4
Methodology for monitoring of Common Swift in urban areas	A2	31/03/2012	**finished**; Annex A2.2 to Inception report (10/2012)
National Database of nesting sites of Swifts in Slovakia	A2	30/09/2012	**finished**; Annex D1.11 to mid-term report; regularly updated
List (database) of building keepers (managers)	A2	30/09/2012	**finished**; Annex A2.1 to Inception report (10/2012); regularly updated
National Database of roosting sites of bats in Slovakia	A4	31/12/2012	**finished**; Annex D1.11 to mid-term report; regularly updated
Layman's report	D1	31/12/2015	**finished;** Annex D1.11
Promotional materials – leaflet, booklet, poster, stickers	D1	31/12/2012	**finished;** leaflets (Annex D1.1, Annex D1.2), stickers (Annex D1.3), booklet (Annex D1.13), poster (Annex D1.9)
Film (DVD)	D1	31/12/2014	**finished;** Annex D1.12
Media outputs – copies of press releases and articles published	D1	31/12/2015	**finished;** (Annex D1.5 and Annex D1.6)
Technical manual	D1*	30/06/2013	**finished**; Annex D1.7
Guidelines	A5	30/11/2015	**finished;** Annex A5.3 (updated version)
Audit report	E2	31/12/2015	**finished;** Annex E2.1
After-LIFE Communication plan	E3	31/12/2015	**finished;** Annex E3.1
Reports from the study visits	E4	31/12/2015	**finished;** 8 study visits (see Annex E4.1 and

			Annex E4.2 to mid-term report); Annex E4.3
Project manager and financial manager / accountant employed	E1	31/01/2012	**finished**
Other project personnel employed	E1	30/09/2012	**finished**
32 training seminars for 160 participants organized	A3	31/12/2015	**finished;** 15 trainings for 345 participants organized
At least 40 model actions implemented to ensure Swift protection during reconstruction and insulation works	C1	31/12/2015	**finished;** applied at more than 120 sites (see Annex C1.1 to mid-term report)
2,400 nest boxes for swifts installed	C2	31/03/2015	**finished;** 2,400 boxes installed
3 nesting walls prepared	C2	31/03/2015	**finished;** 3 nesting walls created
Practical model measures for protection of bats implemented at 40 sites; 800 bat-boxes installed	C3	31/12/2015	**finished;** model measures applied at more than 650 sites; 800 bat-boxes installed (see Annex C1.1 to mid-term report)
Project website established	D1	30/06/2012	**finished**; regularly updated
Exhibition "Return of Swifts" installed	D1	30/11/2013	**finished;** exhibition installed on 14 sites
Notice boards installed	D1	30/04/2013	**finished;** notice boards (Annex D1.10 to mid-term report) temporarily installed on construction sites
300 meetings with stakeholders organized	D2	31/12/2015	**finished;** 4,160+ personal meetings with stakeholders
80 lessons with excursions, 180 lessons for children	D3	31/12/2015	**finished;** 312 lessons and excursions, 3,000+ participants
1st thematic national workshop	D4	31/12/2012	**finished** (Zvolen, 22-23/03/2012)
2nd thematic national workshop	D4	31/12/2013	**finished** (Slatinka, 26-27/09/2013)
16 regional meetings	D4	31/12/2013	**finished;** 8 regional meetings organized, see description of the action D4 in the text below
1st international meeting	D4	31/12/2012	**finished**; international conference in Zvolen (24-26/10/2012)
2nd international meeting	D4	30/11/2015	**finished**; international conference in Žilina (27/10/2015)

* In the project proposal it was mistakenly indicated that this deliverable will be delivered within the Action E1. Technical manual will be delivered only in the frame of the Action D1.

5.2.2 Dissemination: overview per activity

5.2.2.1 Action D1: Promotional materials and project presentation in media

Responsible beneficiary: BROZ

Deliverables of the action:
Information leaflets (in Slovak) **(Annex D1.1, Annex D1.2)**
Stickers – attached to Mid-term report delivered in March 2014 (Annex D1.3)
Pocket calendars – attached to Mid-term report delivered in March 2014 (Annex D1.4)
3 press releases – attached to Mid-term report delivered in March 2014 (Annex D1.5)
147 media outputs **(**updated list - **Annex D1.5, Annex D1.6 –** printed media outputs in 2014-2015**)**
Technical manual *Protection of species during thermal insulation and reconstruction of buildings* (in Slovak) **(Annex D1.7)**
Web-site of the project - www.dazdovniky.vtaky.sk
Project's Facebook site - https://www.facebook.com/navratdazdovnikov
Design of exhibition "Return of Swifts" – attached to Mid-term report delivered in March 2014
Poster "Protection of Swifts and bats in Buildings" (in Slovak) **(Annex D1.9)**
Notice boards temporarily installed on buildings where conservation measures for swifts and bats were applied **(Annex D1.11)**
Layman's Report (in Slovak and English) **(Annex D1.12)**
Booklet "Protection of Common Swift and bats in urban areas" (in Slovak) **(Annex D1.14)**
Documentary "Return of Swifts" (in Slovak with English subtitles) **(Annex D1.13)**

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
planned / achieved
Leaflets – 20,000 / 73,000
Stickers – 4,000 / 28,000
Pocket calendars – 0 / 250
Press releases – 4 / 3 + 1 press conference without press release
Articles – 20 / 113
Reports on radio – 5 / 6
Reports on TV – 4 / 28
Layman's Report – 1,000 / 1,000
Booklet – 2,000 / 3,450
Posters – 1,000 / 4,500
Film, DVD – 1,200 / 1,200
Technical manual – 1,000 / 2,000
Exhibition – 8 venues / 14 venues
Notice boards – 10 / 10
It can be concluded that expected results were achieved. Number of copies of selected items was adjusted according to the public demand and field experience gained during the project's implementation.
Although some of the promotional materials were delivered with a delay, the public awareness campaign carried out within the project was not negatively affected. Based on the field experience and existing demand in total 2,000 pcs of the Technical manual were printed (instead of the originally foreseen 1,000 pcs) and increased amount of Information booklet

Stickers and Leaflets was printed as well. The total costs assigned for printing of information materials in the project budget were not exceeded.
Articles in public magazines and newsletters as well as interviews on TV and radio proved to be an effective tool to increase public awareness on the protection of birds and bats in buildings. Besides the printed information materials, also powerpoint presentations were used on public meetings (when possible). If possible living animals – bats and swifts – were shown to public as well. Keeping in mind that public has a natural antipathy towards bats, the possibility to see and even touch a living specimen is a very good "ice-breaking" tool.

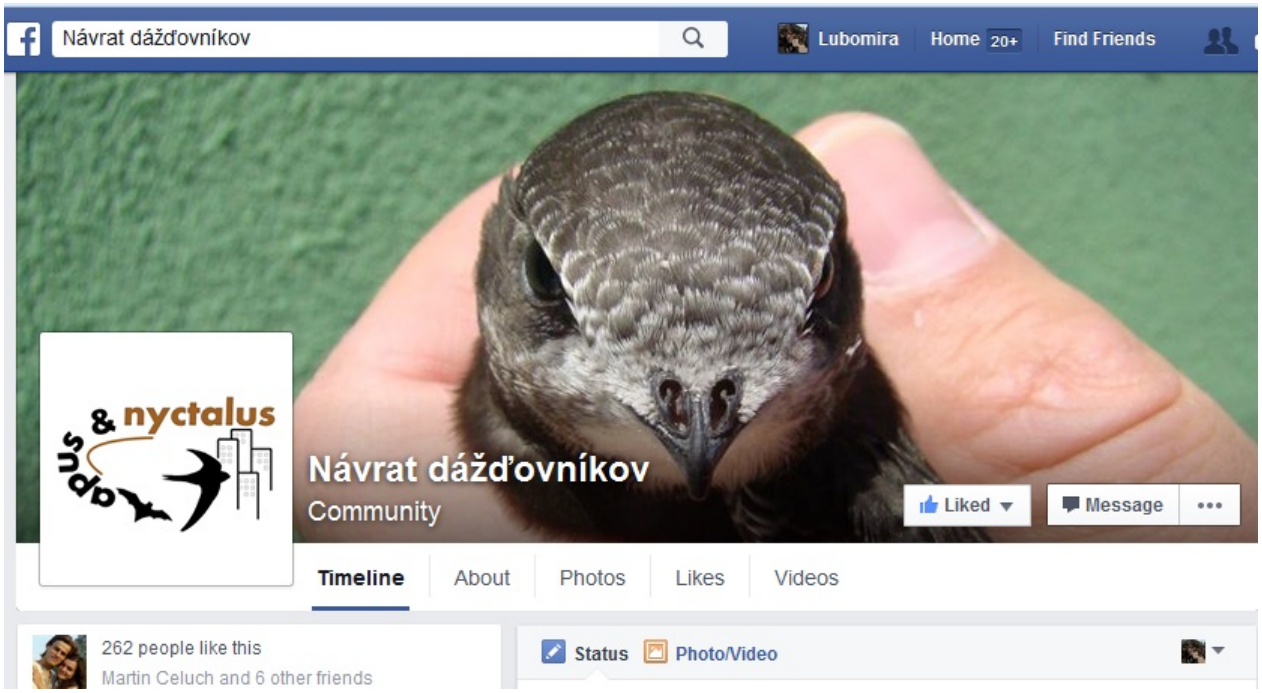
Problems and their solution:
There has been unexpected problem with presenting the project and logo of the LIFE program in media. Many media consider LIFE logo or even reference to the project and mentioning financial support from EC as an advertisement. Publishing LIFE logo and mentioning the European Commission as the project donor is conditioned by extra payment of advertisement fee that is at least 30 EUR per article. When providing an interview the project staff always mentioned support from EC. However, this information is often missing in the final reportages and/or articles. Unfortunately, there is no simple way for the project staff to influence this situation concerning media. Using relevant logos is obligatory at actions organized by the project beneficiaries.

