

## **Identifying of the main threats of threatened limnophilous freshwater fish species in Danube basin**

The aim of our project is to contribute to the determination of main causes of the threats of decreasing populations of selected endangered limnophilous fish species native to the Danube river basin. The target species are as follows: \*weather loach (*Misgurnus fossilis*), \*European mudminnow (*Umbra krameri*), crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), sunbleak (*Leucaspis delineatus*) (\*= Natura 2000 species).



Fig. 1: European mudminnow (*Umbra krameri*)

This objective is planned to be achieved by information, data and experience exchange regarding the target species populations and their habitats. The target species are typical representatives of lenitic or slowly flowing freshwater habitats, such as river arms, oxbow lakes or irrigation canals distributed within the Danube river basin throughout the Hungary and Slovakia. A comprehensive research will be focused on the determination of the target species population status and their habitats' conditions. Current habitat status will be assessed according to selected environmental parameters, such as water macrophyte composition, littoral and bank vegetation, macrozoobenthos, fish assemblage composition, water velocity, bottom substratum, oxygen content, turbidity, salinity, pH, conductivity. Further objective of the project is in the comparison of the efficacy of practical conservation management aimed at the target species populations implemented within their distribution area. Information, experience and data exchange is planned to be achieved through organizing workshop, excursions and field trips to the project sites with the attendance of experts from participating countries – Slovakia and Hungary.

## “Visegrad feature” of the project

Our project promotes cooperation between Slovak and Hungarian experts in the issue of conservation of endangered species, with the outputs into practical conservation management of the target species populations in the Pannonian biogeographical region. Supporting this cooperation is necessary, both in terms of knowledge of the status of their populations, as well as to seek the common approaches for their practical conservation and management.



Fig. 2: Cooperation between Slovak and Hungarian experts (September 2011)

## Target groups and groups benefiting from the project

- ❖ Civic associations *UMBRA Association* (<http://www.umbra.sk/en/aktivity/>) and *Tavirózsa Association* (<http://www.tavirozsa-egyesulet.hu>) dealing with nature conservation, as project partners responsible for the implementation of project activities,
- ❖ Professionals (researchers) from universities,
- ❖ Fishing and public organizations.

More information regarding the project funding is available here:  
<http://visegradfund.org/>