

LIFE19 NAT/SK/001069 LIFE SYSEL: Conservation of the European
Ground Squirrel at the northwestern border of its range



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Objectives

- Increase of the population – 100% in Slovakia, 50% in Poland
- Restore habitats - 185 hectares in Slovakia, 22 in Poland
- Restore 15 colonies in localities where species is extinct
- Improve food supply, improve genetic structure of isolated colonies (high inbreeding in the present), decrease predatory pressure
- Cooperation with local stakeholders – farmers, church, castle managers, municipalities, airport personnel, military personnel

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conservation association



European Ground Squirrel - souslik

I. Effective Stakeholder Engagement

Results Relevant to the Theme

1. Communication, knowledge sharing
2. The power of demonstration
3. Best practice
4. Management „tailor made“ for various stakeholders (farmers, airport personnel, church, municipalities....)
5. Labelling of farmers` products – „Souslik friendly farm“

Highlights / Issues / Lessons Learnt

- Long term success stories - return to favourable status
- Sustainability of interventions – linking LIFE project to A-E scheme, helping new farmers to apply, education



III. Linking Payment Schemes to Indicators

Results Relevant to the Theme

1. Calculating payment levels – fair systems
2. Supervision/advice/support systems
3. Empowering farmers
4. Ensuring consistency among scorecard assessors



Highlights / Issues / Lessons Learnt

- Failures and the reasons – not all measures proposed by experts can be controlled by authorities
- Different a-e schemes can be in contradiction (e.g. grasslands vs sousliks) and often the amount of money (€/ha) plays role in farmer`s decision

Key Messages to Share

- Importance of communication and stakeholder engagement
- Issue to discuss: Evidence based scheme vs measure based scheme – pros/cons, challenges, experience in other EU countries?

Speed presentations – ARC Platform Meeting – 22nd May –
Santander, Spain