Implementation of the action:
Several types of promotional materials were elaborated within the project and disseminated to stakeholders and public:

Information leaflets (in Slovak) ***S netopiermi pod jednou strechou / Under one roof with bats*** and ***Dážďovník obyčajný / Common Swift*** were printed and disseminated to public (in total amount of 73,000 pcs.). Both types of leaflets were attached to Mid-term Report (Annex D1.1 and Annex D1.2).
Stickers with Common Swift (attached to Mid-term report) were produced by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia (in total amount of 28,000 pcs.).
Pocket calendars with pictures of Common Swift and Common Noctule (attached to Mid-term report) were produced in 2013 by BROZ. LIFE logo and reference to the project are clearly visible on these materials.
These promotional materials have been disseminated on meetings, seminars and lectures in schools and also on public awareness events organized and/or attended by the project's beneficiaries.
In the course of the project 4 **press conferences** were organized (15/05/2012, 25/10/2012, 09/05/2013, and 27/10/2015). Two of them took place in Bratislava in order to attract as many media representatives as possible. The press conferences were held in May back-to-back with celebration of the *World day of migratory birds*. Two press conferences to inform about the international meetings were organized in October 2012 in Zvolen and in October 2015 in Zilina. Invitation to the events was disseminated via media mailing lists of the project's beneficiaries. Project was presented through more than 147 media outputs out of which 113 were articles in e-newsletters, magazines and other printed media, 28 reports on TV, and 6 reports on radio. List of media outputs (press cuttings overview) (Annex D1.5) and the copies of articles and press releases from 2014-2015 (Annex D1.6) are attached.
Technical manual (Annex D1.7) containing detailed description on technical measures for birds and bats in buildings was printed. It is mainly addressed to stakeholders, in particular construction companies, architects, field workers and building managers. It includes also

information on suitability of the respective measures as well as the main threats to the species and habitats that can result from inappropriate application of the measures.
The **project web site** was established during the Inception phase and is available at www.dazdovniky.vtaky.sk. It is regularly updated and basic information about the project is available in Slovak and English. The web site includes photo gallery, information on the project, its activities and results, on events related to the topic and also contacts on the project personnel and project assistants in case of emergency. Detailed information about conservation measures, legislation and best-practice examples from Slovakia and other European countries can be found there as well. Part of the web site (INTRANET) is accessible only for the project staff. It serves as a tool for communication and sharing draft documents, documents for the reporting etc.

Recently one of the most popular social internet tools is Facebook. Special FB site for the project and conservation of species in buildings in general was established; can be found at https://www.facebook.com/navratdazdovnikov.



Exhibition "Return of Swifts" was prepared and presented at 14 venues in the second half of the project's lifetime (e.g. at premises of the MoE of the Slovak Republic and Comenius University in Bratislava, in public libraries, museums, schools and several events, including EUROBATS meeting in Brussels in 2014 and the project's final conference in Žilina in 2015). The exhibition is divided in 5 pull-ups with information about the species, their habitats and threats. In addition to that a model of a prefabricated house was developed to demonstrate places such as ventilation shafts in attics, holes between panels, cracks etc. used by birds and bats for nesting and roosting. The model shows status before and after reconstruction of a building, including implemented conservation measures. The exhibition will be presented also after the end of the project. A preliminary list of subjects interested to present it at their premises or cities is being elaborated. **Posters** (4,500 pcs) promoting protection of birds and bats (Annex D1.9) in cities were designed and are disseminated to public. Simple **notice boards** on the project (Annex D1.11) were printed, informing about the compensation measures for protection of birds and bats and about the support of the European Commission to the project. The notice boards were temporarily installed on buildings undergoing thermal insulation and reconstruction (15+ dealt-with sites). **Layman's Report** (Annex D1.12) was printed in Slovak (700 pcs) and English (300 pcs) and includes basic information about Swifts and bats and their protection in cities as well as information about the project – its main goals and achievements. The report was distributed to the key stakeholders (construction companies, architects), state authorities, professional conservationists, NGOs, etc. **Booklet *Protection of Swifts and bats in urban areas*** (Annex D1.14) was printed (3,450 pcs.) and distributed to public. It contains general information about Common Swift and Common Noctule bat and the main principles of protection of the species and their sites in buildings. The booklet is addressed to wide public, young students and pupils. Production of a 30-minutes documentary **film *Return of Swifts*** (Annex D1.13) started in 2013 and was finalized in autumn 2015. The shooting was done during the whole seasons in order to present the species behaviour and changes in their nesting and roosting sites over the whole year. It was done by professionals well-experienced in shooting animals in their natural environment. The documentary (1,200 DVDs) is in Slovak with English subtitles available. The very first public premiere of the documentary took place during the

project's conference in October 2015 in Žilina. The film has been distributed within as well as outside Slovakia (e.g. to the Czech Republic, U.K., Poland, Bulgaria). In May 2016 it will be presented at festival of environmental films *Ekotopfilm 2016* in Bratislava and follow-up film-tours in other cities in Slovakia. The festival's jury was highly impressed by the documentary and the project's results. It has offered us to further present it via their info channels and social networks and expressed an interest for further cooperation. The project's representatives received an invitation for VIP talk-show to be attended by well-known conservationists such as Jane Goodall discussing environmental issues with public.

5.2.2.2 Action D2: Meetings with stakeholders

Responsible beneficiary: BROZ

Deliverables of the action:
NA

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
More than 4,160 meetings with stakeholders carried out.
Action was implemented according to the project's time schedule; the results significantly exceeded the amount planned by the project (300 meetings).

Problems and their solution:
There were no significant problems in implementation of the action.

Implementation of the action:
Meetings with stakeholders were held on the spot when dealing with concrete conservation measures. Results and agreements achieved during the meetings were recorded in so-called construction diary and signed by all parties. This is by law an obligatory tool to record all important issues and to state authorities it serves as an official document. The project's staff was recording all buildings with ongoing insulation or reconstruction in the regions. These localities were regularly checked and if necessary, conservation measures to minimize direct threats to the species were discussed and applied in cooperation with stakeholders.
There were many localities with construction permission issued not later than in 2011. These cases required special attention because conservation measures for bats and birds were not included in the permissions. Since the beginning of the project in 2012 big efforts have been given to secure that protection of birds and bats in buildings is taken into account during elaboration of construction projects and related documents, including statements and permissions issued by the state authorities (nature conservation and construction offices). In this regard the project staff gathered information and data on planned construction works to be carried out on buildings with existing as well as with potential nesting and roosting sites of birds and bats.
In total more than 4,160 informal personal meetings (on average 3 participants per meeting) were organized within the project to improve cooperation with stakeholders and to raise their awareness on the topic. The meetings were also crucial for negotiating and agreeing the proper implementation of projects concrete conservation actions. This relatively high number reflects the fact that for each case (dealt-with site) usually several personal meetings were needed.
Cooperation with SNC has been established. The SNC's staff attended the project's meetings and conferences and has access to all project deliverables. Concerning protection of summer

roosting sites and colonies of bats an intensive communication with representatives of churches, most importantly with the Bishops' Conference of Slovakia has been established. Main focus is given to negative impact of bat´s guano on timbers in roofs with summer breeding colonies of bats that is very often the main argument when dealing with presence of bats (in many cases there are hundreds to thousands of individuals) in sacral and historical buildings.

Picture D2-1: On-the-spot meetings and discussions with stakeholders

5.2.2.3 Action D3: Excursions in cities and lectures on schools

Responsible beneficiary: SON

Deliverables of the action:
NA

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
In total 312+ lectures and excursions for 3,000+ participants **(Annex D3.2)**
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. Foreseen number of lessons (180) and excursions (80) was exceeded as these were organized mostly back-to-back during the project.

Problems and their solution:
There were no significant problems in implementation of the action.

Implementation of the action:
To raise awareness of public on protection of birds and bats in buildings more than 312 lectures and excursions were organized especially at schools, in public libraries, so-called summer outdoor schools and other places for more than 3,000 people, including students, pupils and pre-school kids. During excursions sites with implemented conservation measures for bats and birds were visited and the importance of conservation measures explained. Participants also experienced bat-research methods such is netting (catching bats into a special net) and monitoring of bats with bat-detectors. Outdoor lectures were organized also along with the European Bat Nights actions in cooperation with EUROBATS. To present some of the field research methods such as netting of bats, some of the presentations were

organized also outside urbanized areas (e.g. in the Pieniny National Park), near water bodies where the bats could be better observed in summer. Lists of participants are in Annex D3.2.

In cooperation with the State Forests of the High Tatras Mts. National Park, state enterprise, educational materials about bats, their ecology, conservation and role in ecosystems were elaborated. These materials were used for lectures. Lectures were given to the State Forests staff as well to improve the knowledge on the topic and enable them to pass lessons learnt to a wider audience. Cooperation with several Eco-centres (e.g. Eco-center in Zázrivá) especially concerning rehabilitation of birds and bats has been established as well.

Picture D3-1: Children are less afraid of bats than their parents

Picture D3-2: Field excursion (on the left) and monitoring of bats with bat-detectors (on the right)

5.2.2.4 Action D4: Workshops, national and international meetings for experts and stakeholders

Responsible beneficiary: BROZ

Deliverables of the action:
NA

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
planned / achieved
Thematic workshops – 2 / 2; number of participants 50 / 57
Regional meetings – 16 / 8; number of participants – 320 / 102
International meetings – 2 / 2; number of participants – 40 / 200 **(**Annex D4.1 to Mid-term Report **and Annex D4.2)**
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. In general the expected results were achieved and even exceeded. Although there were less regional meetings organized than foreseen these were replaced with more than 4,160 personal meetings with stakeholders (see also *Problems and their solution*).

Problems and their solution:
According to the project proposal 16 regional meetings for 320 stakeholders were foreseen to be held within the project. As explained under the Action A3 and Action D2, most of the communication with the stakeholders took place on the spot during face-to-face meetings. Generally the personal meetings on the spot were more preferred by stakeholders since they use to be very busy particularly during the "construction season" (from spring to autumn) to participate on the "official" regional meetings. It was confirmed that on-the-spot personal meetings serve better the purpose to actively involve stakeholders into conservation actions.

