

Regarding the monitoring of butterflies in Romania

Together for better

László RÁKOSY

Butterfly Conservation Europe: Partner meeting

ANL conference centre, Laufen

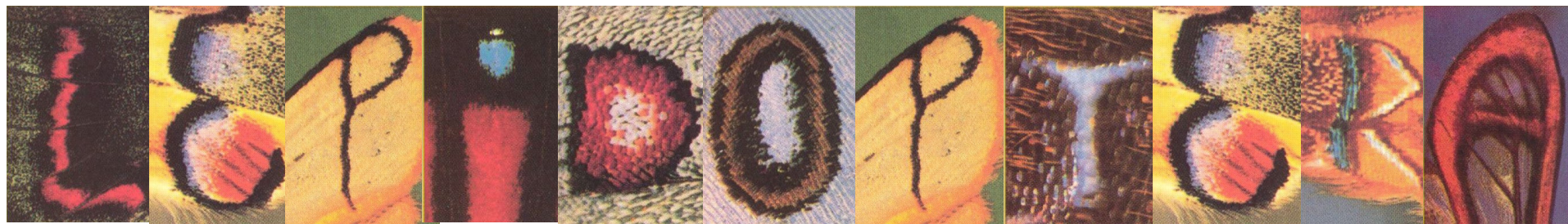
2 – 5 December 2025



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Funded by the



UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



Trainer: László Rákossy



EPIC course in Romania

- Stage 1: May 23-25, Angofa, **Wildlife Centre** near Sighisoara, using the generous infrastructure and pastures rich in plant and insect species of the Adept Transylvania Foundation.
- Stage 2: July 10-12, 2025, same location as Stage 1.



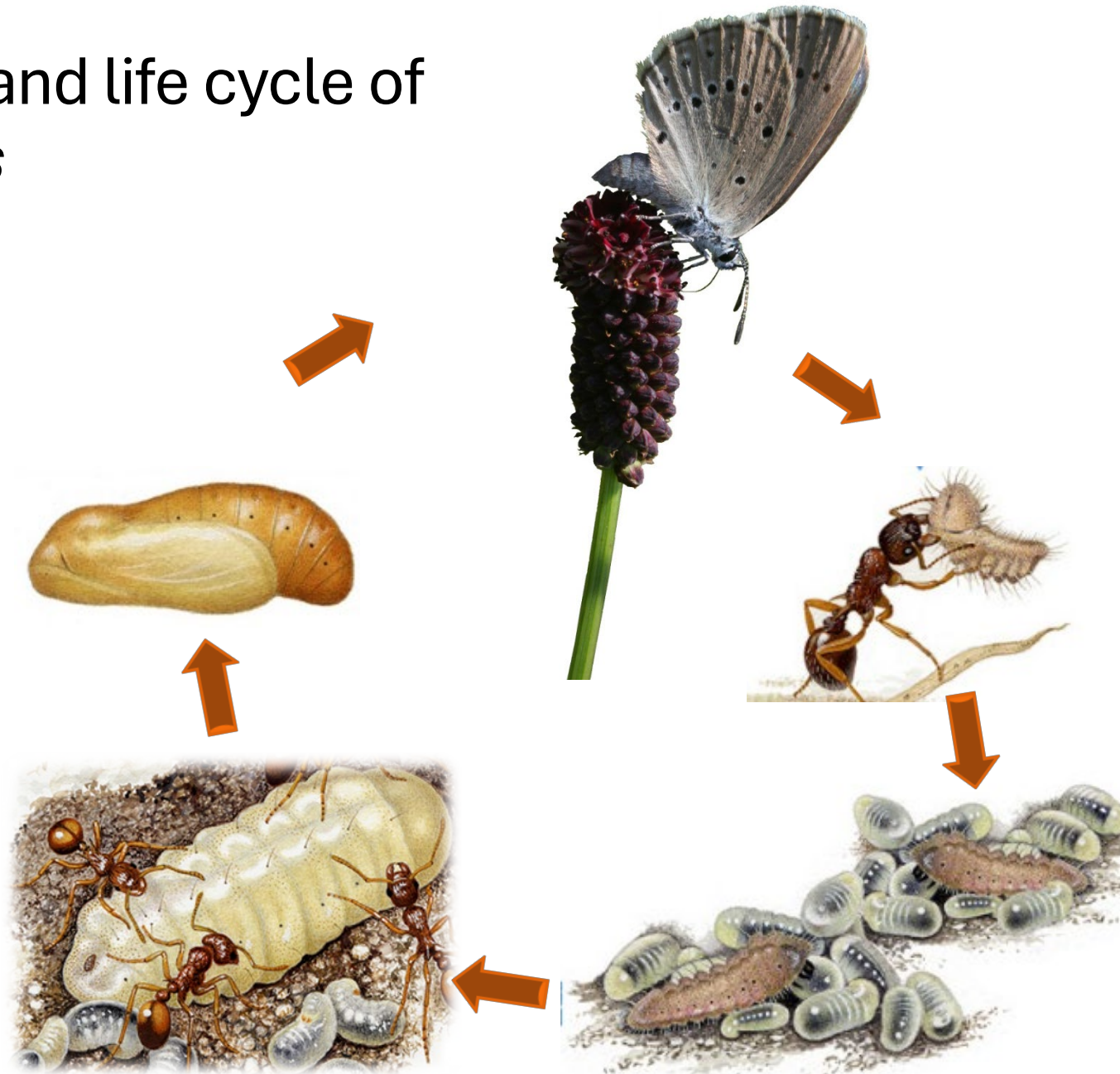
Contents of theoretical lectures

- General course on lepidoptera
- Ecology of butterflies
- Protection and conservation
- Preferences for habitat types and food plants
- Monitoring

