Krkonoše Mountains National Park Administration is pleased to announce that the MaGICLandscapes project has started in July and is looking forward as a partner to cooperating with nine other partners from across Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Italy and Germany. The project is funded by Interreg Central Europe as part of the European Regional Development Fund.

The project concentrates on how to identify, protect and enhance green infrastructure (GI) for the benefit of the environment and society. Green Infrastructure is a key strategy in the European landscape connectivity agenda aimed at reconnecting vital natural areas to urban hubs & restoring and improving their functional roles, such as flood protection, recreation and adapting to climate change. Thus, GI is an essential planning concept towards protecting Natural Capital and simultaneously enhancing quality of life though improved access to quality natural and semi-natural landscapes.

The European Commission defines green infrastructure as 'a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings'.

Collaborating from the start with stakeholders, MaGICLandscapes will provide land-managers, policy makers and communities the tools and the knowledge, at different spatial levels, that they need to ensure the persistence of green infrastructure functionality and consequent benefits to society. The project will deliver an assessment approach that deals with all spatial levels across Central European landscape types.

MaGICLandscapes will supply the tools for green infrastructure assessment at the transnational level ensuring cross-border green infrastructure is understood in a way that reduces mis-matched management approaches. It will provide territories with the means to assess functions of green infrastructure to guide planning and conservation approaches.

Institutions will have the means to assess the public benefit that can be achieved through green infrastructure management approaches and demonstrate how these assessment approaches are used to develop evidence- based strategies and action plans. 9 Multi-scale and multi-thematic case studies in 5 regions offer the testing ground for our trans-disciplinary partner consortium to demonstrate the multiple benefits of green infrastructure management approaches

Outputs include a suite of transferable tools: a series of technical manuals and partner-level evidence-based strategies and action plans to direct future actions and investment. Training in the use of these tools will be provided for stakeholders, resulting in enhanced capacities of institutions to better manage our natural heritage.

If you require any further information about the project please visit our website www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/MaGICLandscapes