Implementation of the action:
In 2012 and 2013 in total **2 thematic national workshops** attended by 57 participants (project staff, representatives of SNC, students and volunteers) were organized: 22-23 March 2012 in Zvolen, and 26-27 September 2013 in Slatinka. Results of the project actions were presented by project assistants. These meetings served as a platform to present overall project progress as well as regional and local activities and share knowledge and experience on dealing with specific conservation issues. In addition to that **8 regional meetings** for the project's staff and stakeholders (102 participants) were held in Bratislava, Košice, Nitra, Ďurčiná and Zvolen. On the agenda of the 3 meetings organized in 2013 (in Nitra, Považská Bystrica, Ďurčiná and Zvolen) was training for the project's team and volunteers on monitoring of bats by using bat-detectors and on processing data by using special software. These workshops and meetings proved to be very useful for improvement of expertise of the project's team and volunteers.

At the national level the project and its results were presented at the Ornithological Conference in Zvolen (September 2014) and scientific congress "Zoology 2014" in Prešov (November 2014).
In October 2014 the project was presented at the CEEweb for Biodiversity Academy on Green Infrastructure. The event took place in Rackeve (Hungary) and was attended by more than 70 experts from several European countries and representatives of the European Commission.

On 24-26 October 2012 the **1st International Conference** *Conservation of Birds and Bats during insulation and reconstruction of buildings* was held in Zvolen. 120 experts representing state authorities, universities and expert NGOs from Slovakia, Spain, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, and Ukraine presented their experience and know-how on conservation of birds and bats in buildings. The conference was organized under the auspices of the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic. On the second day of the conference a field visit to the project sites in Zvolen was organized. The conference was the first international event focusing in particular on conservation of bats and birds in buildings held in the region of Central Europe.
The second international conference took place in Žilina on 27th of October 2015 and was attended by more than 80 participants, particularly representatives of state authorities, environmental inspectors, professional conservationists, NGOs, etc. The project's results and follow-up activities were presented and discussed during the conference. Czech experts shared their experience and knowledge on practical and also legal conservation of birds and bats in buildings in the Czech Republic. During the conference documentary *Return of Swifts* developed within the project was for the very first time presented to public. List of participants is in Annex D4.1.

Events organized in 2012-2015:

Event	Date	Place	Number of participants
1st National workshop	22-23/03/2012	Zvolen	38
2nd National workshop	26-27/09/2013	Slatinka pri Zvolene	19
1st Regional meeting	25-26/02/2012	Bratislava	10
2nd Regional meeting	05/03/2012	Košice	8
3rd Regional meeting	24/10/2012	Zvolen	16
4th Regional meeting	29/11 – 01/12/2012	Bratislava	21
5th Regional meeting	20/03/2013	Nitra	13
6th Regional meeting	27/05/2013	Považská Bystrica	6
7th Regional meeting	21-22/06/2013	Ďurčiná	18
8th Regional meeting	18/10/2013	Zvolen	10
1st International conference	24-26/10/2012	Zvolen	120
2nd International conference	27/10/2015	Žilina	80
			Total: 359


Picture D4-1: 1st International Conference (Zvolen, 24-26/10/2012)


Picture D4-2: 2nd International Conference (Žilina, 27/10/2015)

5.2.2.5 Action E3: After-LIFE Communication Plan

Responsible beneficiary: SOS/BirdLife Slovakia

Deliverables of the action:
After-LIFE Communication Plan **(Annex E3.1)**

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. After-LIFE Communication Plan was elaborated in Slovak and English and is attached in **Annex E3.1.**

Problems and their solution:
There were no significant problems in implementation of the action.

Implementation of the action:
The Communication Plan includes activities to be implemented after the end of the project in order to disseminate and communicate the project's results with experts and stakeholders in Slovakia as well as other mostly European countries in the period of 2016-2026. Main focus will be given to capacity building and rising public awareness on protection of biodiversity, especially birds and bats in urban environment. It will be done mainly through on-the-spot meetings with stakeholders and discussions during events such as workshops and conferences that will be attended by the beneficiaries' staff. The project's beneficiaries will continue their work concerning implementation of concrete conservation measures to protect the species and their sites. Experts will be involved in elaboration and implementation of relevant environmental policy at the national and European level. Results of the project as well as its follow-up activities will be regularly monitored and analysed in order to be flexible in modification and application of the best practice as well as innovative methods and measures. For more details see the After-LIFE Communication Plan in Annex E3.1 (both in Slovak and English).

5.2.2.6 Action E4: Networking with other projects

Responsible beneficiary: BROZ
Deliverables of the action:
Reports from 7 study tours and visits **(Annex E4.3)**

Comparison with planned outputs / expected results and time schedule:
planned / achieved
Study tours – 8 / 9; number of person days 160 / 2012
Networking with another projects – 4 / 12
Action was implemented according to the project time schedule. The expected results were achieved and even exceeded.

Problems and their solution:
There were no significant problems in implementation of the action.

Implementation of the action:
Although this action is not included among D actions (public awareness and dissemination of results) it can be considered as an activity to both improve cooperation and disseminate the lessons learnt (also in other EU member states where similar problems are encountered). Several short study visits and international trips were accomplished. The main focus was on exchange of information and know-how, best practices and experience sharing. During the visits the project activities, particularly conservation measures and their achievements were presented to wider audience at several national and international events. Results of this action are summarised in the table below.

List of study tours and visits organized and/or attended within the project in 2012-2015:

No.	Place	Date	Agenda	Number of participants	Duration (days)	Total person days
1.	Berlin (Germany)	10-12/04/2012	International workshop on Common Swift - biology, ecology and conservation of swifts in European and non-European countries	5	4	20
2.	Barcelona (Spain)	05-07/12/2012	Ecology and monitoring of bats	3	5	15
3.	Krynica-Zdrój (Poland)	22-24/03/2013	Protection of bats	2	4	12
4.	Slovakia	04-05/07/2013	Excursion to sites with implemented conservation measures for birds and bats organized for colleagues from Poland; excursion was organized upon demand of experts from Poland	5	3	15
5.	Czech Republic (Olomouc, Přerov, …)	20-22/05/2013	Excursion to sites with implemented conservation measures for birds and bats	8	3	24
6.	Cambridge (U.K.)	7-11/04/2014	International workshop on Common Swift – biology, ecology and conservation of Swifts in European and non-European countries	2	5	10
7.	Brussels (Belgium)	15-17/09/2014	EUROBATS Advisory Committee Meeting	1	3	3
8.	Rackeve (Hungary)	6-8/10/2014	CEEweb for Biodiversity Academy on Green Infrastructure	1	3	3
9.	Slovakia	19-23/01/2015	Study visit of experts from Poland focused on protection of bats	20	5	100
				47		**202**

Particularly important was the study tour to the Czech Republic (20-22 May 2013). It was organized in cooperation with the Czech Ornithological Society and Czech Bat Conservation Society and attended by 8 members of the project team. During the study tour several sites with implemented conservation measures, including boxes for swifts and bats were visited in Přerov, Holešov, Olomouc, and Uherské Hradiště. In Velká Bystřice a church with important colonies of bats was visited. It was best-practice example on cooperation between conservationists and stakeholders, in this case church representatives. Colleagues from the Czech Republic presented their projects and activities on species protection in buildings during meetings at Ornithological station in Přerov. They have run several national and regional projects on birds and bats conservation in buildings. They have gained valuable expertise which replication in Slovakia requires only small modifications since the relevant legislation, structure of state authorities and at last but not least also public awareness and attitude toward the topic is very similar in both countries. A detailed report from the study tour was attached to Mid-term report.

Besides that the project and its preliminary outcomes were presented at conferences in the Czech Republic (Zoologické dny 2012) and Slovakia (Zoológia 2012 in Zvolen, Výskum a ochrana cicavcov na Slovensku, 08 November 2013 in Zvolen). Conservation measures were presented to representatives of companies dealing with thermal insulation technologies and other experts at international conference on complex reconstruction of flat-buildings held in Podbanské on 20-22 November 2012. This event provided a good opportunity to meet all important stakeholders from Slovakia and discuss about species-friendly technologies applied abroad. Participation at these events provided a platform for establishing contacts with colleagues from other countries, to share knowledge and best-practice examples.

In total the contacts have been established with 12 other projects and/or initiatives on similar topics.

No.	Project / Initiative	Country
1.	Swift arrival project	worldwide
2.	Initiative “Swift Conservation” and its projects	U.K.
3.	NETOPIERoviny Rajeckej doliny	Slovakia
4.	“Pod jednou střechou” (“Under one roof”)	Czech Republic
5.	“Náš soused je netopýr” (“Our neighbour is bat”)	Czech Republic
6.	Monitoring of bats in prefabs	Czech Republic
7.	Protection of bats roosting in buildings	Czech Republic
8.	Initiative of Bat Conservation Trust focused on protection of bats in buildings (*Buildings, Planning and Development*)	U.K.
9.	“Poznej tajemný svět netopýrů” (educational program on bats for schools)	Czech Republic
10.	Enhancing business and biodiversity cooperation in the Visegrád countries for the benefit of all	CEEweb for Biodiversity (Hungary), Poland, Czech Republic
11.	Initiative on protection of Swifts (e.g. action *Jerusalem welcomes swifts to the Western Wall*)	Israel
12.	Ministry of Environment in Bulgaria and NGO Green Balkans, Bulgaria – activities on protection of birds and bats in buildings	Bulgaria

Contacts and cooperation based on the identical goals has been established with several organizations and experts from European and non-European countries (Bat Conservation Trust - U.K., Royal Society for Protection of Birds – U.K., Swifts International, Czech Ornithological Society, Czech Bat Conservation Society, Ptaki Polskie – Poland, other experts from Spain, Israel, etc.).

