



# Palic Zoo – EU Funding Experience

(Workshop - EAZA Annual Conference,  
Lodz, Poland, Sept. 2025)

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## PALIĆ ZOO, Serbia

- Founded on May 31st 1950.
- Area: 20 ha
- 13 ha visitors space, largest zoo in Serbia by territory, 160k visitors annually
- About 1000 animals, 150 species
- Botanical garden - 500 species
- 2004. Shelter for endangered and confiscated species





Palic Zoo has actively used EU funding mechanisms to improve infrastructure, education, and nature conservation.

Main partners:

- Zoo Szeged (Hungary) and the City of Szeged
- Zoo Osijek (Croatia)

Projects since 2004 include: aviary for eagles and vultures, education and congress centers, bird rehabilitation facilities, classrooms, and cross-border exchanges of children and staff.





## Goals

Improve living conditions for animals (aviary, rescue center).

Develop educational infrastructure (classrooms, conference center).

Foster cross-border cooperation between Serbia and Hungary, Serbia and Croatia.

Engage local communities and schoolchildren in conservation.



## Key Activities & Results

**INTERREG 2004 – Large Aviary: €90,000 – first high aviary in Serbia for eagles & Griffon and Egyptian vultures.**





**2007. Education & Congress Center  
(Interreg): €105,000**



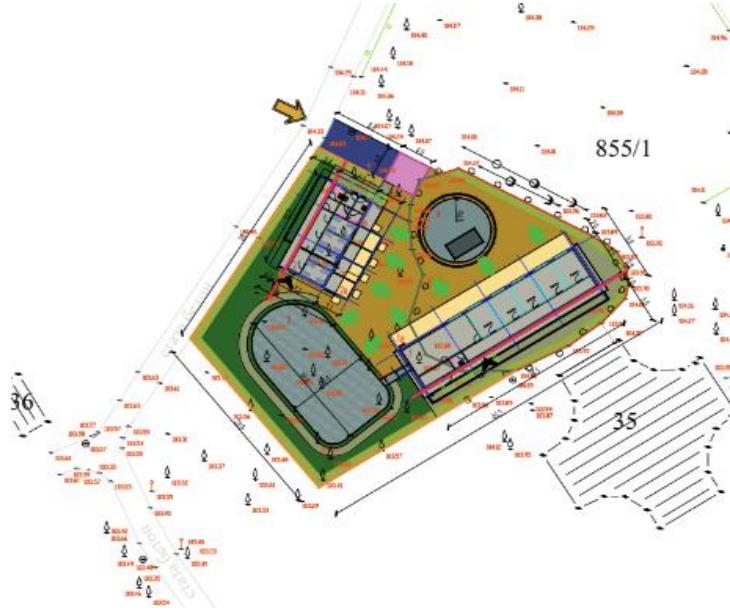


**Classroom & students Exchange  
(IPA “Two Zoos”): €139,000  
– over 6,500 children participated,  
staff exchanges with Szeged Zoo**



## 2011. Bird Rescue Facility (IPA): €118,000 – flight cage for rehabilitation



**Majestic Zoo's**



## Funding Mechanisms Used

Interreg – cross-border cooperation (Serbia–Hungary, Serbia-Croatia).

IPA Cross-border Cooperation – nature conservation, education, and community engagement.



## Application Process – Lessons Learned

Partners: identified through established cooperation with Zoo Szeged and Zoo Osijek

Preparation: required formal documentation, clear goals, and alignment with EU priorities.

Success factors: community involvement and visible cross-border impact.





## What We Would Do Differently

Involve local governments and schools earlier in project design.

Allocate more time and staff for administration and reporting.

Plan sustainability measures beyond project funding.

## Practical Tips for Other Zoos

1. Choose the right fund for your goal – infrastructure (IPA), research (Horizon), species protection (LIFE).

2. Find a reliable EU partner – ideally a long-term collaborator.

3. Prepare administrative capacity – reporting and audits are demanding.



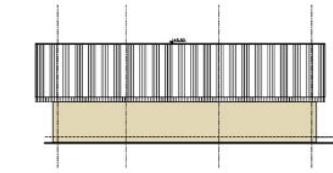
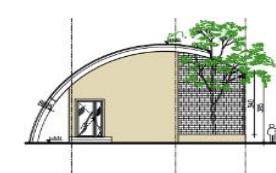
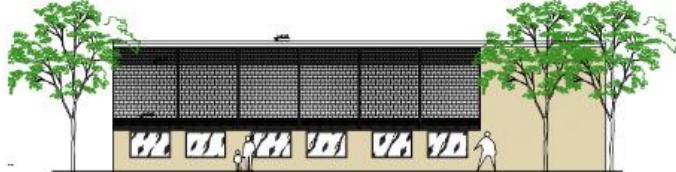
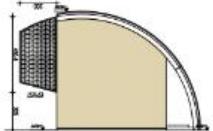
## Additional Insights

Funding source selection: IPA/Interreg suited our size and regional focus.

Co-financing: covered partly by local authorities and own resources.

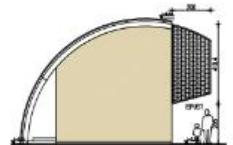
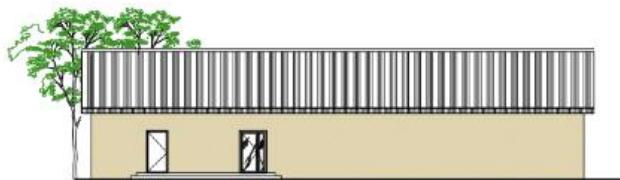
Main challenges: tight deadlines, complex procedures, need for constant outsourcing

Impact measurement: number of participants, new facilities, improved cooperation



OBJEKAT 2

Inventori:  
USTANOVNA ZOOLOŠKI VR  
Kraljevo 4 Palic  
Savetnik:  
Branislav KUZMANOVIC, dr  
Djelatnik projektne grupe:  
Norbert MOJNAK, dr  
Djelatnik projektne grupe:  
Nemanj NAD, dipl. inž. grad  
Projektni suradnik:



OBJEKAT 1

Inventori:  
USTANOVNA ZOOLOŠKI VR  
Kraljevo 4 Palic  
Savetnik:  
Branislav KUZMANOVIC, dr  
Djelatnik projektne grupe:  
Norbert MOJNAK, dr  
Djelatnik projektne grupe:  
Nemanj NAD, dipl. inž. grad  
Projektni suradnik:



Thank you for your attention ☺

Contact:

Palic Zoo, Serbia

Website: [www.zoopalic.rs](http://www.zoopalic.rs)

Email: [office@zoopalic.co.rs](mailto:office@zoopalic.co.rs)

