

1. Project title/ Name of the Country

**First International Conference
Bats of Eastern Europe: challenges for conservation
Yerevan /Armenia**

2. Project leader (name, institution, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)

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3. Project partners (names, institutions, addresses)

**AAM NGO
NABU of Armenia**

4. Author of the report (name, institution, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)

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5. Region of project implementation

Yerevan , Armenia

6. Project period

1 March - 30 November 2018

7. Report on implementation and development (including full information on contributions from collaborative partners and further resources)

The main costs were funded by the EUROBATS small grants contribution. Also, we had partners, which solve several things. With the foreign participants registration fee, we have done these cost -

- small trip fee (tickets, guide and transportation)
- lunch for participants
- stationary
- per diem for Volunteers

The Armenian branch of NABU funded these costs

- Printing of posters and bags with conference logo,

- Invitations for special guests,
- lunch for Armenian students
- renting the conference hall (a half day)

8. Problems occurred during the project, species concerned

There was no problem during the preparation works for conference. The little problems we had, when several weeks before the conference we got letters from several participants, who cancel their attendance to conference. LOT (polish airlines) workers were protest during conference dates and 2 participants could not come.

9. Contribution of the project to the objectives of the EUROBATS Agreement

(with special reference to bat conservation, research, public awareness and international cooperation, recommendation (if applicable))

During the conference several crossroad cooperation were created between Armenia and Czech Republic, Armenia and Russia, Armenia and Georgia. etc.

Several students from different universities participated and learned a lot from the very interesting and diverse presentations. There were discussions during the poster sessions and after conference about future cooperation. Also, there were several ideas where to organize the second international Conference bats of Eastern Europe.

10. Products (e.g. records, publications, workshops, seminars) and other outcomes of the project (identify the host or local authorities that received or will receive copies of the information).

All participants of the conference received the programme, Abstract book, pen, badge in one cotton bag. The Abstract books had sent to:

1. Yerevan State University
2. Institute of Zoology of NAS RA,
3. Armenian State Pedagogical University after Khachatur Abovyan,
4. Shirak State University after M. Nalbandyan,
5. "Green Artsakh", Biosphere Complex of Artsakh,
6. Artsakh State University,
7. Ministry of Nurture Protection of Armenia.

Also, several abstract books will be presented at the in next AC meeting in FYR Macedonia and will be given to the EUROBATS secretariat.

"VOICE OF ARMENIA" INDEPENDENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NEWSPAPER wrote about Conference organized in Armenia. Yerevan State University also has published small article about the conference of Bats of eastern Europe.



11. Detailed financial report (all expenditures explained and copy of receipts enclosed)

12. Summary (a short article with the most important outcomes to be put online on the EUROBATS website. The final report and the summary should contain acknowledgements to the donor countries that funded the project).

While the Eastern Europe outside the EU and Schengen countries comprises up to three quarters of modern ranges for many European bat species, an influx of fresh data (both conference papers and journal articles) from this vast region is rather modest, with the majority of studies published in Russian and, therefore, barely accessible for foreign scientific communities. Consequently, we observe apparent lack of communication between former USSR countries, which, despite current political differences and conflicts, share common research approaches based on the unified scholastic practice of the Soviet past.

To tackle this issue, we aimed to bring together most active bat researches and conservationists from these countries with primarily goal to resuscitate dialog and mutual trust, and develop common priorities and agenda for future research during our conference.

Several scientists were invited and all costs were covered (tickets, ground transportation, accommodation, per diem, post conference tour) for conference participation from post USSR countries. They are Aliaksey Shpak from Belarus, Lena Godlevska from Ukraine, Ilya Artyushin from Russia, Ioseb Natradze and Aleksadr Bukhnikashvili from Georgia. Scientists from Moldova, San Marino, Bulgaria were invited to participate conference, but there were some problems to come to Armenia.

Conference host 45 participants from 12 countries: Russia, Georgia, Lithuania, UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Armenia. Conference lasted 3 days.