We have established contacts with representatives of the state authorities (MoE) and NGOs in Bulgaria. We provided them with the project's outcomes, e.g. manual, case studies and expertise on implementation of conservation measures for birds and bats in buildings. They have found these materials so helpful that they are going to translate them in Bulgarian (namely *Catalogue of model solutions* and *Manual on technical measures for protection of birds and bats in buildings*).

The project was presented by SON at the meetings of Advisory Committee of EUROBATS: 15-17/04/2012 in Dublin, Ireland, 15-17/04/2013 in Sofia, Bulgaria, and on the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties, 15-17/09/2014 in Brussels, Belgium. Although it was not anticipated in the project proposal, the active networking and communication under the umbrella of EUROBATS over the last 3 years has led to elaboration of a specific **"Resolution 7.11 Bats and Building Insulation".** The resolution was adopted by 36 EUROBATS party states and it calls upon Parties and non-party Range States to:

1. Work to ensure that insulation projects are undertaken in compliance with national legislation regarding bat protection and conservation and the requirement to avoid bat mortality by implementing appropriate mitigation and compensation for roost loss;
2. Take into account, when assessing the importance of individuals losses, that the cumulative impact of fatalities and loss of bat roosts in buildings can lead to detrimental effects on bat populations;
3. Work to resolve any possible conflict between insulation regulations and bat conservation;
4. Include the impact on bats in the environmental assessment of insulation programs at a strategic level;
5. Look into the problem of bat roosts and different types of insulation in relation to privately or community owned buildings;
6. Recommend appropriate awareness-raising campaigns, trainings and information materials for stakeholders involved in insulation projects about bat conservation in buildings.

In December 2014 the project was awarded the ***CEEweb for Biodiversity Award of excellence in biodiversity protection*** in the category "Connecting and restoring habitats and greening up urban spaces". Through this award and related information campaign **the project and its results has reached approximately 100,000 people** in the EU member as well as non-member states, including representatives of EC and international organizations such as IUCN, WWF, ECNC, EHF, etc.

Picture E4-1: Study visit of experts from Poland (19-23/01/2015)

Picture E4-2: EUROBATS Meeting of the Parties showing the project's exhibition panels (15-17/09/2014, Brussels)

CEEweb AWARD 2014

CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40., 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
office@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

Certificate of Award

BROZ (Regional Association of Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development), Slovak Bat Conservation Society (SON), and Slovak Ornithological Society (SOS)/Bird Life Slovakia has submitted the winning case study for the **CEEweb Award 2014** in the category of **Connecting and restoring habitats and greening up urban spaces.**

The award aims to demonstrate how civil society and other stakeholders contribute to the conservation of European biodiversity.

Title of case study: Protection of birds and bats in buildings
(LIFE10 NAT/SK/079 Apus & Nyctalus in Slovakia)

CEEweb congratulates for your winning case study!

Budapest, 3. December 2014.

Ágnes Zólyomi
General Secretary
CEEweb for Biodiversity

Generously supported by the European Commission

Picture E4-3: CEEweb for Biodiversity Award of excellence in biodiversity conservation

5.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation

The results of the actions implemented have met and in certain cases also exceeded the goals set by the project (see description of the actions). Choosing of appropriate methodologies for the project has been confirmed by the achieved results.

The applied methodologies can be divided into the following groups:

- methodology for overall project management;
- methodology for accounting;
- methodology for monitoring of swifts and bats and elaboration of reports from the monitoring;
- methodology for implementation of conservation measures; and
- methodology for organizing trainings and workshops, PR and media activities

During the project implementation an attention has been paid to the cost-efficiency of the project's actions. Public procurement procedures following legal requirements have been applied concerning works and services provided by external providers. Appropriate higher standards than required by legislation were applied. The cost-efficiency of the project's actions has been reached also through a systematic approach to the project management, including efficient use of the project staff's work time, vehicles and other resources.

Lessons learnt

Based on lessons learnt during the project the beneficiaries will focus on direct communication with stakeholders, especially through personal meetings and discussions on concrete conservation measures. This approach proved to be very effective in terms of improving the cooperation as well as raising capacity and expertise of stakeholders. An intensive media campaign and active involvement of public are important to promote the topic and secure long-term interest and active participation of state authorities and business sector. These are very important preconditions to secure long-term sustainability of the project's results and will be supported by activities carried out after the project.

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1	Elaboration of Methodology for protection of Common Swift, bats and other species during the reconstructions and insulations of buildings	yes (Annex A1.1)	Methodology is based on the field experience and is implemented in the field
A2	Elaboration of Methodology for monitoring of Common Swift in urban areas	yes (attached to the Inception report - Annex A2.2)	applied during monitoring in 2012-2015
A2	National database of nesting sites of Swifts	yes	accessible online (AVES Symfony) for the project staff and public; regularly updated
A2	List of building keepers (managers)	yes (attached to the Inception report - Annex A2.1)	incorporated in the online database AVES Symfony; regularly updated
A2	Reports from monitoring of Common Swift in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015	yes (Annexes A2.1 to A2.4)	Data analysed and processed according standard methodology
A3	32 trainings, at least 160 participants	15 trainings, 345	stakeholders prefer on-the-spot

		participants	personal meetings when dealing with a concrete conservation issue; 4,160+ such meetings held during the project (see description of Action D2)
A3	at least 160 trained on the conservation measures for Swifts and bats	yes	345 stakeholders trained
A4	National database of roosting sites of bats in buildings	yes	accessible online (AVES Symfony) for the project staff and public; regularly updated
A4	Reports from monitoring of Common Noctule in 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 20014-2015, and 2015-2016	yes (Annexes A4.1 to A4.4)	Data analysed and processed according standard methodology
A5	Elaboration of Guideline for protection of birds and bats during insulation and reconstruction of buildings and its approval by the competent state authority	updated Guideline in Annex A5.3	updated Guideline elaborated and submitted to the state authorities
C1	at least 40 model actions for protection of Swift applied	yes	model actions applied at more than 97 sites
C2	at least 2,400 boxes for Swifts installed	2,400 boxes installed	based on public demand originally approved number of 1,200 boxes was increased to 2,400 boxes
C2	3 nesting walls installed	yes	3 nesting walls installed (Revúca, Košice and Trebišov)
C2	increased population of Common Swift by approx. 20% on 16 sites	yes	population of Common Swift increased by approx.. 20% on 16+ sites (based on the fact that number of nesting sites was increased on 417 localities in Slovakia)
C3	practical model measures for bats applied at least at 40 sites	yes	model measures applied at more than 559 sites
C3	at least 800 boxes for bats installed	800 boxes installed	based on public demand originally approved number of 400 boxes was increased to 800 boxes
C3	stabile size of populations of Common Noctule bats at 16 sites	yes	populations of Common Noctule bats stabilized on 16+ sites
D1	Layman's report (1000 copies)	yes (Annex D1.11)	700 copies in Slovak and 300 copies in English printed and disseminated
D1	project's website	yes	www.dazdovniky.vtaky.sk; regularly updated, including English version
D1	leaflets (20 000 copies)	yes	73,000 copies in Slovak printed and disseminated
D1	booklet (2000 copies)	yes	3,450 copies in Slovak printed and disseminated
D1	posters (1000 copies)	yes	1,000 copies printed and disseminated
D1	stickers (4000 copies)	yes	28,000 pcs of stickers printed and disseminated
D1	film	yes (Annex D1.12)	30 min long documentary – 1,200 copies on DVD
D1	technical manual (1000 copies)	yes (Annex D1.7)	2,000 copies in Slovak printed and disseminated

D1	press releases (4), articles (20), reports and interviews on radio (5) and TV (4)	see the list of media outputs in Annex D1.5	there have been unforeseen complications regarding using the LIFE+ logo and project title in media outputs (see description of Action D1); press releases 4; articles 117; reports and interviews on radio 7 and TV 29
D1	exhibition "Return of Swifts" installed at 8 locations	yes	exhibition presented at 14 venues
D1	notice boards (10 pieces)	yes	notice boards temporarily installed on 10+ dealt-with sites
D2	at least 300 meetings organized with at least 3 participants per meeting	4,160+ meetings with 3 participants per meeting (on average)	on-the-spot personal meetings proved to be very useful when dealing with a concrete conservation issue
D3	80 lessons with excursions with at least 15 participants per meeting	80 outdoor excursions for more than 250 participants organized	outdoor excursions were organized also back-to-back with lectures and also within the European Bat Nights
D3	180 lessons for children with at least 20 participants per meeting	312 lectures for more than 2,750 participants (mostly school kids) organized	lectures were held at schools, public libraries, museums etc.
D4	2 thematic workshops for at least 25 participants per workshop	2 workshops organized, 57 participants	national workshops held on: 22-23/03/2012 in Zvolen, and 26-27/09/2013 in Slatinka
D4	16 regional meeting for stakeholders with at least 20 participants	8 regional meetings organized, 102 participants	regional meetings held in Bratislava, Košice, Zvolen, Nitra, Považská Bystrica, and Ďurčiná
D4	2 international meetings	2 international conferences organized, 200 participants	successful international conferences held in October 2012 in Zvolen and October 2015 in Žilina
E2	External audit	yes (Annex E2.1)	
E3	After-LIFE Communication Plan	yes (Annex E3.1)	disseminated to key stakeholders, state authorities, professional conservationists, NGOs, etc.
E4	8 study tours (20 person days per visit, total 160 person days)	9 study tours organized, 47 participants, total 202 person days	study tours proved to be very useful in order to exchange information and experience with colleagues from other countries
E4	contacts established with at least 4 projects	yes - contacts established with 12 projects and initiatives	contacts have been established via personal meetings at study tours and conferences and also via e-mail; networking resulted in replication of the project's activities in Bulgaria

Immediately visible project results:

- Results of the monitoring of Swifts and bats in buildings in urban areas (Action A2, Action A4);
- Implementation of conservation measures on protection of existing nesting and roosting sites, in particular in ventilation shafts in attics (Action C1, Action C3). Bats and Swifts do return in the roosting and nesting sites they occupied during the previous seasons. If appropriate measures to preserve the sites are taken, birds and bats usually return there instead of looking for new sites.
- Media campaign, workshops for and meetings with stakeholders, lectures for public (Actions A3, D1, D2, and D3) have resulted in increasing public awareness on protection of birds and bats in buildings. Public is actively asking for help and do require preserving existing nesting and roosting sites also after the construction works. There is an increasing number of conservation issues that are dealt with already during the stage of elaboration and planning of construction projects. One of the positive outcomes is increased demand to install nesting and hibernation boxes for Swifts and bats which resulted in increased number of boxes installed in the frame of the project's budget (2,400 boxes for Swifts and 800 boxes for bats).
- Organizing international conferences (Action D4) immediately led to new contacts with conservationists and experts from other European as well as non-European countries and exchange of know-how. These new information were applied especially during the implementation of C actions.

