

Contract on the Provision of Financial Resources from the International Visegrad Fund's Visegrad Grant No. 22330074

(hereinafter only the "Contract")

1. CONTRACTING PARTIES

1.1 International Visegrad Fund

Address:	Hviezdoslavovo nám. 9, 811 02 Bratislava, SK
ID No.:	36060356
Bank name:	Tatra banka, a.s.
Bank seat:	Hodžovo nám. 3, 811 06 Bratislava
IBAN:	SK2911000000002936000250
SWIFT/BIC:	TATRSKBX

Represented by: **Petr Mareš**, Executive Director

hereinafter referred to as the "Fund"

and

1.2 Biologické centrum AV ČR, v. v. i.

Name:	Biology Center CAS
Address:	Branišovská 1160/31, České Budějovice 5, 37005, CZ
Correspondence address:	Branišovská 1160/31, České Budějovice 5, 37005, CZ
ID No.:	60077344
Bank details:	IBAN: CZ390300000000600773445; SWIFT/BIC: CEKOCZPP; bank name: Československá obchodní banka a.s. (ČSOB); bank seat: Radlická 333/150, 150 57 Praha 5, Czech Republic
Registered VAT Payer:	yes

Represented by: **prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.**

hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee"

1.3 The Fund and the Grantee jointly hereinafter only "Contracting Parties".

1.4 The Contracting Parties enter into this Contract on Provision of Financial Resources from the International Visegrad Fund under the conditions and with the subject matter stipulated below.

2. SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

2.1 The subject of this Contract is the definition of conditions for the payment of financial support from the Fund to support the activities of the Grantee within the project named "**Research network for impact of land-use changes in V4 countries assessed on butterfly genetics**", as on the base of Grantee's proposal in application submitted via the Fund's On-line System as defined below (the "Application") under serial No. **22330074** (the "Project"). To avoid any doubts, Contracting Parties declare and agree that after the Application is submitted via the On-line System, it cannot be changed by neither Contracting Party.

2.2 The Grantee specified the following project partners for the implementation of the Project:

Partner No. 1.

Name of the organization in its native language: Uniwersytet w Białymstoku	
Name of the organization in English: University of Białystok	
Address: Świerkowa 20 B, Białystok, 15-328, PL	PL
Statutory representative: Prof. Robert Ciborowski	
BIN: PL5422383747	Registered VAT payer: yes

Partner No. 2.

Name of the organization in its native language: Debreceni Egyetem	
Name of the organization in English: University of Debrecen	
Address: Egyetem tér 1, Debrecen, 4032, HU	HU
Statutory representative: Prof. Dr. Szilvássy Zoltán	
BIN: FI17198	Registered VAT payer: yes

Partner No. 3.

Name of the organization in its native language: Uniwersytet Wrocławski	
Name of the organization in English: University of Wrocław	
Address: pl. Uniwersytecki 1, Wrocław, 50-137, PL	PL
Statutory representative: prof. Patrycja Matusz, Vice – Rector	
BIN: 8960005408	Registered VAT payer: yes

All of the above-mentioned partners hereinafter jointly referred to only as the "Project Partners".

2.3 The subject of the Project shall be supported by the Fund with an amount of up to **€59,800.00** under conditions set forth further in this Contract (the "Grant").

2.4 The Grantee is obliged to implement the Project in compliance with the time frame and financial and other conditions stipulated in the Contract.

2.5 The Grantee is obliged to keep the Fund updated with regard to the Project via the grant management on-line system available at <http://my.visegradfund.org/> (the "On-line System"). The Grantee is also obliged to submit requests for budget changes and extensions of the implementation period of the Project through the On-line System. Internal changes of the Grantee and other requests must be communicated to the Fund in writing.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

3.1 The Contracting Parties agree that the Project shall last from **01/02/2024** to **31/07/2025** (the "Implementation Period").