Scales and
colors



Metamorphosis and life cycle of *Phengaris teleius*



light pollution and the effect of traffic



Old and new, our great-grandparents and us



European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme
eBMS



Habitat type: Steppic grasslands



Pseudophilotes bavius



Muschampia cribrillum



Kretania sephirus



Arethusana arethusa



Melitaea phoebe



Colias chrysotheme

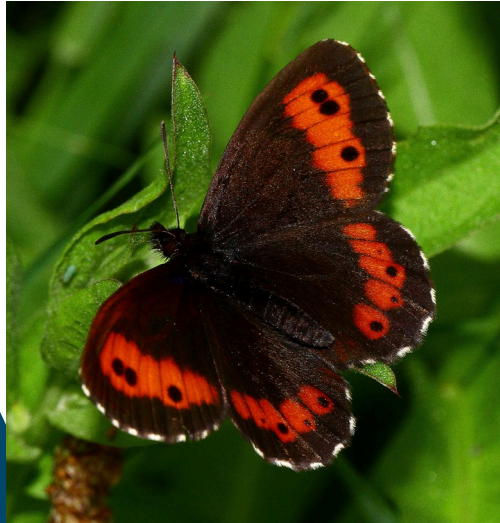


Melitaea trivia

Habitat types: Coniferous forests



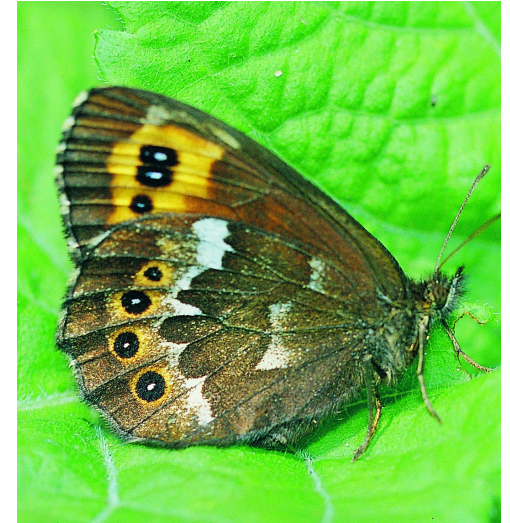
- Being far too dark, few species of butterflies live in the clearings and edges of these forests.



Erebia euryale



E. ligea



Habitat types: Banks of flowing or stagnant waters with floodplain forests



- Habitats for: *Apatura ilia*, *A. iris*, *A. metis* (along the Danube and the mouths of some tributaries), *Limenitis populi*, *L. camilla*, *Nymphalis polychloros*, etc.



