



## **Informing about the SaveGREEN project among foresters from South-West Bulgaria**

*Discussion of activities for the pilot area Rila - Verila - Kraishte*

September 29, 2022 – The South-West State Enterprise (SWSE) at the Ministry of Agriculture, associate strategic partner in the project "Safeguarding the Functionality of Transnationally Important Ecological Corridors in the Danube Basin" - SaveGREEN, Interreg Danube Programme 2014 – 2020, and the Bulgarian partners in the project the Black Sea NGO Network and the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, presented to a gathering of foresters from South-West Bulgaria the goals and tasks of the project, as well as the main purpose of the activities carried out in the pilot area Rila – Verila – Kraishte.

The meeting at the Studena hunting farm was attended by 47 employees of the enterprise, who were familiarized with the local cross-sectoral operational plan being prepared, which aims to present measures to improve the functionality of the crossing facilities for wild animals at the Struma Motorway, the object of research and proposals within the project pilot area.

The participants shared opinions on ways to protect biological diversity in forests and noted the need to reduce the fragmentation of ecological corridors. Leaflets and fact sheets for the Bulgarian pilot area were distributed, which inform about the wildlife crossing facilities on the motorway and their function to improve the connectivity of the landscape. The participants also received gifts related to the pilot area, reflecting its relationship with the natural features of the area and reflecting the ecological implications and ideas of the project.



*Group photo of participants and presentation of the project*





*Site specific giveaways for the Rila-Verila-Kraishte pilot area with specific SaveGREEN design presenting the project focus on ecological corridors and connectivity and the messages of protecting wildlife and the environment*

*Pictures credit: SWSE*