



**January 2007, Tilburg**  
**Pan-European Ecological Network**  
**Fact sheet II – Basic facts about PEEN**

Some interesting data about PEEN, supported by numbers

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- Currently there are about 100 ecological network initiatives in Europe;
- The first ecological networks were developed in Lithuania and Estonia in the early 70's;
- The former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Netherlands were among the first countries where the idea of an ecological network was investigated and promoted, and where it eventually was integrated into national conservation policy;
- In 1993 the European Conference "Safeguarding the Natural Heritage of Europe towards a Pan-European Ecological Network" led to the agreement to include the Pan-European ecological Network into the main priorities of European nature and biodiversity conservation policies;
- In 1995 the PEEN was endorsed as one of the main themes of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
- The Kyiv Ministerial Biodiversity Resolution states the following targets: ensuring the early development of a Pan European Ecological Network by identifying and mapping all core areas of high ecological value, as well as restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, by 2006, and then adequately conserving all core areas by 2008;
- PEEN is the only established policy initiative whose sole and explicit objective is to develop a complete ecological network for the whole of Europe;
- The major European instruments contributing to the establishment of PEEN are Natura 2000 under the EC Habitats Directive and the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention;
- At the European scale major rivers are important corridors and form an essential backbone of most national ecological networks;
- The Green Corridor (including natural wetland areas in Bulgaria, Moldova and the Ukraine, along the Lower Danube) consists of 400,000 hectares of protected areas, about 100,000 hectares of areas to be protected, and about 200,000 hectares of sites that require restoration;
- In 1999 nearly 200 protected areas, or proposed protected areas, were part of over 80 transborder co-operation projects in Europe;
- National parks and other sites of international significance – Ramsar sites, Man and Biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, European Diploma sites, Biogenetic Reserves and Natura 2000 sites, are considered to be core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network;
- One of the priority actions of the PEBLDS is the development and implementation of the European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network (ECMEN);
- Half of all habitats and species mentioned in the EU Habitats Directive occur in the coastal zones of Europe, underlining the importance of conserving and connecting of these areas into a coherent system.