Project results that become apparent after a certain time period:

- Effectiveness of the implemented compensation measures such as installation of boxes for birds and bats (Action C2, Action C3) will be evaluated after a certain period of time. Birds and bats prefer nesting and roosting sites situated on not yet insulated and/or reconstructed buildings. As soon as there is a lack of such sites the animals will shift to sites created through the installation of boxes. The shifting towards boxes is a step-by-step process. This fact has been proved by experience from e.g. Czech Republic and Germany where installation of boxes for swifts and bats have been ongoing for several years longer than in Slovakia. Monitoring of selected sites started already in 2014 and data gathered during 2 years (20014-2015) are analysed and evaluated in the attached reports from monitoring of Swifts (Action A2, Annex A2.4) and bats (Action A4, Annex A4.4) in buildings.
- To assess effectiveness and fruitfulness of implementation of the *Guideline on protection of birds and bats in buildings* (Action A5) will be possible only after at least 1 year of its implementation in the field. The up-to-date Guideline was elaborated by the project's beneficiaries and submitted to MoE. It is expected that in 2016 MoE will initiate official meeting of representatives of all relevant authorities to adopt the Guideline. So far experience regarding application of principles on protection of birds and bats in buildings show that such an official document is a key tool in advocating the need of incorporating the appropriate conservation measures into the planning documentation as well as final construction permits.
- Increased number of elaborated expert surveys on protection of birds and bats in buildings ongoing reconstruction. Based on the project's results and intensive communication between the project's beneficiaries and state authorities an expert survey was added as a mandatory annex to application for financial support to projects on thermal insulation and reconstruction of buildings in Slovakia. Costs related to conservation measures for birds and bats are recently eligible to be covered by the

state subsidies. State control mechanisms will ensure that all necessary measures are properly implemented.

Effectiveness of dissemination of the project's results:

- The project's results were disseminated via several tools, including media outcomes, published materials, presentations at workshops and conferences and personal meetings with stakeholders and public. Active communication of the project's results led to improved institutional capacities and knowledge of the key stakeholders. Personal meetings proved to be the most effective way to discussed technical issues on-the-spot. Workshops and trainings provided a platform to share experience and exchange know-how as well as to establish professional contacts.
- Several hundreds of lectures and excursions organized during the project were attended by more than 3,000 participants, mostly children and general public. They learned about biology and ecology of Swifts and bats, their role in urban ecosystems and threats caused by human activities. Positive results are reflected in the analysis of the project's questionnaire. It is clearly showing increased positive attitude of public towards presence of birds and bats in buildings.
- The project's exhibition as well as documentary became popular and effective tools to disseminate the project's results and increase public awareness on protection of birds and bats in buildings. This is evidenced by a high demand of institutions, who are interested to host the exhibition (also after the project end date) and very positive feedback from organisers of the leading environmental film festival in Slovakia (EKOTOPFILM), where the film will be presented and the project team will take part in the VIP discussion.
- The project was presented at several international meetings attended by experts from EU. Established contacts with NGOs from Bulgaria resulted in replication of the concrete conservation activities in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian state authorities asked for some of the project's outcomes (Catalogue of model solutions, Technical manual) to be translated into Bulgarian and applied in Bulgaria.
- The project and its results in biodiversity conservation were positively recognized at European level. In 2014 it was awarded with the *CEEweb for Biodiversity Award* in the category of *Connecting and restoring habitats and greening up urban spaces*. The award is granted to projects significantly contributing to protection of biodiversity in the region of Central and South-East Europe. Through this award and related information campaign the project and its results has reached approximately 100,000 people in the EU member as well as non-member states, including representatives of EC and international organizations such as IUCN, WWF, ECNC, EHF, etc.

In 2013 the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic officially confirmed its financial contribution to the project's implementation. In this regard an amendment to the Grant Agreement was elaborated and signed by the European Commission and the Coordinating Beneficiary (BROZ) in January 2014. This amendment has not significantly influenced the project's implementation in 2012 and 2013.

As of 1st of January 2015 the associated beneficiary SON withdrew from the project due to limited own financial resources. Amendment to the Grant Agreement signed by the European Commission was received in September 2015. BROZ as the coordinating beneficiary took over the full responsibility for implementation of all project's actions previously in responsibility of SON and successfully achieved the expected results.

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

The LIFE project aimed to bring direct conservation benefits to the target species through protection and improvement of quality of their habitats and thus to improve their conservation status according to the Birds and Habitats Directives. Lessons learnt were implemented into the updated *Law on Nature and Landscape Protection* that came into force as of the 1st of January 2014 as well as into the *"Guideline on protection of birds and bats during insulation and reconstruction works in buildings"* that was developed in the course of the project.
From the national policy point of view it has to be stressed out that an expert survey was added as a mandatory annex to application for financial support to projects on thermal insulation and reconstruction of buildings in Slovakia. Costs related to conservation measures for birds and bats have become eligible to be covered by the state subsidies. State control mechanisms will ensure that all necessary measures are properly implemented.

Based on the project's intervention the municipalities of Bratislava-Karlova Ves and Púchov have adopted and successfully applied principles for the protection of Swifts and bats in buildings with support from their own budget.

The project's actions contribute also into the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and 7th EU Environment Action Program, in particular to the following priority objectives:
Priority 1: Natural capital
Priority 5: Increased information
Priority 6: Secured investments
Priority 8: Sustainable cities

Sustainability of the project's results
The project's results can be considered as highly sustainable. It is expected that the sustainability of the project achievements will be safeguarded also through implementation of the Guideline on protection of birds and bats in buildings, through implementation of the Law on Nature and Landscape Protection which include articles related to the topic and at last but not least through the Operation Program *Quality of Environment* where measures for protection of nesting and roosting sites on public buildings are included in the Capital Priority No. 3, Priority Axis No. 4 and will be financed by the state (came into force in 2015). In total 345 stakeholders, including decision makers and environmental officers were trained on implementation of principles for protection of birds and bats in buildings. They will be involved in the process of issuing construction permits where these principles will be included. List of experts on protection of species in buildings has been elaborated and provided to stakeholders. The experts will assist them in selecting and application of the most appropriate conservation measures. Positive examples of municipalities from Bratislava-Karlova Ves and Púchov will raise interest of other cities to support conservation of birds and bats in their cities. Presentation of the exhibition and film will raise awareness and interest of public in protection of biodiversity in their cities.
Implementation of low-cost measures (see description in actions C) will lead to the cost-efficiency and long-term cost savings. Populations of swifts and bats play a key role in urban ecosystems as a biological shield against tiresome insects. Particularly the population in the cities located near larger rivers (e.g. Bratislava on the Danube River) that are facing infestations of mosquitoes after flooding can significantly benefit from presence of the species.

The project succeeded to initiate implementation of principles on protection of birds and bats in buildings with active involvement of the state authorities, stakeholders as well as public. Above described actions are the main tools to secure its long-term sustainability.

Remaining threats and actions to be carried out

Potential threats that stakeholders will ignore the need to implement the conservation measures are minimized by the fact that these issues are obligatory to consider during the process of issuing construction permits. If relevant concrete conservation measures are included in permits and become mandatory for the applicants. State subsidies for reconstruction of public buildings will be provided only to those applicants who will properly apply conservation measures for birds and bats. The beneficiaries and their experts will assist in implementation of conservation measures and therefore minimize possibility of threating the species and their sites during reconstruction of buildings.

Main actions to be carried out are concrete conservation actions, including installation of boxes, monitoring of populations of Swifts and Common Noctule and public awareness activities. Monitoring will be focused on changes in population size of Swifts and bats and occupation of Swift nest boxes and bat boxes on selected sites in Slovakia. Main financial sources to support these activities are the state budget (state subsidies for public buildings), stakeholders' budget (thanks to the project implementation of conservation measures has become mandatory) and other sources (e.g. small grants for monitoring, public awareness actions, meetings, etc.). The monitoring will be carried out by the beneficiaries' staff and members as well as expert-volunteers.

The project did not directly address any substantial long-term economic and social benefits such as positive effects on employment, health, ethnic integration, equality or other socio-economic impacts. However, implementation of conservation measures as well as dissemination actions have created demand for manufacturing of special boxes for birds and bats and for their installation, as well as for the implementation of other types of conservation measures. To some extent this can be considered as a positive effect on employment at a local or regional level. The project itself has created 25 new jobs out of which 13 were full-time jobs. Other new jobs are rising based on the demand for services, expertise, implementation of conservation measures etc. It includes increased demand for experts on elaboration of expert surveys and implementation of conservation measures, mainly displacement of bats and installation of special boxes for Swifts and bats.

Recent trends concerning reconstruction and insulation of buildings are likely to continue in the following years. The project's results indicate that cooperation among investors, experts and project's beneficiaries will be needed also after the end of the project. The beneficiaries do have sufficient personal capacities to carry on the implementation of the conservation measures and providing expert assistance as long as needed.

The LIFE project contributes to the common EU goals in several various ways:

The national populations of the target species – Common Swift (*Apus apus*) and Common Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) – are regularly migrating over large distances, being actually part of the larger "pan-European" and global populations. Therefore the EU added value of the project and its actions is also in the fact that the project brings excellent contribution to the protection of common European natural heritage, using highly demonstrative approach for protection of the Slovak part of these "pan-European" populations of the species.

