

## **European Species Initiative Workshop – Łódź 2025**

### **Workshop Exercise: Evaluator's Shoes**

#### **1. Workshop Exercise**

Participants worked in small groups with short project descriptions.

Tasks:

- Decide which fund best fits the project (using the provided cheat sheet).
- Give one reason “why it fits” and one reason “why it doesn’t fully fit”.
- Score the project (1–10) on:
  - Impact
  - Sustainability
  - Feasibility

#### **2. Project descriptions provided to participants**

##### **Project 1: Education in the zoo**

**Title:** *Green Minds for Kids*

- Goal: Create an education programme for primary school children about endangered species and conservation.
- Activities: Develop teaching materials, train zoo educators, organise exchanges with other European zoos.
- Budget: €80,000, mostly for training, workshops and travel.
- Partners: Two zoos and one local school network.
- Main selling point: Building skills and awareness in young people.

##### **Project 2: Infrastructure for animals**

**Title:** *Safe Havens for Amphibians*

- Goal: Improve habitats for local amphibians threatened by urbanisation.
- Activities: Build ponds and breeding areas inside and around the zoo, monitor populations, run public awareness campaigns.
- Budget: €1,200,000, around 60% for construction works.
- Partners: One municipality, one NGO, and the zoo.
- Main selling point: Direct action for species conservation.

##### **Project 3: Research**

**Title:** *Pollinator Health Network*

- Goal: Study the effects of pesticides on wild bee populations in urban and semi-urban areas.

- Activities: Field research, lab analysis, joint publications, policy recommendations.
- Budget: €2,500,000, mainly for research staff and equipment.
- Partners: Three universities and two zoos from different countries.
- Main selling point: Strong scientific basis, collaboration between zoos and academia.

#### **Project 4: Small cross-border project – Interreg**

**Title:** *Birds Without Borders*

- Goal: Protect migratory birds of prey crossing the border between two countries.
- Activities: Joint monitoring of migration routes, data sharing, local education campaigns in both regions.
- Budget: €350,000, half for monitoring equipment, half for awareness raising.
- Partners: Two zoos, two nature NGOs, and a local authority on each side of the border.
- Main selling point: Clear cross-border benefit and cooperation.

### **3. EU Funding Cheat Sheet (provided to participants)**

#### **EU Funding Cheat Sheet – Zoo Conservation Projects**

##### **LIFE**

*What it's for:* Main EU fund for nature, biodiversity, environment. Supports hands-on conservation (habitat restoration, species protection).

*Why a zoo might use it:* For direct action: "We want to restore ponds and protect amphibians."

##### **Interreg**

*What it's for:* Supports cross-border cooperation between EU regions/countries (environment, education, culture).

*Why a zoo might use it:* "We want to work with a zoo in a neighbouring country on migratory birds."

##### **IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance)**

*What it's for:* For non-EU candidate countries preparing for EU membership. Supports environment, infrastructure, governance.

*Why a zoo might use it:* "We're in a candidate country and need support for a bird-of-prey project."

##### **COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology)**

*What it's for:* Funds research networks, expert communities, training – not big projects.

*Why a zoo might use it:* "We want to join a Europe-wide network for conservation genetics."

##### **Biodiversa+**

*What it's for:* EU partnership for biodiversity research & innovation, monitoring, policy-relevant science.

*Why a zoo might use it:* "We want to study biodiversity trends and influence EU policy."

##### **EU4Ocean**

*What it's for:* Coalition for ocean literacy, marine education, public awareness. Not a classic fund, but supports campaigns, schools, youth.

*Why a zoo might use it:* "Our zoo aquarium wants to run a youth-focused marine awareness campaign."

#### **4. Group evaluation results (as provided by participants)**

##### **Project 1: Green Minds for Kids – Group 1**

**Chosen fund:** Interreg

**Why it fits:**

The project includes exchanges with other European zoos, which aligns well with Interreg's focus on cross-border cooperation and joint educational activities.

**Why it doesn't fully fit:**

Education is the main focus, while Interreg programmes often prioritise stronger territorial or regional development impacts.

**Scores:**

Impact: 10

Sustainability: 6

Feasibility: 10

##### **Project 1: Green Minds for Kids – Group 2**

**Chosen fund:** Interreg

**Why it fits:**

The project has a low budget, focuses on education, and works across EU countries through cooperation between zoos.

**Why it doesn't fully fit:**

Interreg funding is often limited to public or state-owned institutions and may not be available to private zoos. The project also does not include a research component.

**Scores:**

Not provided.

##### **Project 2: Safe Havens for Amphibians**

**Chosen fund:** LIFE

**Why it fits:**

Direct actions for species conservation.

**Why it doesn't fully fit:**

The fund does not fully cover every aspect of the project activities.

**Scores:**

Impact: 10

Sustainability: 10

Feasibility:

- Partners: 10

- Budget: 5

##### **Project 4: Birds Without Borders**

**Chosen fund:** Interreg

**Why it fits:**

Cross-border cooperation.

**Why it doesn't fully fit:**

Funding is limited in time and continuation depends on further funding.

**Scores:**

Impact: 8

Sustainability: 6

Feasibility: 8