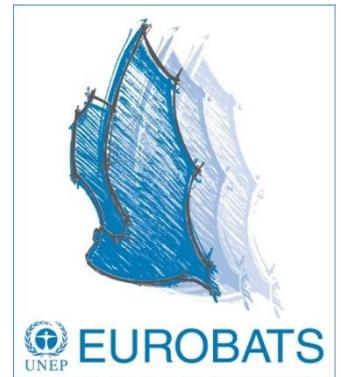


## 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Videoconference, 16 September 2021

### Summary Report on the Outcomes of EPI projects conducted in 2020-2021



#### **1. Advancing transboundary bat conservation in Romania and Moldova, conducted by the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation (CBRC) in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.**

In frame of the project, the team organized the 4th Romanian Bat Research Conference (online) in October 2020, with 10 presentations and 39 participants from 4 countries: Romania, Moldova, Serbia, and Poland. A workshop for team members outlined the key elements of the online bat database of Romania and Moldova, while the IT experts created the actual online elements based on this workshop. Until now, 88 literature sources from Romania and Moldova have been processed, resulting in 5.631 individual bat records for the database. Throughout the project, CBRC raised awareness about the Romanian and European Bat of the Years 2020-2021, *B. barbastellus*, using online and offline methods. The printed materials about the species reached 42 entities (bat researchers, NGOs, protected areas, local and national authorities) from 10 countries: Romania, Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In frame of the fieldwork of the project, CBRC involved new people interested in bat research (university students, members of the Academy of Sciences, and protected area personnel), monitored known colonies and surveyed in premiere several areas lacking bat data. Fieldwork supplied new data about 19 bat species.

#### **2. Survey and Monitoring of Bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2021, conducted by the Center for Karst and Speleology in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The activities on the project were conditioned both by the implementation of financial resources and by the problems caused by the COVID virus pandemic. Thus, holding a workshop and a regional conference as well as the International Bat Night was impossible. Fieldwork went according to the plan, even though there were difficulties

due to the pandemic. During the field work, 35 underground structures (caves, pits, artificial underground) were inspected. Auto transects were made in parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina along the border with neighbor countries (Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro), from which no data was previously available. A mixed maternity colony of *R. ferrumequinum* and *R. euryale* was found in the fortress of Strač near Trebinje, which opens a new field of cross-border research of fortresses in the border area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. Four colonies of bats were found in the Uvir cave: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *R. euryale*, *Miniopterus schreibersii* and *Barbastella barbastellus*. The colony of *B. barbastellus* is the largest colony of this species (about 200 animals) within the territory of former Yugoslavia.

Project partners have strengthened contacts with local speleological and mountaineering societies in the towns of Trebinje, Grahovo and Drvar. Analysis of echolocation records is still ongoing.