

Project Update: March 2005

As main activity foreseen in the project, erection of nest-supporting platforms for White Storks has been carried out in project villages along the Lower Tamis River. Platforms were constructed according to the technical project designed by experts of Elektrovojvodina Public Enterprise. According to the previously signed contract, local mobile teams in Zrenjanin branch of Elektrovojvodina have installed platforms in following villages: Orlovat, Botos, Taras, Tomasevac, Sakule, Perlez, Neuzina, Belo Blato and Banatska Dubica. Platform erection started in early March, after period of very cold weather, and was finished at the same time with the first arrivals of White Storks on spring migration. The first local birds are already sitting on and repairing their new and safe nests.

Local communities were very interested about this rather unusual action, and they actively participated in it by helping project coordinator as volunteers. Namely, initial layer of nest material has been fixed on every platform before its very erection to the electric pylons. Local inhabitants in all villages were very keen to help in this action. After nest material was fixed, it was sprayed with white colour which imitates bird's excrements. All voluntary participants were supplied by project's stickers and brochures.

On February 23rd 2005 a media presentation of project was held in Taras village, where 11 platforms were installed. Mr. Dragan Babic, deputy director of Elektrovojvodina attended the presentation, together with Mr. Vukasin Tolmac (local mayor) and local environmental authorities. The presentation resulted in filmed report on prime-time news on RTS, the largest broadcasting station in Serbia, as well as in reports in all state level and local newspaper and weeklies. Mr. Babic said that Elektrovojvodina appreciate this very new and effective way of simultaneous solution of two problems: ecological (electrocution of adult storks and chicks on the nests) and economical, since heavy nests have often caused short circuits and difficulties in electricity supply.