3.2 Particular stages of implementation of the Project are specified in Attachments No. 1 and 2 hereof ("List of outputs" and "Calendar of Events/Outputs"). The Grantee is obliged to maintain an up-to-date Calendar of Events. Any change in the dates, venues or types and names of events originally stipulated in the Calendar of Events must be updated and confirmed in the On-line System no later than 10 calendar days prior to the planned date.

4. GRANT PAYMENT

4.1 The Grant shall be paid to the Grantee under conditions set forth in Section 4.2 hereof in 2 instalments as follows:

- the 1st installment in the amount of **€47,840.00** within 15 working days after the delivery of the valid and effective Contract by the Grantee to the Fund (the "First Instalment"); Contracting Parties agreed that the Grantee is obliged to deliver to the Fund a final report contents and requisites of which are set forth in the Grants Guidelines published and available on the Fund's website in the period under Article 6, section 6.2 of the Contract (the "Final Report");
- the 2nd (and final) installment in the amount of **€11,960.00** within 15 working days after the Final Report, Financial Statement and Audit Report are approved by the Fund according to Article 6 hereof (the "Final Instalment"). Parties agreed that the Final Instalment must be pre-financed by the Grantee and, if duly approved under conditions set forth hereof, the Fund reimburses the due amount of the Final Instalment.

4.2 The Grantee shall be entitled to the 2nd Instalment and Final Instalment of the Grant solely upon the approval of the Fund provided (i) the relevant reports relating to the particular instalment were delivered by the Grantee to the Fund within the periods stated in Article 6 hereof and in the Calendar of Events/Outputs as specified in Attachment No. 2 hereto and (ii) such reports were approved by the Fund pursuant to Article 6 hereof.

4.3 The Fund reserves the right to deny the disbursement of the Grant or any part of it, in case the Grantee does not comply either with the Grant Guidelines mentioned in 4.4 and applicable at the time of the Application's submission or the provisions of the present Contract. In such case the Grantee shall not be entitled to any disbursement. The Fund also reserves the right to reduce the Grant or any part of it, in case the Grantee is entitled for tax (VAT) refund from local authorities.

4.4 The Grantee declares that prior to the signing of this Contract they made themselves familiar with the Grant Guidelines of the Fund which are applied by the Fund for the organization and treatment with the grants, including Grant provided to the Grantee under this Contract, and which are published on the website of the Fund (www.visegradfund.org). The Grantee shall be obliged to accept all such rules and principles of the Fund.

4.5 The Fund is entitled to change the Grant Guidelines and is in such case obliged to make the valid version thereof available at the Fund's website (www.visegradfund.org).

5. GRANT UTILIZATION

5.1 The Grant shall be used by the Grantee only to cover the direct expenses of the Project during the Implementation Period of the Project according to the budget plan which forms Attachment No. 1 hereof (the "Budget"). Up to 15% of the Grant may be used to cover Project overhead costs (operating costs directly linked to the Project).

5.2 The expenses required for the Project from the Grant cannot exceed the approved amount.

5.3 The Grant may be used only during the contracted Implementation Period. The part of the Grant not used during the Implementation Period shall be returned by the Grantee to the Fund upon request within 15 working days.

5.4 The Grantee shall use the Grant according to the Budget in an efficient and cost-effective way.

5.5 Any change in the qualified expenses as stated in the Budget exceeding the amount of €1,000.00 in individual budget category requires the prior approval of the statutory representative of the Fund. For such approval to be granted a request must be submitted in the On-line System with proper justification. Without the approval of the Fund the Grant may not be used to cover such changed expenses exceeding the amount qualified in the Budget.

5.6 The financial resources of the Grant other than overhead costs cannot be used for:

a) capital investments (tangible/intangible assets);
b) VAT refund for Grantees who request VAT compensation from local authorities;
c) the Grantee's own indirect costs (electricity/gas/water/telephone bills, etc.); and
d) internal costs or invoices (rent of one's own premises, one's own accommodation and board);

5.7 Financial remuneration of employees under the category of expert fees (or any expenses related to employment based on the Labour Code, including daily allowances, part-time work, etc.) can be compensated from the project budget only on condition that it is clearly separated from the given individual's general monthly salary, i.e., it is paid as overtime compensation, bonus.

6. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS AND RELATED CONTRACTUAL TERMS

6.1 The Grantee shall immediately inform the Fund in writing of any circumstance which may affect the realization of the Project or of any changes in contractual conditions. The statutory representative of the Fund shall decide upon such circumstances and changes.

6.2 The Grantee shall deliver to the Fund:

<i>Report:</i>	<i>Covering the period from-to:</i>	<i>Latest delivery of report:</i>
Final Report	01/02/2024–31/07/2025	28/08/2025
Financial Statement	01/02/2024–31/07/2025	28/08/2025
Audit Report	01/02/2024–31/07/2025	28/08/2025

6.3 The reports under this Article hereof shall be drawn up in the qualified forms and according to the requirements and instructions published on the website of the Fund, mainly in the Grants Guidelines. The Fund reserves the right to deny any Report failing to meet this requirement.

6.4 All the reports except the Audit report shall be prepared and separately signed by the authorized representative of the Grantee. The Audit report shall be prepared by a certified auditor registered in a Chamber of Auditors of the country where the auditor resides.

6.5 The Financial Statements shall conform to the budget and shall mention expenditures related to the Project and shall comply with financial documents evidencing the utilization of the Grant. All financial documents (receipts, bills, contracts and invoices, etc.) related to a project must be kept for period of at least 10 years and copies thereof delivered to the Fund upon request.

6.6 The Fund has the right to verify any data provided by the Grantee to the Fund. The Grantee hereby grants the Fund authorization to provide any acts on behalf of the Grantee necessary for verification of any data provided by the Grantee to the Fund.

6.7 In case of any reservations of the Fund to provided reports or any documentation attached thereto the Grantee shall be obliged to revise such reports or documentation according to the requirements of the Fund within the period stated by the Fund.

6.8 The Fund reserves the right to determine the eligibility of each cost to be covered by the Fund.

6.9 The Grantee shall inform the Fund with no delay (max. within 10 calendar days from such a change) in writing of any internal changes of the Grantee, mainly but not limited to changes of the Grantee's official name, registered seat, statutory representatives, registration for VAT, etc.

7. OTHER CONTRACTUAL TERMS

7.1 All formal communication with the Fund must be conducted in English.

7.2 The Grantee is obliged to specify a bank account for the purposes of the grant disbursements realized by the Fund. All Project payments must be carried through the bank account owned by the Grantee.

7.3 The Grantee shall conduct bank transfer (non-cash) transactions only.

7.4 The Grantee is obliged to acknowledge the Fund's support of the Project (i) on all premises where events take place as part of the Project (in the form of a banner or flag), (ii) in all printed materials distributed as part of the Project, (iii) in all public statements and presentations and (iv) on all web pages connected with the Project. All acknowledgements must visibly carry the current version of the logo of the Fund and, if on-line, must be directly linked to www.visegradfund.org. Acknowledgements in event venues must be present for the duration of the events; acknowledgements on-line must remain active for the whole Contractual Period of the Project, at minimum. The Grantee shall ensure that any of its Project Partners acknowledge the Fund's support for the Project to the same extent that the Grantee is obliged under this Contract. Further obligations of the Grantee regarding the acknowledgment of the Fund's support of the Project are specified in the Logo and Acknowledgement Manual (annex to the Grant Guidelines) of the Fund published on the Fund's website and the Grantee declares that prior to the signing of this Contract he made himself familiar with the Grant Guidelines and shall abide by this policy.

7.5 The Fund reserves the right to carry out monitoring visits of the Project and implementation thereof and carry out financial inspection of the Project and, if necessary, request additional documentation regarding the Project. The Grantee is obliged to allow visits from the staff of the Fund or from personnel authorized to do so by the Fund, allow a financial inspection and provide any materials related to the Project upon request.

7.6 The Fund (or person authorized by the Fund) is entitled to carry out an audit of the Grantee during the Implementation Period. The Grantee is obliged to bear such audit and provide the Fund with any accounting and other document related to the Grant and make and deliver the Fund copies therefrom.

