



Interreg
Slovakia-Hungary



Building Partnership
European Regional Development Fund

PRESS RELEASE

Another successful project was realized by Ipoly Erdő Zrt. and LESY SR

Ipoly Erdő Zrt. and its cross-border partner, LESY SR have successfully implemented cross-border project entitled "**Helping natural forests together**" (SKHU / 1601 / 1,1 / 010) within the INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Program (<http://www.skhu.eu>).

The current project "Helping natural forests together" was a continuation of the successful HU-SK FOR FORESTS project in border regions. This project contributed to the further deepening of cooperation between Slovak and Hungarian foresters and brought together regional initiatives of partners in the interest of forestry and rural development.

During the two-year implementation process, partners sought to transform homogeneous existing forests into natural multi-species heterogeneous forest stands. Activities of the project were the implementation of such silviculture and protection measures that will ensure the requirements of society for sustainable economic development and for protection and social functions of forests.

Black locust stands that occupy large areas of slopes and mountains at Ipoly Erdő Zrt. endanger the natural forests, as a natural heritage. The project solves conversion of these black locust stands to the original oaks and Turkey oak stands by implementing new technologies and procedures. Hungarian foresters transforms about 1,000 hectares of black locust stands in 11 cadastres, and more than 500,000 oak seedlings were planted on 46 hectares. Thanks to the project, the youth generation can explore the world of the forest on wooden playground with the theme of life in the forest.

Foresters of LESY SR continuously support the natural tree species by removing undesirable tree species and shrubs, managing increased target tree species protection against weed and forest animals and creating better life condition for their growth.

Through the implementation of the project, forest playgrounds, a new educational trail, a forest rest area and recreational places were set up in Hungary and Slovakia, thanks to which the partners are convinced that domestic and cross-border tourism will increase and visitors will gain a knowledge about forest and foresters' work.

The total budget of the project was 778 106.52 EUR, of which the lead partner Ipoly Erdő Zrt. used 411,324.20 EUR and LESY SR used 366,782.32 EUR to achieve the goals set in the project.

About partners:

The Ipoly Erdő Zrt. manages 64,000 hectares of state forest areas in Pest and Nógrád County. This area is the most forested area in Hungary. It includes the Börzsöny Mountains and Cserhát - the Karancs and Medves miniregion, as well as the Gödöllő Hills. 52 percent of our forests are protected by nature conservation. The main activities of Ipoly Erdő Zrt. are sustainable forest management and wildlife management and the related tourist services.

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The most representative and typical forest ecosystems of the Börzsöny - mixed oak forests, hornbeam and oak stands and the mountain beech forests are the characteristic of this region. The Cserhát has a significant area of mainly sprouted Turkey oak forests and sprouted black locust forests. The area affected by forest regeneration has reached 3,000 hectares. The renewal of forests is based on the natural regeneration of natural tree species. Modern permanent forest management methods are also widely used. The main principle is to minimize the impact of management to forest environment and at the same time increase the ecological and economic value of the forest. Our foresters guarantee sustainable development of forests by their professional skills as well as they are involved into youth's education by developing their environmental awareness. Our company has an important strategic goal to bring society closer to the forests. This goal is supported by all forms of environmentally friendly forest tourism, so we manage a wide public welfare and tourism infrastructure network.

The LESY Slovenskej republiky, štátny podnik (Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise) was established by the decision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The purpose of the company is to carry out public interests, and the main task is to manage forest and other property in the ownership of the Slovak Republic. The state enterprise handles nearly 45% of Slovak forests. By means of sustainable management, it achieves a balanced performance of all forestry functions. The international recognition of the company is the fact that the entire forest area managed by LESY SR has been certified and verified according to PEFC or FSC Chain of Custody requirements. LESY SR has become the leader of this certification process in Slovakia, which ensures high quality of forestry work.

This project is implemented by the co-financing of the European Regional Development Fund.

The content of this Press release does not necessarily represent the official position of the European Union.

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