The project demonstrates to the state authorities and public the practical example of the coexistence of the target species with human population in urban areas. This approach has proved to be successful and can be copied and applied in other EU as well as non-EU countries, especially in states with similar urban architecture (e.g. Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, etc.). The project has demonstrative character for a wider region of Central and South-East Europe. The replicability of the project refers to the coordinated, comprehensive and systematic approach to the specific conservation issue. Project actions focus on all administrative (decision-making) levels concerned, from the national level (Ministry of Environment) to the local communities, strictly applying subsidiarity principles. Never before neither in Slovakia nor in other EU country has been protection of swifts and bats in buildings dealt with in such a complex and systematic way, covering the whole geographical area of the country and involving all stakeholders and state authorities concerned. As described above the project's results are going to be replicated in Bulgaria soon.

The project and its actions are based on know-how and best-practice available and applied in Europe, setting viable and repeatable example of protection of species that are not sufficiently protected by national and EU legislation. Best-practice conservation measures applied during the project were transferred mostly from the Czech Republic where the situation, including policy is very similar to Slovakia. Some of the best-practice measures were improved, e.g. new types of boxes were developed (combined boxes for birds and bats, triangle-shaped boxes). Very important best-practice aspect of the project is the fact that it is bringing together partners from different sectors, with different backgrounds and expertise, namely environmental non-governmental organizations focused on protection of birds and bats and business sector represented by construction companies, architects and managers of buildings.

The project has significant demonstration value especially in Slovakia where no similar project has been implemented before. Technical measures have been applied in such a scale for the first time in Slovakia, demonstrating model solutions for this specific conservation issue. It is important to point out that NATURA 2000 and nature conservation have their place not only in natural environment but also in urban areas.

Demonstration value

The project and financial support provided by the European Commission have significantly contributed to the biodiversity conservation in urban areas in Slovakia. It has initiated an intensive communication between stakeholders and increased institutional as well as expert capacities on protection of birds and bats in buildings. The topic has been included in the environmental policy at the national level. Thanks to the project a resolution on protection of bats in buildings has been adopted by EUROBATS and will be implemented at pan-European level.

Long-term indicators of the project success

To monitor long-term sustainability of the project's results the following indicators were selected:

- number of Swift nest boxes and bat boxes installed on buildings
- level of occupancy of boxes on selected sites
- population size of Common Swift and Common Noctule bat on selected sites
- number of presentations of the exhibition and film
- number of media outcomes

The indicators will be monitored annually.

6. Comments on the financial report

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

In the following table there are costs of coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries incurred since 01/01/2012 till 31/12/2015.
From the total project budget of 1,481,248 € - 1,279,136.80 € has been incurred by 31/12/2015. This represents 86.36 % of the total project budget.

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED		
Cost category	Budget according to the Amendment no.2 to the Grant Agreement*	Costs incurred within the project duration since 01/01/2012 till 31/12/2015
1. Personnel	638 514.00 €	580 315.23 €
2. Travel	135 102.00 €	120 678.30 €
3. External assistance	410 835.00 €	313 515.10 €
4. Durable goods: total non-depreciated cost	179 062.00 €	174 374.04 €
- *Infrastructure sub-tot.*	0.00 €	0.00 €
- *Equipment sub-tot.*	179 062.00 €	174 374.04 €
- *Prototypes sub-tot.*	0.00 €	0.00 €
5. Land/rights purchase/lease	0.00 €	0.00 €
6. Consumables	20 831.00 €	8 669.51 €
7. Other costs	0.00 €	0.00 €
8. Overheads	96 904.00 €	81 584.62 €
TOTAL	**1 481 248.00 €**	**1 279 136.80 €**

*) If the Commission has officially approved a budget modification indicate the breakdown of the revised budget. Otherwise this should be the budget in the original grant agreement.
**) Calculate the percentages by budget lines: e.g. the % of the budgeted personnel costs that were actually incurred

General comments on costs incurred

- Bank account
After acceptance of the final report the balance payment should be send to this bank account of coordinating beneficiary (BROZ):

Financial identification:
Name of the bank account: Bratislavske regionalne ochranarske zdruzenie
Name and address of the bank: Sberbank Slovensko, a.s., Vazovova 22, Bratislava 810 00
IBAN: SK75 3100 0000 0040 6001 2108
SWIFT: LUBASKBX

Bank account of the Coordinating Beneficiary is interest-free.

- VAT
Coordinating beneficiary – BROZ is not in a position to recover the VAT paid under the project – therefore this amount is considered as eligible expenditure. Legal document proving that BROZ must pay and may not recover the VAT for the assets and services required for the project you can find in Annexes of Financial report:
BROZ VAT Declaration – Annex F.2

Associated beneficiaries:
• SOS – may not recover VAT – therefore expenditures including VAT are eligible for the project, SOS VAT Declaration – Annex F.3
• SON – may not recover VAT – therefore expenditures including VAT are eligible for the project, SON VAT Declaration – Annex F.4

- Expenses summary
BROZ : **845,960.32 €** (total with non-recoverable VAT)
SOS: **253,436.44 €** (total with non-recoverable VAT)
SON: **179,740.04 €** (total with non-recoverable VAT)

TOTAL: **1,279,136.80 €**

- Interest accrued on the amounts received from EC
The first pre-financing payment from EC was received in 2011, before the project starting date. For that year the total interest accrued was 35.33 €. In 2012 the total interest accrued was 58.20 €, for the period since 01 January 2012 till 13 June 2012 (making the total interest accrued for both years 93.53 €). Then the bank account was changed on 14 June 2012. Since this bank account of the Coordinating Beneficiary (financial identification of this account is given above) is interest-free, there has been no further interest accrued after this date.

- Exception from using the new financial reporting template.
Exception from using the new financial reporting templates was granted for the project LIFE10 NAT/SK/000079 Protection of Common Swift (Apus apus) and bats in buildings in Slovakia by Christos Kissas/NEEMO on 31.07.2015 per email communication.

-Withdrawal of associated beneficiary SON
As of 1st of January 2015 the associated beneficiary SON has withdrawn from the project due to the limited own financial resources to cover the project's expenditures.
BROZ as the Coordinating beneficiary took over the full responsibility for implementation of the project actions whose responsibility was in the approved project proposal allocated to SON, including the associated financial obligations.
Modified project proposal and budget was approved by European Commission in Amendment no.2 on 28 August 2015.

Comments on budget cost categories

- Personnel

Eligible personnel costs were calculated on base of average annual hourly rate and real amount of working hours spent on the project recorded in timesheets. Average annual hourly rate comes out from annual personnel costs (annual gross salary plus obligatory social charges, but excluding any other costs) and annual number of working time units (excluding non-productive time such as weekends, holiday, sick leave etc.).
Timesheets were filled in on daily basis and provide fair view of hours worked for the LIFE10NAT/SK/000079 and other projects/ activities. Completed timesheets for a given month were signed by the employee and approved by project manager or responsible statutory representative during the first week following the month that they concern. Only real costs related to the project are reported in budget category "Personnel".

More personnel were employed throughout the implementation of the project as compared with the original project document. This was mainly to cope with demanding tasks connected with implementing the project actions - dealing with a large amount of reconstructed buildings located in cities in different regions throughout the whole country - hundreds of personal meetings and consultations needed with construction companies managers, housing managers, state office representatives etc. as well as to check the works implemented in the field. Nevertheless, the total costs assigned for category "Personnel" were not exceeded, since the respective numbers of person days and the hourly rates were also amended accordingly.

The financial manager Martin Koller terminated his contract in August 2015, therefore Jana Jonášová was appointed to continue with the financial management of the project. This was in order to final check and to summarize accounting documents from all beneficiaries, to compile the financial final report, as well as to coordinate the auditing of the project.

Response to question 3 raised in response to Midterm report Ares(2014)2242435 - 07/07/2014
Several people in personnel claim the same number of hours assigned for the project in each month of a year: These people were hired as service providers on base of mandatory contracts. Mandatory contracts of individuals working as service providers in the beneficiary's premises comply with the relevant national legislation and the costs declared are in compliance with the contract and the time devoted to the project.

The mandatory contracts set up an hourly rate and maximal - fixed amount of working hours in a month. These people provided timesheets as regular employees, and their timesheets were approved by the project manager or responsible statutory representative so the real working time was approved.

For personnel under BROZ in 2013 – employees Chorvathova, Fiťmová and Filo reported the same number of working time units in each month of this year (160 hours). Their mandatory contract has set a maximal - fixed amount of working hours on 160 per month (which was also their real working time in this period). The reason for this was the increased amount of work and duties connected with implementation of concrete conservation actions in this period. In subsequent years, the amount of working hours was lower, since the working system of implementing concrete conservation actions was already established and the requirements for labour force were not that high.

For personnel under SOS/BirdLife Slovakia – increased expenditures in 2015 are related to increased time and capacity that was required to process the project's outcomes. It concerns especially results from monitoring of populations of Common Swift, monitoring of concrete conservation actions, including analysis of changes in number of nesting sites and monitoring of occupancy of Swift nest boxes (Action A.2).

- Travel

Travel and subsistence costs were charged in accordance with the internal rules of the coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries. BROZ has purchased a car according to project proposal (9-seats van Ford Transit). This car has been used exclusively for implementation of the project's actions. Consumption of fuel for this car is calculated monthly - based on evidence of travel records (individual field trips) in the log-book. If needed, also private cars could be used by project personnel for the purpose of implementation of project actions. In such case costs for each trip are calculated according to national legislation and internal rules of beneficiaries.
Also the travel costs of volunteers participating in monitoring of swifts and bats in cities (Action A2 and Action A4) were included in this budget category. The involvement of volunteers was envisaged in the original project document, particularly for the monitoring and, in smaller extent, also for other project actions.