7.7 The Fund undertakes to extend to the Grantee necessary co-operative support.

7.8 Both Contractual Parties may disclose information on the Project and enable access of the public to participate in the Project.

7.9 The Grantee takes note of the fact that the Fund accepts no responsibility for any contents of any output of the Project.

7.10 The Grantee declares that he shall be the bearer of all intellectual property rights and/or copyrights to any outputs of the Project or any part thereof (the "Outputs"). The Grantee hereby grants to the Fund under provisions of the Act No. 185/2015 Coll. Copyright Act (the "Copyright Act") a non-exclusive royalty free license, without territorial, time, material and technological limitations, to any Outputs of the Project or part thereof, so the Fund shall have mainly right to:

a) publicly disclose the Outputs and publish the Outputs in any way, e.g. on the Fund's website, in any Fund's materials, etc.;
b) alter and process the Outputs, mainly use the Outputs to create new work, according to needs of the Fund;
c) include the Outputs to a database under §131 of the Copyright Act;
d) merge the Outputs with any other outputs or work;
e) make copies of the Outputs;
f) publicly distribute the Outputs;
g) to deal with the Outputs in any other way that is attributable to the author under the provisions of the Copyright Act.

7.11 The Parties agreed to adhere to the principles of environmental sustainability by all means possible in relation to the Project (saving electricity, water and other resources, preferring local goods and services and printing only if necessary and on both sides of the paper, etc.).

8. CONTRACTUAL SANCTIONS

8.1 The Fund shall be entitled against the Grantee for a contractual penalty in the amount of 20% of the amount of the Grant (the "Contractual Penalty"), if:

- a) any data provided by the Grantee turns out to be false or not up-to-date, or
- b) the Grantee fails to deliver to the Fund any of the reports according to this Contract in time, or
- c) the Grantee fails to observe the Budget or the Grant or any part of it is used in conflict with the terms stipulated in this Contract, or
- d) the Grantee breaches any of its obligation arising from Article 7 hereof.

8.2 The Contractual Penalty shall be paid by the Grantee within 15 working days from the written notice of the Fund. The Contractual Penalty payment shall not affect the Fund's right to request a damage compensation for any damages caused to the Fund.

8.3 The Fund shall be entitled to withdraw from the Contract, in case:

a) any kind of false/incorrect data/information is provided by the Grantee, or
b) any of the contractual requirements are not met by the Grantee or breached by the Grantee and the Grantee shall not remedy such deficiency or breach within an additional reasonable period provided by the Fund in the written call for the remedy, or
c) deficiencies are determined that could in a significant way affect the result or approved schedule during the implementation of the Project, mainly, but not limited to, the Outputs of the Project do not meet the requirement under this Contract and its attachments, or
d) the good reputation of the Fund is damaged by the Grantee, or
e) the Fund learns about a misuse of any funds granted to the Grantee by the Fund or the funds provided by the Fund are used, intentionally or negligently, to any other purpose that specified in the Project.

8.4 The notice of withdrawal shall be delivered in writing in person or by registered mail to the address of the relevant Contracting Party stated in this Contract. The notice of withdrawal shall be considered received on the date of its delivery. If the delivery of the withdrawal notice is rejected by the relevant Contracting Party, the rejection date shall represent the date of delivery. In the case of postal deliveries, the withdrawal notice shall be considered received on the third day of its postal deposit, irrespective the addressee's knowledge of such deposit.

8.5 If the Contract is terminated upon the withdrawal of the Fund therefrom, the Grantee shall automatically be obliged to return to the Fund the amount of the paid Grant within 15 working days.

8.6 In case the Grantee fails to observe the Budget or the Grant or any part of it is used in conflict with the terms stipulated in this Contract, the Grantee shall be obliged to return the amount of the paid Grant to the Fund within 15 working days at the call of the Fund.

8.7 When the Fund determines deficiencies that could in a significant way affect the result or approved schedule during the implementation of the Project, the Fund reserves the right to suspend the payment of Grant or any part of it for a definite period.

