



**KOPAČKI  
RIT** Park prirode  
Nature Park

**DANUBEPARKS**  
network of protected areas



**FOR PRESS RELEASE**

**15.5.2023.**

## **CEI Cooperation Activity - Conference: DANUBEPARKS Newt Conservation Partnership & Climate Change**

**[VĂLENI, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA]** – Public Institution Nature Park Kopački rit, Agency Moldsilva and DANUBEPARKS in collaboration with the Central European Initiative (CEI), are proud to announce the upcoming CEI Cooperation Activity - Conference "DANUBEPARKS New Conservation Partnership & Climate Changes." The conference will be held in Văleni, Republic of Moldova, on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023.

The conference aims to bring together experts, scientists, and conservationists from the Danube River Network of Protected Areas (DANUBEPARKS) to address the critical issues of newt conservation and climate change. With the support of the CEI Cooperation Fund, this two-day event will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, discussions, and collaborative initiatives to enhance the resilience of the Danube River Basin's biodiversity.

The conference will feature expert meetings, project preparation workshops, and a field trip to the nearby Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, best practices, and innovative approaches to conserving newts and amphibians, as well as restoring wetlands as carbon sinks for climate resilience.

"We are excited to host this significant conference, and we are proud that it will be hosted in the Republic of Moldova in the immediate vicinity of the Lower Prut Nature Reserve, one of the "youngest" Protected Areas along the Danube, which was established in 2018." said Dr. Vlatko Rožac, a senior adviser in Kopački rit Nature Park and DANUBEPARKS president. "Through this event, we aim to enhance collaboration, exchange knowledge, and develop effective strategies to safeguard these vital amphibian species and their habitats amidst the challenges posed by climate change."

The event will also serve as a platform to discuss the adaptation of the "Action Plan for the Conservation of the Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) Species Complex in Europe" specifically for the Danube Region. Moreover, it will pave the way for the initiation of the first Danube-wide Crested Newt conservation project in 2024, further solidifying the commitment of DANUBEPARKS and its partners to long-term conservation efforts.

**Conference DANUBEPARKS Newt Conservation Partnership & Climate Change is co-funded by  
CEI Cooperation Fund and DANUBEPARKS.**



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Attendance to the conference is open to experts, scientists, and stakeholders working in the field of biodiversity conservation and climate change.

For more information, please visit [www.danubeparks.org](http://www.danubeparks.org) or contact Matej Marušić at [m.marusic@danubeparks.org](mailto:m.marusic@danubeparks.org).

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***About Public Institution Nature Park Kopački rit (Croatia):***

Public Institution Nature Park Kopački is Public Body. Main activities are nature conservation, maintenance and promotion of the Nature Park Kopačkirit and the Special Zoological Reserve Kopački rit. As the Kopački rit is placed in the central part of the Danube River and represents the best-preserved floodplain in the central and upper Danube, it is indispensable for ecological connectivity. Kopački rit was designated as the Ramsar site in 1993 as well as Important Bird Area. The Nature and Science Department together with the Ranger's service conducts nature monitoring according to the Management Plan and to the Annual Program of the Institution.

***About Agency Moldsilva:***

Agency Moldsilva is the central public administration body on state policy in forestry and hunting in the country. The general task of the Agency is to implement the constitutional prerogatives and international ratified obligations of the Republic of Moldova on development, promotion and implementation of its policy in forestry and hunting, directed on the international trends of socio-economic sustainable development, rural development, rural employment, sustainable forestry, development, guarding, forests and wildlife protection, maintenance and conservation of biodiversity, professional training, access to environmental benefits and forestry research and education.

***About DANUBEPARKS:***

DANUBEPARKS is a Network of Protected Areas from 9 countries along the Danube River. It is the platform for coordinated and extensive collaboration among the various administrations of the Danube Protected Areas (in 2023 DANUBEPARKS is networking 20 Protected Areas).

Building on existing transnational cooperation and successful Danube-wide joint initiatives over the last years, the Danube Protected Areas have developed a strong and enriching partnership. The non-profit DANUBEPARKS Association was founded in 2014.

The mission of the DANUBEPARKS Association is to preserve, develop and restore the Danube River, its main tributaries, and surrounding wetlands. As a cohesive ecosystem, it should be an inspiring lifeline for all the inhabitants of this European macroregion.

***About the Central European Initiative (CEI):***

The Central European Initiative (CEI) is a regional intergovernmental forum of 17 Member States in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. It fosters European integration and sustainable development through regional cooperation.

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CEI work is focused on achieving two main goals: Green Growth & Just Societies.

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*Media Contact:*

Matej Marušić

DANUBEPARKS – Danube River Network of Protected Areas (secretariat in Croatia)

Email: [m.marusic@danubeparks.org](mailto:m.marusic@danubeparks.org)

Phone: +385996705563

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Note: High-resolution images and additional information are available upon request.