- External assistance

The external services were delivered in accordance with the approved project budget (after amendment). Tenders were administered in accordance with the national legislation and internal rules of the coordinating beneficiary or associated beneficiaries. By purchasing procedures for services (competitive tenders from potential subcontractors) rule "best value for money" was always respected.

Response to question 4 raised in response to Midterm report Ares(2014)2242435 - 07/07/2014
Invoices issued by subcontractors bear a clear reference to the LIFE+ project – code of the project, title / project acronym.

There are some items included in this budget category that were not explicitly mentioned in the project proposal, particularly these related to the organization of international conferences in Zvolen and Žilina (accommodation of conference participants, rent of conference rooms, rent of equipment for interpretation and hiring external interpreters during the conference). Both conferences made a valuable contribution to the dissemination of project results and contributed to discussion with relevant experts from Slovakia and abroad.

Some of the services were directly related to the monitoring of swifts and bats in buildings (Actions A2, A4), particularly development (programming) of online database. Although not explicitly mentioned in the financial form F3, these services were mentioned in the respective technical forms. Due to enormous extend of the task the large part of the swift monitoring was carried out with the assistance of external staff, which cost were also put under this budget category. Some of the items (services) could not be envisaged in the time of preparation of project application, such as training of project personnel on work safety rules or carrying the public procurements by professional company that has become obligatory since recent changes of national legislation.

Due to efficient implementation of concrete conservation actions as well as public awareness campaign, there was an increased demand for nest boxes for swifts installed by the project. In order to meet this demand, a higher amount of nest boxes (2400 pcs.) was installed within the project, than was envisaged in the original proposal (1200 pcs). Similar situation was in case of roost boxes for bats (800 installed in total, whereas originally anticipated number was 400) as well as 7 000 modified plastic grids, which represent a simple and cost-effective solution to provide access to nesting and roosting sites after the reconstruction of buildings. This change was communicated and approved also by the EC and was integrated also in the project modification (Amendment No 2 to grant agreement).
As installing nest boxes into the thermal insulation shield required experienced and technically well-equipped staff, most of the nest boxes were installed using external assistance. The project staff was mainly in charge of meeting with relevant stakeholders (construction company managers, building keepers etc.) and achieving agreements on installing nest boxes (or other conservation measures) in the reconstructed buildings, as well as controlling the proper implementation and finishing of works.

Within the Action C.1 a special “swift tower” is being built by BROZ. It is a unique model measure for swifts which combines nature conservation and urban architecture. It´s construction already has a very positive feedback by public and media. By broad publicity it becomes an important dissemination element – about results of the LIFE project and about future of protection of swift and bats in cities.

The design of the swift tower was created in cooperation with architectonic studio. Specially designed and modified nest boxes were created and attached on a carrying steel construction. All preparatory works were finished within the project duration (by 31/12/2015). The building permission is already issued and it is only the land lease contract to be officially acknowledged by the relevant state authority. This is due to prescribed administrative procedure – although the leasing contract is already signed by owner of the respective parcel, it also has to be acknowledged by the state authority (it is expected to be acknowledged by the end of may). Nesting boxes for Swifts are fixed in metal circle and the construction of the tower is ready to be erected on the selected site. The erecting and finishing of the tower will be provided free of charge by the Západoslovenská Distribučná, a.s. (Western Slovakian Distributory company). Hence, the construction works can start shortly after the leasing contract is acknowledged and it is estimated, that the tower can be erected and fully available for birds and people within 3-5 days after the works start. It is expected that the tower will be erected in spring 2016 before arrival of Swifts from their winter sites. More details on construction of the Swift tower can be found in Annex C1.2 (FR).

Due to the fact that the construction works are being performed after the project end we did not charge the costs connected with the construction of the tower. Only the costs of necessary

preparatory works which had been finished by 31.12.2015 were charged (technical documentation and architectonic project for swift tower, preparing of modified nest boxes suitable for the swift tower). As it is an important output of the project with a significant potential for dissemination, we would like to include this activity in project results and charge the expenses only for preparatory works for the swift tower.

- Equipment

The equipment was purchased in accordance with the approved project budget. Purchasing procedures have been administered in accordance with the national legislation and internal rules of the coordinating beneficiary or associated beneficiaries.
There are some items included in this budget category that were not explicitly mentioned in the project proposal, particularly these related to monitoring of swifts and bats in buildings (Actions A2, A4). The reason for not mentioning them was that in the time of preparation of project application we could not envisage all the kinds of equipment that would be needed for the proper implementation of these monitoring activities. Several such smaller equipment items were purchased (micro-cameras with spare parts, ultra-sound bat detectors, GPS devices). These have been proved to be extremely useful by the project participants for the proper and efficient implementation of the monitoring activities, providing solid basis for the practical conservation measures. These purchases have been communicated with and approved in advance by the Commission (see the letters from the Commission ref. No.: ENV/E-3/MM/jv ARES(2012)860242 dated on 13 July 2012 and ref. No.: ENV/E-3/MM/jv ARES(2013)1323552 dated on 24 May 2013. The total costs earmarked for the budget category “Equipment” according to the grant agreement were not exceeded by these purchases.
Similarly as described above, more nest/roost boxes for swifts and bats were procured (2400 for swifts and 800 for bats) than anticipated by the original project proposal (1200 and 800 for swifts and bats, respectively). This was approved in communication with the EC and reflected also in the Amendment No 2 to grant agreement.
However, the increased number of nest boxes procured and installed didn´t lead to exceeding the project budget in any category (as of Amendment No 2 budget).

To cope with significant amount of tasks situated in cities throughout the whole country, increased number of personnel was employed. To enable them to effectively fulfill their working duties, increased number of PCs was purchased (BROZ: 8 PCs, SOS/Birdlife: 3 PCs). SOS/Birdlife purchased also 1 printer for plastic cards. The printer was used to print ID cards with reference to the project. The cards are necessary for team members when working on construction sites and during the monitoring in cities. Part of the equipment was purchased in the last year of the project’s implementation due to technical problems with till then used equipment and in order to secure an ongoing data evaluation and analysis.

- Land purchase/lease

Not applicable for this LIFE project.

- Consumables

The expenses in this budget category were incurred in accordance with the approved project budget. The personal protection and working wear, working tools and consumable materials, were not specified in detail in the original project proposal. These represent mainly

purchasing of working gear required by the project staff, mainly connected for working in height and carrying out minor operations connected with practical conservation measures for swifts and bats (climbing and work safety equipment, hoses for safe displacement of bats, cement, glue, paint etc.).
There are also a few items included in this budget category that were not explicitly mentioned in the original project proposal, particularly these related to the organization of international conference in Zvolen (Action D.4), e.g. refreshments and meals for the conference participants, as well as the folders for the conference participants containing conference documents and papers. In the project original proposal some of these refreshments and meals were included in the budget category “Travel and subsistence cost” as subsistence cost to be reimbursed directly to the conference participants. However, since these costs were finally paid by project beneficiaries on behalf of conference participants, and invoiced with the respective invoices issued, we have considered as more appropriate to include them into the budget category “Consumables”.

Overheads

Based on art. 25.13 of the Common Provisions, overheads are eligible for "flat-rate funding of a maximum of 7% of the total amount of eligible direct costs actually incurred, excluding land purchase/lease costs". This rule was fully accepted and fulfilled.

6.2. Accounting system

The coordinating beneficiary BROZ and associated beneficiaries keep an analytic system of accounting. This cost centre based system enables to follow the financing of each project (including project LIFE+) separately, and to trace each project’s cost, expenditures and income. All expenses included in the financial report were paid and duly booked in the accounting system of the coordinating beneficiary BROZ or associated beneficiaries of the LIFE+ project.
For the sake of traceability and transparent evidence the cost center accounting was used for all activities (1 project = 1 cost center).
Staff members were obliged to record their work time and tasks carried out using the standard timesheets completed both manually and in electronic form. Timesheets were filled in on daily basis, approved by the project manager or responsible supervisor/statutory representative, during the first week following the month that they concern. The sum of hours per month cannot be higher than the sum indicated in the respective contract and paid according to pay slips/ invoices. All timesheets are kept as a supporting documentation in BROZ’s monthly salary agenda.
Any significant project expenditure was approved in advance by the project manager and financial manager from BROZ as the Coordinating beneficiary. Staff members in charge were obliged to make sure that clear reference to the project is included in all contracts, timesheets, invoices etc. This was double-checked by the project financial manager.

6.3. Partnership arrangements

According to the partner’s agreements the associated beneficiaries provided technical and financial reports every six months (twice a year). The associated beneficiaries provided their financial reports in the same form as it is submitted to the European Commission.
After withdrawal of the associated beneficiary SON – all its documentation (copies of invoices, bank statements, bills, travel orders, contracts, accounting reports etc.) was provided to the coordinating beneficiary and after final check the balance payment was transferred to SON in March 2015.
The associated beneficiary SON will receive the final payment from BROZ after the final approval of the project’s costs by the European Commission as a part of the balance payment received from the European Commission.
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6.4. Auditor's report/declaration

The Auditor's details were announced within the midterm report:
Auditor: Ing. Jana Paulenová
Firm: D.P.F., spol. s r.o.,
Membership No of the Slovak Chamber of Auditors: SKAU No. 140
Address: Černicová 6, 831 01 Bratislava, Slovenská republika

The project audit was carried out in two periods – December 2014 (evaluation of financial records for 2012 and 2013) and February 2016 (evaluation of financial records for 2014 and 2015), according to the requirements of the European Commission.
See the Auditor's report - Annex E2.1