Apatura iris



Apatura ilia

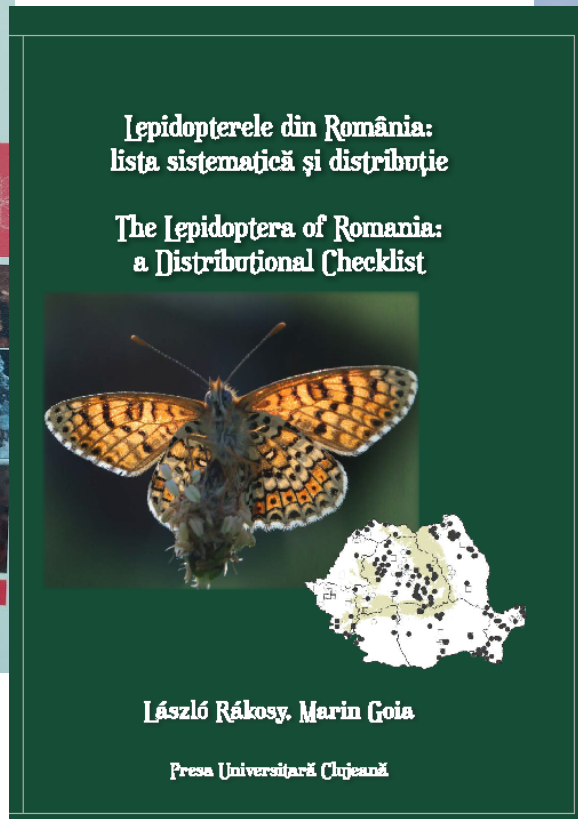


Apatura metis



Limenitis populi

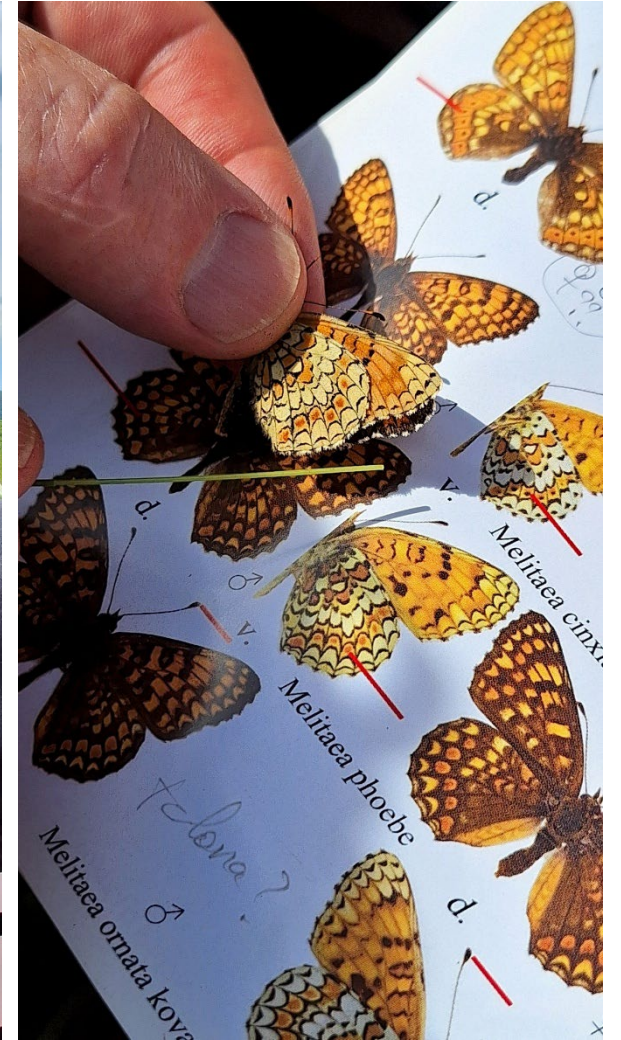
Useful local literature



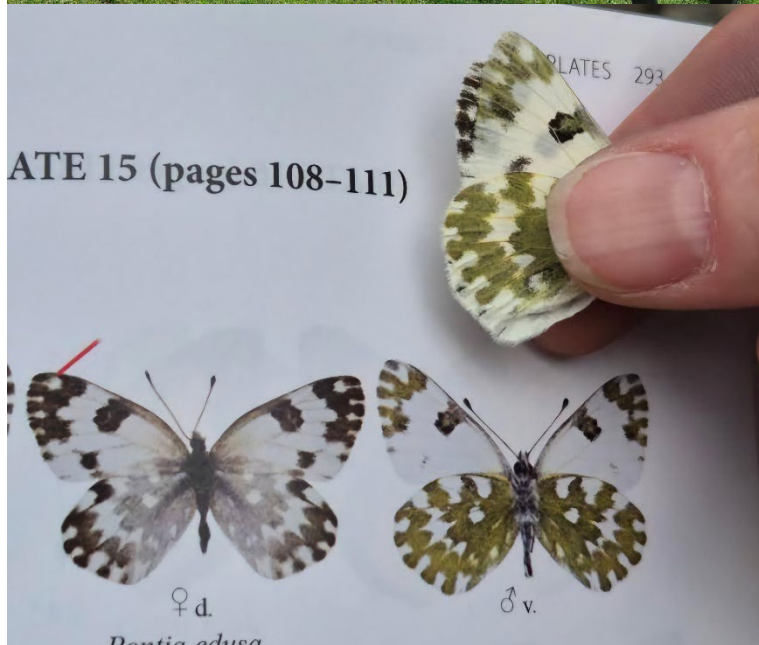
A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF ROMANIA



Field work



Field work and explanations



Participants and trainers



The first steps for butterfly monitoring in Romania



2013 - at 13th Symposium of the Romanian Lepidopterological Society L. Rakosy and Cristina Craioveanu presented the idea and methodology based on models from the UK and Germany

