# Output Factsheet

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| **Output title:**  **Amazon of Europe Bike Trail Nature Oriented Visitor Guidance and Mapping** |

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| **Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)** |
| The document *Amazon of Europe Bike Trail Nature Oriented Visitor Guidance and Mapping* represents Output 4.1 (Nature oriented visitor guidance and mapping) of work package 4 (Nature oriented trail) in the Interreg Project “Amazon of Europe Bike Trail” (DTP2-002-2.2 AOE BIKE TRAIL). Work package 4 focuses on the nature oriented trail development of the AoE Bike Trail. The main aim was to define nature oriented standards for the bike trail and its infrastructure as well as train and support partners who are responsible for the regional trail implementation in WP5.  The document was developed between autumn 2018 and April 2020. During the development process different stakeholders (partners within the Interreg project, representatives of tourism and nature protection, municipalities, nature protection institutions and different conservation and sustainable tourism NGOS) were invited to join workshops or trainings as well as give their inputs and feedback.  The main focus of this document is nature oriented trail implementation, therefore in a first step the ecological sensitivity of the project area was analysed. Based on the results of the analysis nature areas, stop-overs and visitor areas were defined. The regional coordinators, who are responsible for trail implementation and the route itself, gave input regarding locations where AoE Bike Trail infrastructure, info boards, resting areas or natural and cultural highlights exist or are planned along the trail. This input, especially the planned areas with new infrastructure, was checked according to the results of the analysis of the ecological sensitivity of the project area.  Together with the partners of the Interreg project, measures for guiding cyclists on how to behave while using the AoE Bike trail, where developed.  The annex of this document contains the maps that show the results of the ecological analysis of the project area and maps and tables showing the input of the partners are listed. These are partially corresponding to certain points and locations that have not been included in the final implementation plan, but the argumentation line used for that decision has been documented in order to serve as a basis for future bike trail development. |
| **Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)** |
| The output contributes directly to action *PA6 To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils* and to *PA9 To invest in people and skills*, and, indirectly, to *PA3 To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts.* The nature visitor guidance and mapping enables cycling tourism in the area (PA3), subject to certain development conditions, as described in the methods used above, that ensure preservation of ecologically sensitive areas (PA6). At the same time, the visitor guidance and mapping process with the involvement of stakeholders has created the framework for collaboration and knowledge exchange that lays knowledge and networking basis for future joint, expert development in the same area (PA9). The adjacent activity of offering training on nature oriented visitor guidance concept contributes, as well, to the latter PA (PA9). |
| **Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)** |
| The document will be tested within the implementation of the Amazon of Europe Bike Trail, as the bike route itself is planned based on the visitor guidance and mapping document’s results and recommendations. At the time of submitting this output factsheet, the actual bike trail implementation phase has not been started; there is a final planned bike route, which starts into implementation as soon as all permits have been obtained by the regional coordinators and infrastructure can be purchased. |
| **Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)** |
| In the first phase, the visitor guidance mapping was elaborated jointly with the project partners and the implementing regional coordinators, as well as with other stakeholders, active in nature conservation, with continuous exchange between interests and aims expressed by both nature conservation and tourism entities. The current final planned bike route and its infrastructure elements represent the result of this joint planning process and are a balanced outcome between proximity of the route and access to the river, and protection of the river by preserving sensitive areas and leading visitors away from those. The document’s elaboration activity provided an overall support and steering for the detailed planning and will provide further support for the implementation of the trail.  The document is shared with all regional coordinators involved in the AoE Bike Trail project as implementers of the bike trail along their jurisdiction. In the second phase, the document should become a tool and data documentation at the same time for future decision making processes regarding bike trail development within the document’s analysed area. |
| **Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)** |
| The Nature Oriented Visitor Guidance and Mapping document contains a first ever summary of the ecological sensitivity analysis of the complete area of the future 5-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube (TBR MDD) stretching across parts of Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatian, and Serbia, and completed by an additional buffer stripe of 10 kilometres.  The methods and underlying data used for mapping habitat types, bird breeding areas and ecological sensitivity are replicable and can yield valid results for visitor or tourism management in any other geographical area. The approach used here can be a model for (transboundary) biosphere reserves (TBR or BR) establishment and functioning and can be transferred to any other planned biosphere reserve, fostered by the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. The approach used for ensuring ecological connectivity can be transferred to other river systems; dissemination can be supported by the ICPDR, EURONATUR, and networks such as RAMSAR, EIP on Waters and NWRM platform. The present output supports the ministerial declaration on the establishment of the TBR MDD; signed in 2011 by all 5 countries, and the subsequently designated HR-HU, SI, SR and AT BRs.  The visitor guidance plan for biking can be used and incorporated in the management plans of all protected areas within the TBR MDD. The methodology and results can be used for developing visitor guidance plans for other topics within the TBR MDD (e.g. fishing, canoeing). |
| **Durability (max. 1500 characters)** |
| The annex of this document contains the maps that show the results of the ecological analysis of the project area and maps and tables showing the input of the partners are listed. These are partially corresponding to certain points and locations that have not been included in the final implementation plan, but the argumentation line used for that decision has been documented in order to serve as a basis for future bike trail development. Whereas the underlying data leading to the documented results is not forever valid and new habitat mapping and sensitivity analysis based on dynamic development of natural habitats as well as future infrastructure development will become necessary in the future, the document is a good basis for planning further bike trail development over the first few years after implementation (3-7) of the bike trail. |
| **Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and / or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)** |
| The development process was based on the methods and results of the Nature Visitor Guidance Plan for the Drava in Croatia (within project [LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115 DRAVA LIFE – Action A.4](https://www.drava-life.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/A.4-Nature-Visitor-Guidance-Plan-EN-FINAL.pdf)) which is used as a basis for the Natura 2000 Management Plans across Natura 2000 areas along the Drava in Croatia. By using the methods and, partially, the same data as the above-mentioned document, the Visitor guidance and mapping document can serve a potential harmonized planning within the transboundary area, in terms of nature oriented visitor guidance. As such, it is in line with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive ([Council Directive 92/43/EEC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043)) as well as the EU Birds Directive ([Directive 2009/147/EC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147)). The nature oriented visitor guidance and mapping has been developed by additionally keeping in mind the aim formulated for the 5-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava Danube (TBR MDD) to restore and protect naturally dynamic river habitats and therefore additionally supports (indirectly) the EU Water Framework Directive ("[Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water polic](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060)y). |
| **Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)** |
| N/A |