6.5 Summary of costs per action

Action number	Short name of action	Budget	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	4.a Infrastructure	4.b Equipment	4.c Prototype	5. Purchase or lease of land	6. Consumables	7. Overheads	TOTAL
A.1	**Methodology**	**13 584**	8 279,86	0,00	6 000,00							**14 279,86**
A.2	**Monitoring - swifts**	**98 928**	59 639,28	24 787,72	20 828,90							**105 255,90**
A.3	**Training**	**21 134**	12 422,25	495,79								**12 918,04**
A.4	**Monitoring - bats**	**77 637**	46 887,24	4 956,76	23 057,00		4 496,16					**79 397,16**
A.5	**Guideline**	**6 600**	255,29	47,73								**303,02**
C.1	**Protection measures - swifts**	**268 176**	111 234,04	38 550,12	17 150,93		29 418,64			1 189,41		**197 543,14**
C.2	**Nest boxes for swifts**	**343 652**	16 968,53	4 081,63	99 356,33		104 215,66			2 726,56		**227 348,71**
C.3	**Protection measures - bats**	**189 610**	68 031,74	22 042,95	72 610,50		19 355,34			3 347,83		**185 388,36**
D.1	**Promotional materials**	**93 156**	22 469,52	1 244,99	62 500,65							**86 215,16**
D.2	**Meetings**	**18 268**	30 984,43	5 176,43								**36 160,86**
D.3	**Excursions**	**26 146**	13 207,38	1 304,41								**14 511,79**
D.4	**Workshops, national and international meetings**	**31 175**	9 301,54	2 246,46	6 250,79					1 405,71		**19 204,50**
E.1	**Project management**	**165 804**	168 673,00	11 178,31			16 888,24					**196 739,55**
E.2	**Audit**	**12 474**	2 780,30	0,00	5 760,00							**8 540,30**
E.3	**After-LIFE Communication Plan**	**0**	4 250,58	0,00								**4 250,58**
E.4	**Networking**	**18 000**	4 930,25	4 565,00								**9 495,25**
	Overheads	**96 904**	0,00	0,00							81 584,62	**81 584,62**
	TOTAL	**1 481 248**	**580 315,23**	**120 678,30**	**313 515,10**	**0,00**	**174 374,04**	**0,00**	**0,00**	**8 669,51**	**81 584,62**	**1 279 136,80**

7. Annexes

In parenthesis is abbreviation of the relevant report the Annex was/is attached to for the first time.

Annex A1.1 (MTR): Methodology for protection of Common Swifts, bats and other species during reconstruction and thermal insulation of buildings
Annex A2.1 (IR): List of key managers of buildings
Annex A2.1 (MTR): Report from monitoring of Common Swifts in 2012
Annex A2.2 (IR): Methodology for monitoring of Common Swift in cities
Annex A2.3 (FR): Report from monitoring of Common Swifts in 2014
Annex A2.4 (FR): Report from monitoring of Common Swifts in 2015
Annex A2.5 (FR): Report from monitoring of occupancy of selected boxes for Common Swifts in 2014-2015
Annex A3.1 (MTR): Lists of participants at trainings for stakeholders 2012-2013
Annex A3.1 (PR): Lists of participants (trainings and workshops for stakeholders) 2014
Annex A4.1 (IR): Methodology for monitoring of bats in cities
Annex A4.1 (MTR): Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in urban areas in winter season 2012-2013
Annex A4.3 (FR): Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in urban areas in winter season 2014-2015
Annex A4.4 (FR): Report from monitoring of Common Noctule in urban areas in winter season 2015-2016
Annex A4.5 (FR): Report from monitoring of flying activity of Common Noctule Bat and breeding colonies of bats in Slovakia in 2014-2015
Annex A5.1 (MTR): Analysis of implementation of principles for protection of birds and bats in buildings in 2012
Annex A5.2 (MTR): Guideline on protection of birds and bats during reconstruction and insulation of buildings – draft version
Annex A5.3 (FR): Guideline on protection of birds and bats during reconstruction and insulation of buildings – updated version
Annex C1.1 (MTR): Catalogue of model solutions
Annex C1.2 (FR): Description of the Swift tower
Annex C2.1 (MTR): Lists of participants at BOZP trainings
Annex D1.1 (MTR): Leaflet *Under one roof with bats*
Annex D1.2 (MTR): Leaflet *Common Swift*
Annex D1.2 (PR): Articles about the project and its activities 2014
Annex D1.3 (MTR): Stickers with Common Swift
Annex D1.3a (PR): Technical manual - text
Annex D1.32 (PR): Technical manual - Annex
Annex D1.4 (MTR): Pocket calendars with Common Swift and Common Noctule
Annex D1.4 (PR): Booklet – e-version
Annex D1.5 (PR): Installation of notice boards
Annex D1.5 (FR): List of media outputs 2012-2015 (updated Annex D1.1 to Inception Report, Annex D1.5 to Mid-term Report and Annex D1.1 to Progress Report)
Annex D1.6 (MTR, FR): Articles and press releases
Annex D1.7 (MTR): Manual on technical measures for protection of birds and bats in buildings – e-version

Annex D1.7 (FR): Manual on technical measures for protection of birds and bats in buildings – printed version
Annex D1.8 (MTR): Design of exhibition *Return of Swifts*
Annex D1.9 (MTR): Poster *Protection of Swifts and Bats in buildings*
Annex D1.10 (MTR): Design of notice boards
Annex D1.11 (FR): Notice boards
Annex D1.12 (FR): Layman's Report (in Slovak and English)
Annex D1.13 (FR): Film *Return of Swifts*
Annex D1.14 (FR): Booklet *Protection of Common Swift and bats in urban areas* – printed version
Annex D2.1 (IR): List of meetings with stakeholders 2012
Annex D2.1 (MTR): List of participants at meetings with stakeholders 2012-2013
Annex D3.1 (IR): List of presentations and excursions 2012
Annex D3.1 (MTR): List of participants at excursions and lectures for public 2012-2013
Annex D3.1 (PR): List of participants (lectures and excursions for public) 2014
Annex D3.2 (FR): Lists of participants at excursions and lectures for public 2015
Annex D4.1 (MTR): List of participants at national workshops, regional meetings and international conference
Annex D4.2 (FR): List of participants at international conference in Žilina
Annex E1.1 (IR): Partnership agreement between BROZ and SOS/BirdLife Slovakia
Annex E1.1 (PR): List of participants (PSC meeting in September 2014)
Annex E1.1 (MTR): Evaluation of Questionnaire 2013
Annex E1.2 (IR): Partnership agreement between BROZ and SON
Annex E1.2 (MTR): Lists of participants at meetings of the Project's Steering Committee, Project Management Team and monitoring missions 2012-2013
Annex E1.2 (FR): Evaluation of Questionnaire 2015
Annex E1.3 (FR): Lists of participants at meetings of the Project's Steering Committee, and monitoring missions 2015
Annex E1.4 (FR): Final table of indicators
Annex E2.1 (FR): Audit report
Annex E3.1 (FR): After-LIFE Communication Plan (in Slovak and English)
Annex E4.1 (MTR): Report from study tour to the Czech Republic (20-22/05/2013)
Annex E4.2 (MTR): Reports from the other study tours in 2012-2013
Annex E4.3 (FR): Report from study tours to Cambridge and Poland
Annex E4.4 (FR): Study visit from Poland – list of participants
Annex E4.5 (FR): Study visit from Poland – Acknowledgment from MoE of Poland
Annex F.1 (MTR): Financial identification of BROZ
Annex F.2 (MTR): VAT Declaration - BROZ
Annex F.3 (MTR): VAT Declaration – SOS/BirdLife Slovakia
Annex F.4 (MTR): VAT Declaration - SON

7.1 **Administrative annexes**

Partnership agreements between BROZ (Coordinating beneficiary) and SOS/BirdLife Slovakia and Bats Conservation Society in Slovakia respectively (both Associated beneficiaries) were submitted to EC along with the Inception report in October 2012.

7.2 Technical annexes

List of abbreviations used in the report:

BOZP – Bezpečnosť a ochrana zdravia pri práci (Work Safety Standards)
BROZ – Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development
ČESON – Czech Bat Conservation Society
ČSO – Czech Ornithological Society
EC – European Commission
EU – European Union
FR – Final Report
IR – Inception Report
MoE – Ministry of Environment
MTR – Mid-term Report
NGO – non-governmental organization
PM – Project Manager
PMT – Project Management Team
PR – Progres Report
PSC – Project Steerin Committee
RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SNC – State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
SON – Slovak Bat Conservation Society
SOS/BirdLife Slovakia – Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia
VAT – Vallue Added Tax

7.3 Dissemination annexes

7.3.1 Layman's report

Layman’s report is attached in Annex D1.11.

7.3.2 After-LIFE Communication plan

After-LIFE Communication plan is attached in Annex E3.1.

7.3.3 Other dissemination annexes

see the list of Annexes above

Annex A: Photographs produced during the project (separately on CD)
Annex B: LIFE Apus and Nyctalus SK_standard presentation

7.4 Final table of indicators

Annex C: LIFE Apus and Nyctalus SK_final table of indicators

8. Financial report and annexes

- "Standard Payment Request and Beneficiary's Certificate" - duly signed original must be submitted

- For Nature projects, signed originals of the "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects" must be submitted to justify costs claimed for durable goods.

- If one or more associated beneficiary participates in the implementation of the project, "Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project" - signed original must be submitted

- "Financial Statement of the Individual Beneficiary" to be completed for each project beneficiary, i.e. signed, originals must be submitted by the coordinating beneficiary and by each associated beneficiary. It includes the individual transactions which are specified in the following forms (which necessarily do not have to be printed, but can be submitted on electronic media, e.g. CD ROM, USB key)

    - Personnel costs
    - Travel costs
    - External assistance
    - Infrastructure
    - Equipment
    - Prototype (only applicable for ENV and BIO projects)
    - Land purchase (only applicable for NAT projects)
    - Lease of land (only applicable for NAT projects)
    - Consumable material
    - Other direct costs
    - Overheads
    - Funding from other sources, divided in "Contribution of the associated beneficiary", "Other sources of funding" and "Direct income".

- Supporting documents, and further information or clarifications, requested in previous letters from EC (e.g. in the letter announcing mid-term pre-financing payment, in the feed-back letter following project visits, etc.), and not already submitted.

- Auditor's report using the standard reporting format

All the above mentioned documents were attached with the report and the procedures described were fulfilled.