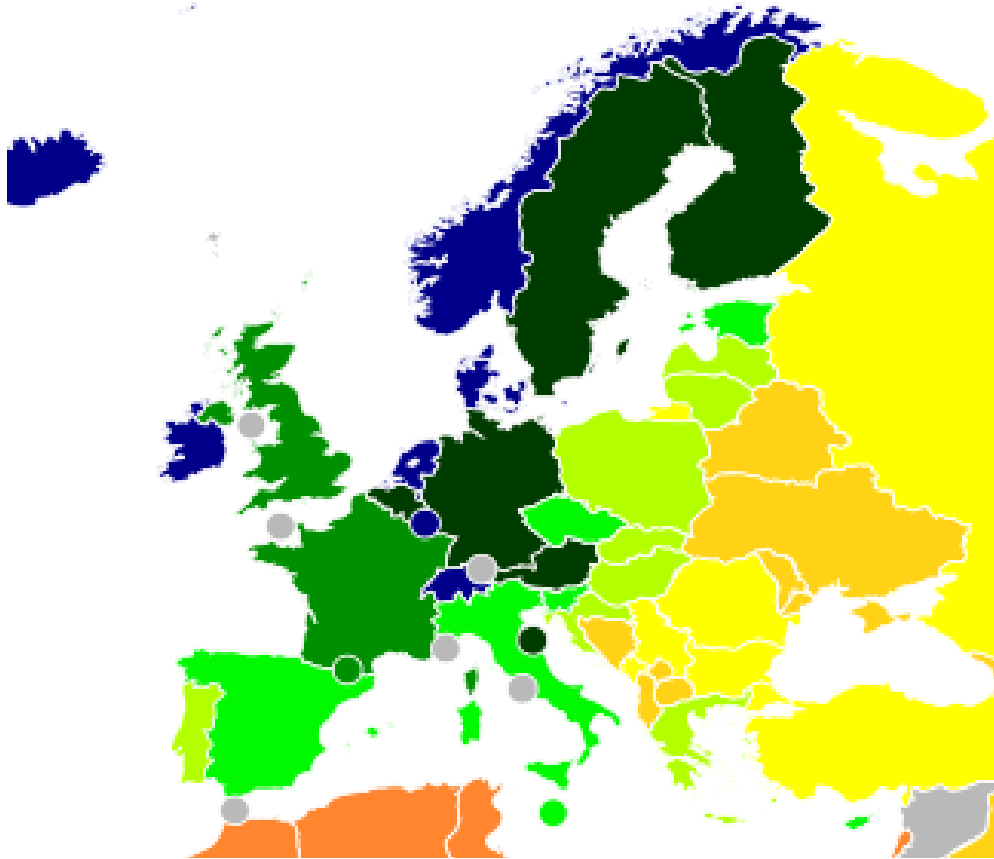
2014 - Jaqueline Loos at the 14th Symposium of the Romanian Lepidopterological Society revisited the idea

At subsequent symposiums, the need for butterfly monitoring was repeatedly raised.

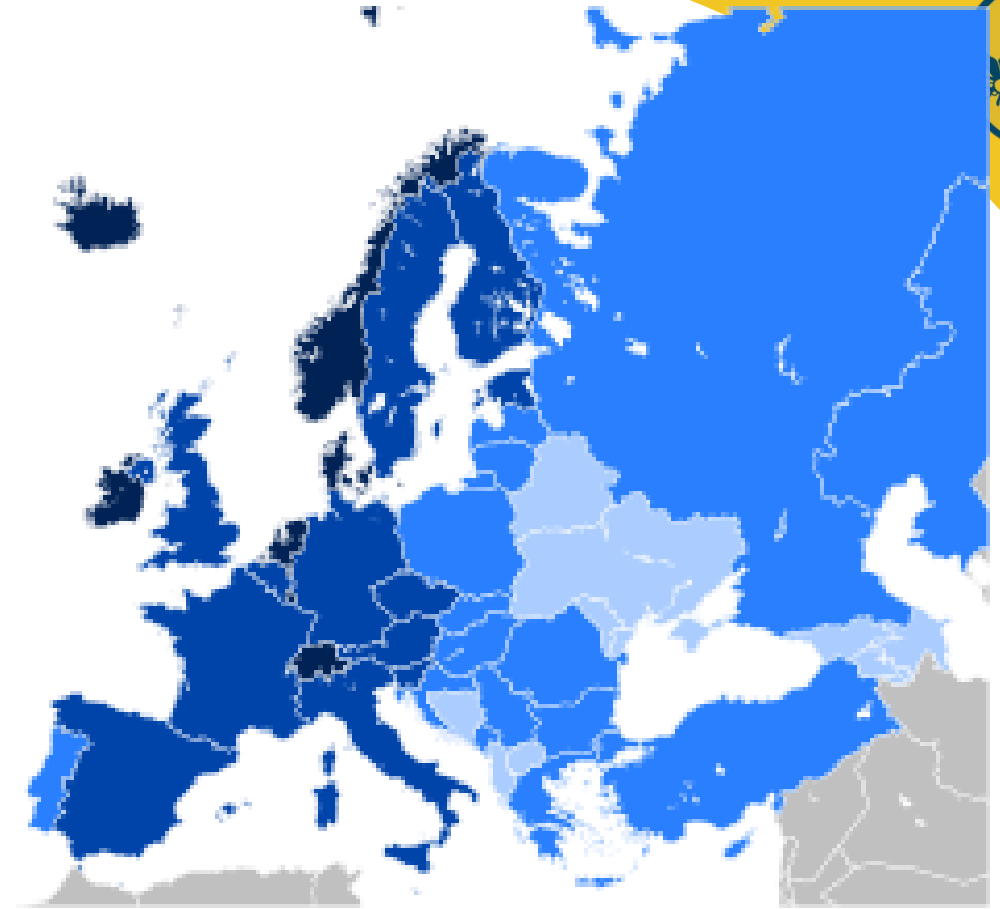


Causes determining the precarious situation of butterfly monitoring in Romania

- low average income per capita (GNI and GDP)
- the need to supplement income with a second or third job
- level of education and culture and attitude towards volunteering
- the large number of species and the difficulty of identifying some of them
- the variety of habitats and their degree of accessibility (need for a vehicle) etc.



