

Communication Report – WP6 Activities Conducted at the Technical University in Zvolen

On 11 September 2025, the Technical University in Zvolen (TUZVO) hosted an important communication and dissemination activity under WP6 of the NATURE-DEMO project. The event took the form of a specialized workshop for local and regional stakeholders titled *„Prírode blízke riešenia – efektívne riešenia v boji s dopadmi klimatickej zmeny / Nature-based solutions – effective measures for addressing the impacts of climate change“*, which focused on the potential of nature-based solutions to address climate change impacts. It was part of the programme of the conference *Riziká pri spracovaní a využívaní biomasy / Risks in the Processing and Utilisation of Biomass*, organised by the Faculty of Forestry of TUZVO. The workshop was led and professionally guaranteed by prof. Andrea Majlingová, a recognized expert in forest protection and crisis management at TUZVO. To ensure full accessibility for the target audience, the workshop was delivered entirely in the Slovak language.

A total of 46 participants attended the workshop, including foresters and mayors from municipalities mostly within the Zvolen district, as well as representatives of regional organizations and members of the academic community. Their involvement ensured a diverse and relevant mix of perspectives from practitioners and decision-makers directly responsible for local environmental management, land-use planning, and climate adaptation measures. The workshop aimed to enhance understanding of nature-based solutions, present key elements of the NATURE-DEMO project, and foster collaboration between research institutions and local authorities.

The workshop began with an introduction to NATURE-DEMO, outlining the project's objectives, demonstration activities, and expected contributions to sustainable forest and landscape governance. TUZVO researchers presented examples of practical, nature-close interventions that can strengthen ecosystem resilience, reduce climate-related risks, and improve environmental stability. Particular attention was given to the challenges faced by forested landscapes in central Slovakia, making the content highly relevant to the attending foresters and municipal representatives.

To support communication and outreach goals, TUZVO prepared and distributed project materials, including leaflets, posters, and visual documentation from demonstration plots. These resources helped illustrate the tangible aspects of the project and provided participants with tools to promote nature-based approaches within their respective municipalities and forest districts.

A significant part of the workshop was dedicated to discussion and stakeholder interaction. Foresters shared their practical experiences with managing climate-induced forest disturbances, while mayors provided insights into local challenges related to water management, extreme weather events, and community preparedness. The exchange highlighted a strong interest in integrating nature-based solutions into local development strategies, particularly in areas such as forest regeneration, biodiversity enhancement, and landscape-level climate adaptation planning.

TUZVO documented the workshop through attendance records, photographs, and a summary of key discussion points. These materials will be utilized in upcoming project communication activities, including updates on the NATURE-DEMO website, social media dissemination, newsletters, to ensure ongoing visibility and engagement with stakeholders.

In summary, the workshop „*Príroda blízke riešenia – efektívne riešenia v boji s dopadmi klimatickej zmeny*“, guaranteed by prof. Andrea Majlingová, represented a significant milestone in TUZVO's communication and outreach efforts under WP6. By bringing together 28 foresters and municipal leaders not only from the Zvolen district, the event successfully strengthened regional understanding of nature-based solutions and fostered meaningful collaboration between the research community and key local stakeholders.

