**Project financed by EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009 - 2014**

***“* Demonstrating and promoting natural values to support decision-making in Romania”**

(Nature4Decision-making – N4D)

The objective of this project is “to increase the awareness of and education in biodiversity and ecosystem services (ES), including awareness of and education on the relationship between biodiversity and climate change, and economic valuation of ecosystems”, objective that will be achieved through the national mapping and biophysical assessment of selected ecosystems and ecosystem services (ES) in accordance with the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) process ongoing at the European Union level.

The project objective will be achieved by implementing the following main activities:

 ● setting up mapping procedures and guidelines for ES assesment;

 ● data management and data analysis;

 ● mapping and biophysical assessment of selected ecosystems and ES;

 ● promoting the project (awareness, information);

 ● exchange of experience with neighboring countries

Project activities are implemented by NEPA as project promoter in collaboration with WWF-Romania (WWF), Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) and Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA).

The results of this project will benefit the following target groups:

* government bodies at national and local level;
* scientific institutions;
* decision makers;
* NGOs and civil society/public networks;
* individual practitioners and experts;
* media.

For the sustainability of project results and in particular to secure their use in policy and decision-making processes, a Decision Support System (DSS) will be set up by ROSA and will be part of the Environmental Information System (SIM) from NEPA.

The IT System SIM developed by NEPA will incorporate DSS that will be developed with capabilities allowing for public interrogation of the ecosystem and ES database and the visualization of maps and it will facilitate the development of different scenarios for policy and decision makers regarding the consequences derived from specific human interventions upon the state of an ecosystem and the ES it provides.

This will be possible based on equations and mathematical modeling to be developed in the DSS. In this way, the DSS will in fact facilitate and improve decision-making since it will be designed as an information system that provides a series of alternatives among which it is possible to choose the optimal solution that allows at the same time for maintaining the quality of natural ecosystems and their ES as well as for carrying out the necessary investments, where applicable.