Gross national income (GNI) per capita in the EU
 UK, D 50-60.000\$; RO, BG 10-20.000 \$



European countries by Nominal gross domestic product (GDP)

in 2024

≥ 60,000 black, dark blue

≥ 30,000

≥ 10,000 blue

< 10,000 light blue

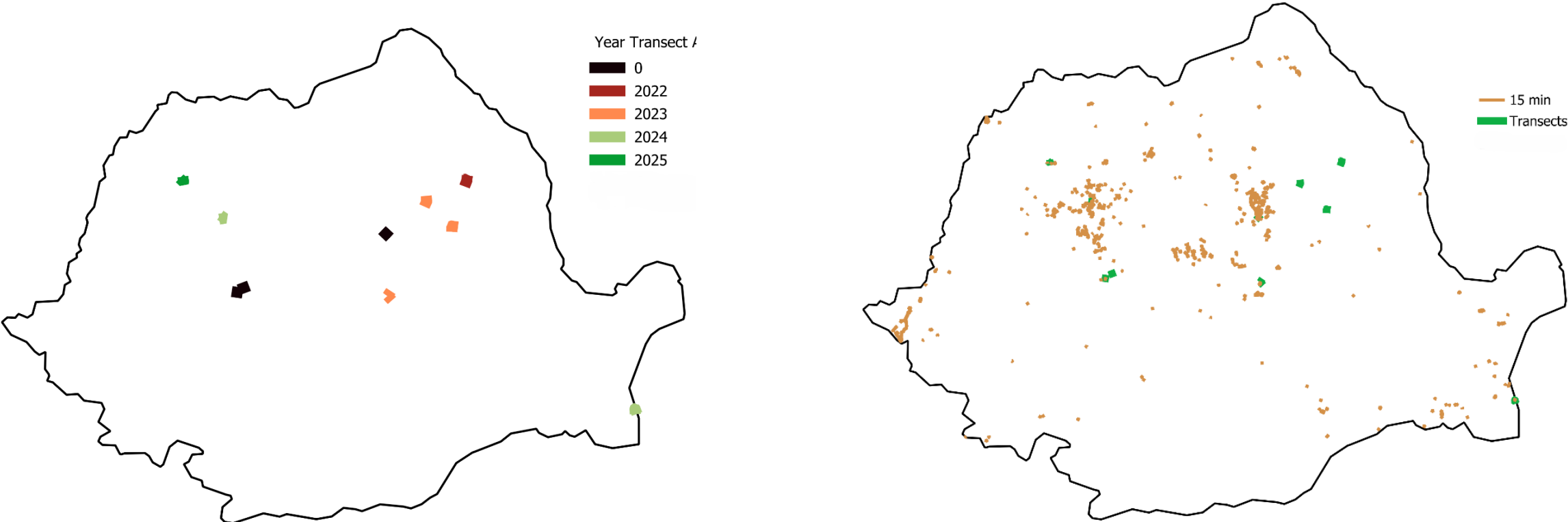
EPIC course in Romania

General conclusion

- Around the Angofa Wildlife Center, we investigated mesophilic meadows, extensive pastures, wet meadows, deciduous forest edges, and xerophilic meadows.
- In total, over 75 butterfly species were recorded.
- All participants have acquired the basic concepts and can work independently for monitoring. Furthermore, each of them can train other people to use the Butterfly Count application and enter data.

Overview of transects in Romania 2022-2025 registered at Butterfly Conservation Europe

