

# **Integration of the ecological network concept into the spatial planning system of Ukraine**

Transfer project in the framework of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme

**Anastasiia Oleshchenko**

**State enterprise Ukrainian State Scientific-Research Institute of Urban Design "Dipromisto" named after Y.M.Bilokon, Kyiv, Ukraine**

e-mail: anastasiya@meta.ua

## **Executive summary**

The project "Integration of the ecological network concept into the spatial planning system of Ukraine" was aimed to contribute to creation of an ecological network in Ukraine. The Ukrainian concept of the "ecological network" concerns a united network of protected areas with sufficient spatial connectivity among each other. It corresponds to the concept of the Pan-European Ecological Network initiated for the CoE Member States.

The international experience regarding the creation of ecological networks has been studied. The national legislative basis for this purpose and existent research works in this field have been analysed within the process of the project elaboration.

Taking into account the conclusions of the above analysis, the national spatial planning system and the international experience in the field of spatial planning have been studied. As a result of this study, the place for the concept of ecological network has been found among the objects of spatial planning. On the base of the research a mechanism of introducing the ecological network concept into the national spatial planning system and recommendations for necessary legal adjustments have been created to promote the actual creation of the ecological network of Ukraine on the ground.

The results of the project have been summarised in three documents: an analytical paper on international and Ukrainian experience in the field of ecological network design; a methodological study showing a clear place of the ecological network within the spatial structure on the local, regional and national levels; propositions on necessary legislative development and organisational activities to promote a creation of the national ecological network.

The outputs of the project provide a methodological platform for elaborating a draft of a regulatory legislative document or changes to existent legislation, the adoption of which will ensure the actual creation of the ecological network of Ukraine on the ground, thereby promoting sustainable environmental management. The methodological results of the project can be relevant also for experts in nature conservation from other countries, as a basis for the

elaboration of national concepts and actual systems of creating ecological networks.