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## Progress Report

### ***THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN CONSERVATION: THE EUROPEAN WILDCAT (FELIS SILVESTRIS) AS AN EXAMPLE SPECIES***

#### **Educational workshops**

At the beginning of the project, in **January**, we organised the presentation with the aim to introduce the local community to the project activities. We had the opportunity to answer many various questions regarding wildcats as the audience showed a lot of interest. A local radio station was following the presentation and we were invited to their radio show to present our project to the broader audience. After they host us we received a lot of interest from the local community members for being involved in our project.





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During **February, March and April**, we organized several educational workshops aiming to introduce the youngest community members, primarily, to wildcats appearance, behave, and activities.





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We are spending a lot of time in the field, monitoring the regional road, and setting photo traps in the presumably wildcats habitats. During these field activities, we are using the opportunity to educate volunteers and hunters, that are accompanying us, about the importance of wildcat conservation. Besides setting photo traps, we also use a drone, provided by our volunteers, to cover a region of wildcat monitoring as much as possible. We established good collaboration with hunters, followed with a great interest of the local community members for being involved in our project as volunteers. So far, we managed to record only two wild cats at one location.



*Wildcat captured with the photo trapp*



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*In the field with our volunteers and hunters*

*\* All measures regarding COVID19 rules were fully respected in all our activities.*