Transects 2022-2025



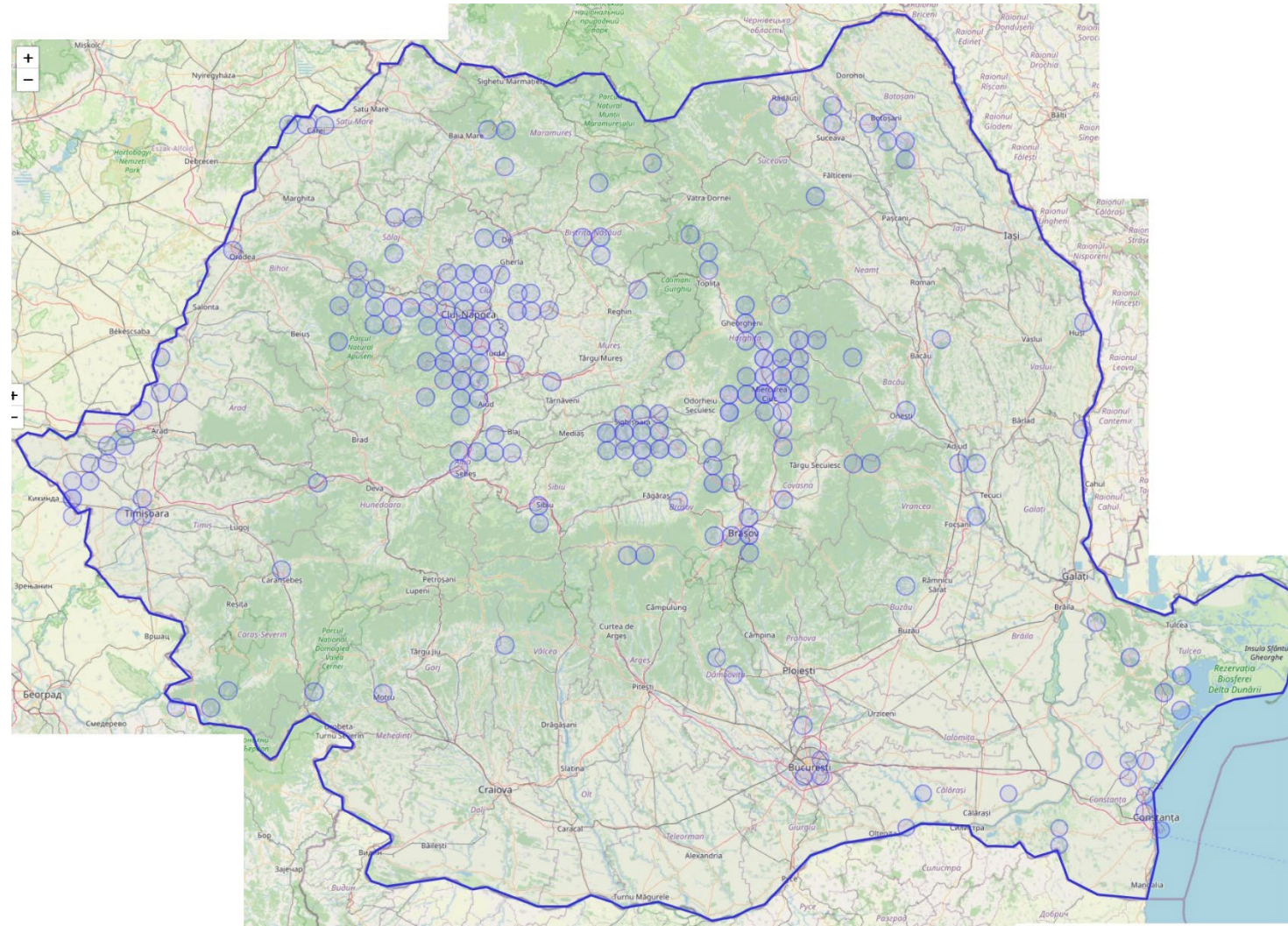
Year	Sites	Samples	Occurrences	Species
2022	2	6	50	25
2023	3	3	4	3
2024	2	9	48	21
2025	1	12	311	47

