Parties involved in project implementation

”Demonstrating andpromoting natural values to support decision-making in Romania (***Nature4Decision-making – N4D***)”

 **National Environmental Protection Agency (project promoter)**

The National Environmental Protection Agency is a specialized authority of the public central administration, subordinated to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, having competences in the implementation of environmental policies and legislation, in line with the provisions of the European environmental legislation.

NEPA is responsible for ensuring technical support for the elaboration of environmental strategies and policies; coordinating the implementation of environmental strategies and policies at the national, and local levels; implementation of the legislation on nature and biodiversity conservation; monitoring the management of natural protected areas and natural monuments; authorizing activities having a potential environmental impact and ensuring compliance with the legal provisions; managing of the national reference laboratories for air, waste, noise and vibrations, radioactivity; coordinating the processes of environmental planning at national, regional and local levels; elaborating comprehensive documents regarding the state of the environment.

NEPA also provides reporting of the priority data flows to the European Environment Agency through the Eionet network; ensuring the communication with the European Environment Agency and with similar national and federal agencies according to the competencies established by the central public authority in the environmental field and also supports and participates in the initiatives of the civil society in the environmental field.

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** Romanian Space Agency (partner)**

The Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) is the coordinator of Romania’s national and international space activities. The Romanian Space Agency was established in 1991 and reorganized by Government Decision in 1995 as a public institution entirely extrabudgetary funded, under the authority of the Ministry of Research and Technology (now the Ministry of National Education).

The mission of the Romanian Space Agency has four major components:

1. to coordinate national space research and applications programs
2. to promote space development in Romania
3. to represent the Romanian Government in international space cooperation programmes
4. to research space related issues at the ROSA Research Center

As a coordinator of national space research and applications programme, ROSA designs and coordinates the implementation of the National Space Programme. Following its objectives, the Agency is authorised to establish research and development centers.

As the representative of the Government, ROSA established cooperation agreements with international organisations such as the European Space Agency (ESA) or the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), as well as bilateral cooperation agreements at governmental level. Together with the Ministry of External Affairs, ROSA represents Romania at the sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space — COPUOUS and its sub-committees.

ROSA is the coordinator organization of the Research, Development and Innovation STAR Programme - Space Technology and Advanced Research for the period 2012-2019, approved by Law no. 262/2011 - the tool which provides national support for implementing the Agreement between Romania and the European Space Agency (ESA) on Romania's accession to the ESA Convention.

At the same time, the Agency develops its own research and development projects through the ROSA Research Centre.

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**World Wide Fund for Nature (partner)**

WWF is a non-governmental organization for nature conservation and restoration of the natural environment.

WWF’s global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

●conserving the world’s biological diversity;

●ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable;

●reducing pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF’s activity is focusing on conserving [critical areas](http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/saving_the_natural_world/australian_priority_places/) and protecting [critical species](http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/saving_the_natural_world/wildlife_and_habitats/australian_priority_species/) that are particularly important for certain habitats and for the wellbeing of people.

WWF started work in Romania in 2006 to protect wildlife in the Carpathian Mountains and along the Danube: protected areas, forests, brown bears, the Danube Delta, sturgeons. The organisation also fosters the transition towards a green economy and created an environmental education program for the youth.

WWF often partners local and national authorities, NGOs and private companies in order to influence the local, national and international decision-makers to create strategies and laws in support of nature conservation and sustainable development. WWF supports capacity building and the transfer of knowledge at governmental and NGO levels and to other stakeholders throughout the region.

In Romania, the work of WWF on ES and their economic and policy integration started back in 2005, when the feasibility of Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes (PES) in a few pilots in the region was assessed. The work of WWF in the area continued, focusing on land and water use and more widely on ecosystems, their services and the natural capital. In particular, between 2009-2014 WWF-Romania implemented the project “Promoting Payments for Ecosystem Services and Related Sustainable Financing Schemes in the Danube Basin”funded by UNEP GEF, under which significant experience has been developed over the issues ofidentifying, promoting and conserving the ecosystems and their services. The project has demonstrated that economic instruments – payments for ecosystem services - can contribute to supporting land and water managers in the Lower Danube and to sustaining the benefits which society and communities get from nature in the river basin.

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***Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (partner)***

NINA is Norway’s leading institution for applied ecological research. NINA is responsible for long-term strategic research and commissioned applied research to facilitate the implementation of international conventions, decision-support systems and management tools, as well as to enhance public awareness and promote conflict resolution.

NINA both map and do research on biodiversity and ecosystem service and monitor species and ecosystems and produces national indicators on biodiversity (including Nature Index) to the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), the ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Finance.

The institute was established in 1988, employs a staff of approximately 240 and directs well-equipped laboratories and facilities at four locations in Norway. NINA offers broad-based ecological expertise covering the genetic, population, species, ecosystem and landscape level, in terrestrial and freshwater environments. In marine ecosystems, NINA has especially high competence on seabirds. Most of the institution’s projects are related to the science–policy interface, including both natural, economic and social sciences

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