8.8 If the Fund anytime (i.e., also after implementation of the Project) learns about a misuse of any funds granted to the Grantee by the Fund, and/or about unannounced changes within the Project and internal changes of the Grantee affecting the utilization of the provided Grant (mainly but not limited to changes of the Grantee's name, registered seat, statutory representatives, registration for VAT, etc.), the Grantee shall be obliged to return the full granted amount to the Fund within 15 working days at the call of the Fund.

9. FINAL PROVISIONS

9.1 This Contract shall be governed by Slovak law. Relevant provisions of the Civil Code of the Slovak Republic and other related regulations of the Slovak Republic shall apply to the relations regulated in this Contract, resulting from it and related to it.

9.2 Any disputes resulting from this Contract which could not be settled by mutual agreement of the Contracting Parties shall be resolved by Slovak courts.

9.3 This Contract shall enter into force on the day of its signing by both Parties. This Contract is concluded for a definite time period until 09/10/2025 (i.e., the implementation period + 50 working days), except the stipulations in Section 8.8 hereof which shall remain valid and effective for an indefinite time period.

9.4 Both Contracting Parties declare that they conclude this Contract of their free will, they have read its content and as evidence of their consent to its wording they voluntarily sign it as correct.

9.5 The Contract is drawn up in two identical counterparts in English. Each Contracting Party shall receive one counterpart of the Contract.

Done in Bratislava, on 15/01/2024

Signature of the Fund's statutory representative

Signature of the Grantee's statutory representative

Attachment 1

to the Contract on the Provision of Financial Resources from the International Visegrad Fund's Visegrad Grant No. **22330074**

List of Outputs:

Total approved sum: **€59,800.00**

1 Popularising articles in national languages (2 per country), plus one multi-authored article in three language mutations. (Product)

01/04/2024–31/07/2025

To spread the obtained knowledge among the public, the popular articles are a simple and effective way. The scientific result is presented in a form, which is understandable for all interested people, which may not have biological education, but love nature and environment and want to know more about the details of the natural life. This is easier also thanks to the national language in which such article is written and demonstrative illustrations. We intend to write at least 2 popular articles per country about the knowledge obtained thanks to the project and one larger article summarizing the project results in three language mutations.

Direct target groups:

Illustrator: 3

Selection/outreach: People with artist skills, understanding nature

Researchers, students: 10

Selection/outreach: People involved in this project, writing the articles

Wide interested public: 500000

Selection/outreach: Readers of popularization magazines

Dissemination/promotion

The popularization magazines are published in all three countries and have good audience. For instance, the Czech magazine Vesmír has edition of 10000 hard copies, 21. století 18000 hard copies (with estimated number of readers 240000). Similar magazines are also in Poland (Focus) and Hungary (Természet Világa, Élet és Tudomány). The information about articles is also spread by our PR department.

Role of the applicant and project partners

All partners will write a popular articles in their national languages. All partners will contribute to the multi-authored article for all three countries

2 Three talks at national conferences (1 per country), aiming to educate conservation practitioners in modern methods, and outcomes of the project. (Product)

01/04/2024–31/07/2025

Members of the consortium are regularly asked to participate in national meetings and conferences, attended by conservation experts and amateurs. Presenting results of the projects will directly increase awareness of the audience on changes in genetic make-up of the species, which form important part of V4 countries natural heritage.

Direct target groups:

Wide community of professional and amateur conservationists. : 450

Selection/outreach: Audience of specialised conservation meetings/conferences in the three countries.

Dissemination/promotion

Typically, national conservation meetings are promoted by the conference organisers, and contents of the talks are both published as brochures and available online as presentations. The consortium members will enhance the impact by promoting the conferences/talks via their institutions web pages and social media.

Role of the applicant and project partners

The applicant will coordinate the effort and guarantee the quality of the disseminated message. Members of all three institutions will directly participate, each of its specific country, but funding from V4 grant will be acknowledged.