Current situation

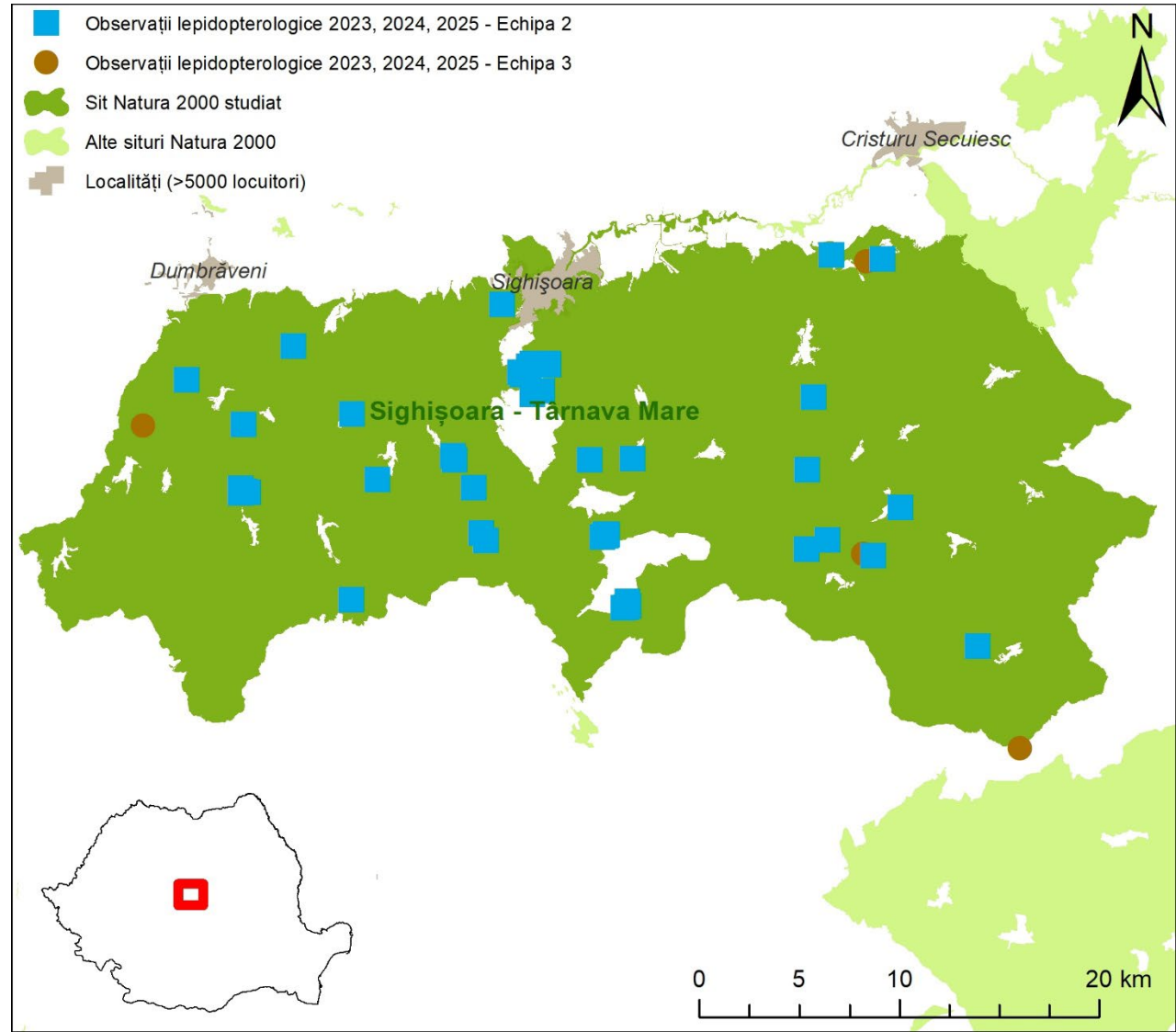
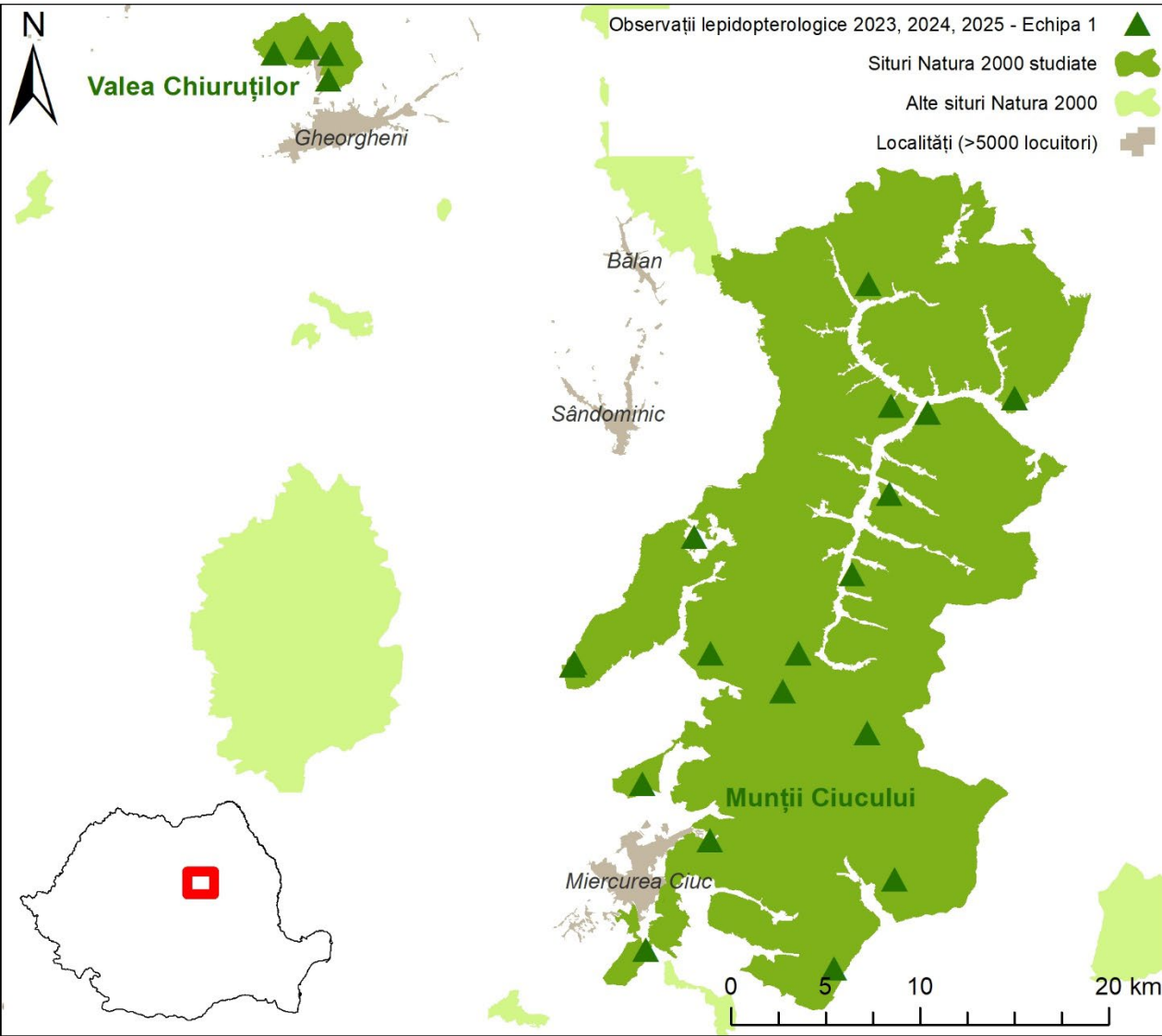
with the help of the LIFE Metamorphosis project and the EPIC course, levels 1+2

Mistakes

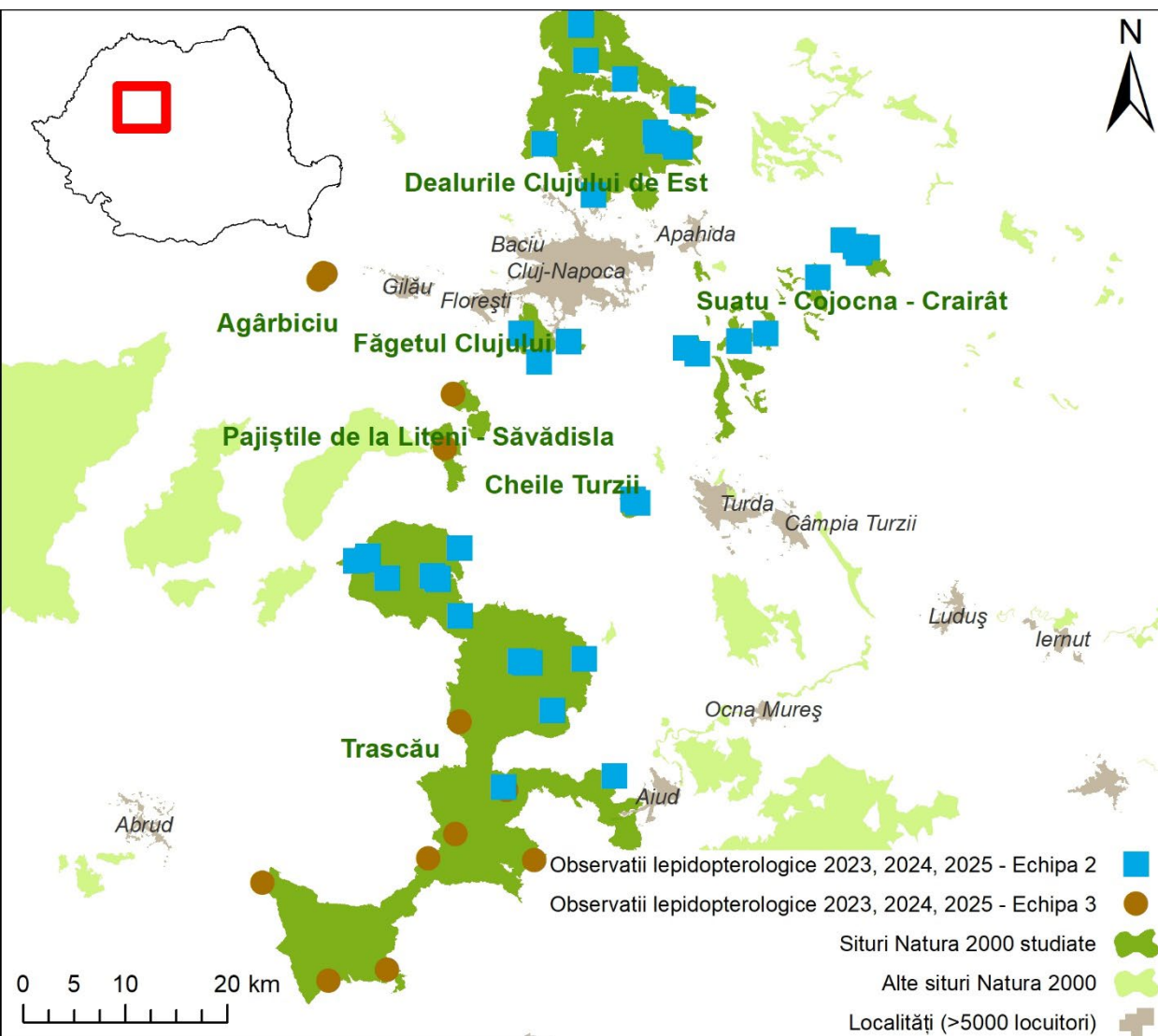
Some of the spots in the 15-minute observations recorded in Butterfly Count are actually transects.



Current situation



Current situation



Mistakes

At the 500 m transects covered in the Metamorphosis project, species were recorded using the 15-minute method. As a consequence, all these transects are not properly recorded in the Butterfly Count database.

As a result, between 2023 and 2025, we will have over 50 transects in Transylvania.

Starting in 2016, volunteers for butterfly monitoring will be encouraged (guided) to use the recordings for transects.

Many thanks



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LIFE
“Metamorphosis”
Project



ADEPT Romania



Cristina Craioveanu



Andrei Crisan



Csaba Tibor Vizauer



Cristina González Sevilleja



Juan Pablo Cancela