3 Five scientific reports/manuscripts of scientific papers. (Product)

01/02/2024–31/07/2025

This output requires the samples collection and their analyses. For data collection, it is necessary to obtain past material from museums (non-destructively, the specimen stays in the museum, a small tissue sample is taken) and from natural habitats as a representatives of the current populations. For the field work, travelling by car is necessary since the sites are often out of reach of the public transport. The asked amount might seem high, but it is necessary to consider, that some sites should be visited several times since the species appear in different terms. Also, the localities should be placed evenly in the countries, and Poland is a large country. In both cases, accommodation costs are necessary. The expert fees are meant to museum curators for their help beyond their routine activities and in some cases to local experts for help in the field (e.g. showing the exact locality of the searched species or collecting material in remote areas and shipping it). For shipping the material collected between institutions we plan to use postal services to reduce costs. The analysis of samples involves consumables for the laboratories. The laboratory work consists of DNA extraction, PCR amplification of microsatellites and fragment analysis for 5 species (1200 specimens) and building sdRAD libraries for 2 species (400 specimens). The analyses of laboratory outputs requires computer processing.

Direct target groups:

Researchers, students: 24

Selection/outreach: People from applying institutions working on collecting and processing samples

Governmental and NGO members and activists, volunteers in butterfly/insect conservation: 37

Selection/outreach: Government conservation professionals will be those routinely working on related topics in the countries concerned (6 per CZ and HU, 10 in the more populous PL). The non-governmental persons assisting in the projects (15) will be contacted via specific institutions, social networks, or specialised internet groups.

Dissemination/promotion

After processing all the acquired data, we will summarize the obtained information in technical reports/manuscripts of scientific articles. Already in this preliminary stage, they will be provided for state conservation agencies. Following submission and the peer reviews, the articles will appear in scientific journals, becoming available for wide audience.

Role of the applicant and project partners

The Applicant will coordinate the collection of samples with the help of all partners. The Applicant and Partner 1 and 2 will work on the microsatellite laboratory analyses. The Partner 2 will process the sdRAD analyses. Partner 3 will relate the obtained data to ecology of species. All partners together will analyse the obtained laboratory data and prepare the publications using the online meeting tools to communicate.

4 Training students and researchers in methods used in laboratories of other countries, and disseminating the acquired knowledge to our home institution. (Product)

01/03/2024–31/07/2025

The Evolutionary Genomics Research Group in Debrecen uses advanced molecular methods. They are open to share their knowledge via this project with the Czech and Polish colleagues. We would like to send 4-6 researchers and students for short-term visit (ca. two weeks), where they will learn the state-of-the-art method of sdRAD sequencing. After return to domestic institutions, these people can spread the obtained skills among their colleagues. The costs are counted as resources needed to cover travel and accommodation expenses in Debrecen. The time is not exactly stated since it is not possible to coordinate such detailed plans of all participants now.

Direct target groups:

Students, researchers: 6

Selection/outreach: People with basic laboratory skills, interested in increasing their capabilities

Dissemination/promotion

Students/researchers will obtain deeper skills in molecular techniques and they will share it at their domestic institutions

Role of the applicant and project partners

Partner 2 will share their knowledge and teach it the Applicant, Partner 1 and Partner 3. Applicant and Partner 1+3 will bring the newly obtained skills to their institutions.

Budget

Accommodation and board	5,800.00
Expert fees/Fees for authors or artists	6,600.00
Office supplies/consumption material	29,700.00
Transportation and postage	9,900.00
Project overhead costs	7,800.00
Total	59,800.00

Done in Bratislava, on 15/01/2024

Signature of the Fund's statutory representative

Signature of the Grantee's statutory representative

Attachment 2

to the Contract on the Provision of Financial Resources from the International Visegrad Fund's Visegrad Grant No. **22330074**

Calendar of Events:

Implementation period: from **01/02/2024** to **31/07/2025**

Financial Statement, Final Report and Audit Report deadline: 28/08/2025

Done in Bratislava on 15/01/2024

Signature of the Fund's statutory representative

Signature of the Grantee's statutory representative