

NOVEMBER 2018 | ISSUE 1

# INVALIDIS

## Newsletter

**INVALIDIS**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

### At a glance

Project name: INVALIDIS  
Partnership: 7 EU partners  
Programme: Interreg Europe



## Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species

Biological invasions are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) can act as vectors for new diseases, cause native species' extinction, change ecosystem processes, and reduce the value of land and water for human activities.

INVALIDIS brings together 7 partners from 7 countries, to improve their environmental policies, by supporting policy measures for the prevention, early detection and control of IAS. It will enable the participating territorial authorities to address common challenges associated with biological invasions such as a) knowledge gaps in ecosystems' vulnerability to biological invasions and species' distribution, b) lack of awareness about IAS environmental and socioeconomic risks, c) low level of cooperation between public authorities and key stakeholders for the implementation of IAS management measures, and c) conflicts of interests.



*Pseudorasbora parva* (Stone moroko)

# Invasive Alien Species in the EU



**Introduced** through human action a) deliberately (e.g. as ornamental plants or for the food industry) b) as blind passengers on board of ships, or c) they have been accidentally imported as a contaminant with commercial goods or through tourism.



Can easily **spread** across borders and have **negative impacts** upon biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being.

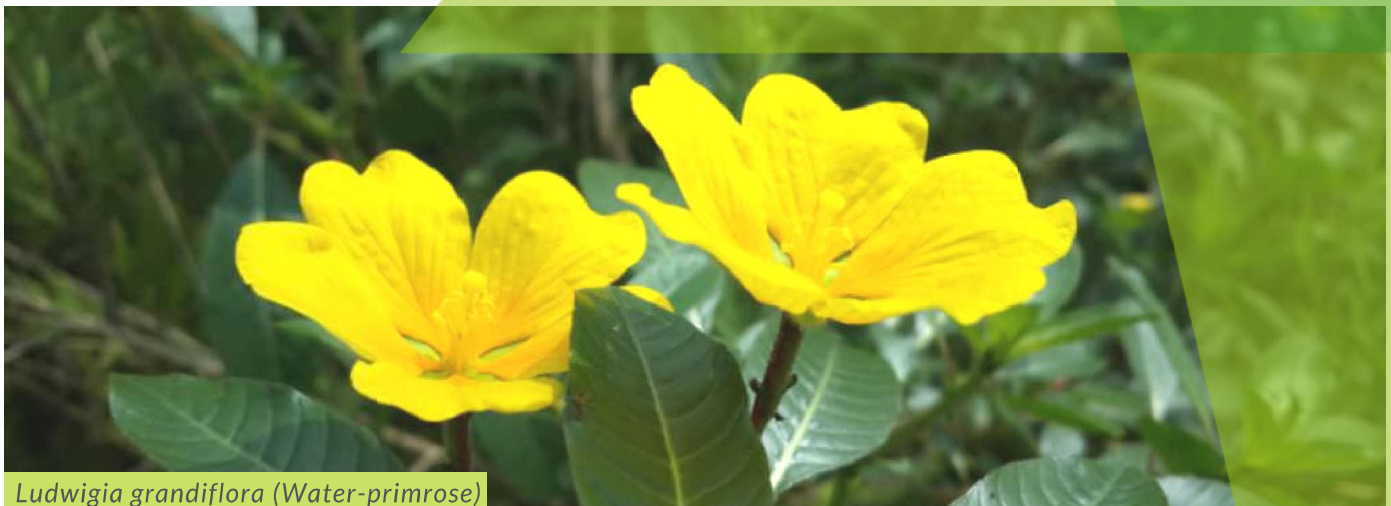


Currently there are **23 plants** and **26 animal species** (aquatic and inland) that cause the most damage to native biodiversity, and for which concerted measures are required across the EU.

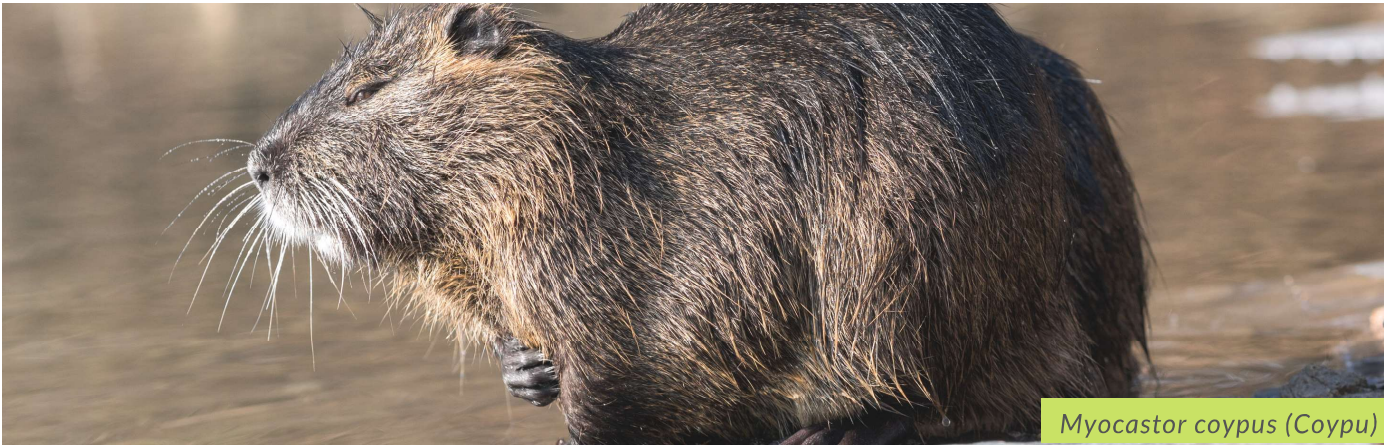


The **EU** has adopted a **law** - the '**IAS Regulation**' - to tackle the problem in a coordinated, joint effort across all Member States. At the core of the IAS Regulation is a **list** of invasive alien species of Union concern (the Union list) for which prevention, management and eradication measures are necessary.

Source: *Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern (brochure)*, European Commission, 2017



*Ludwigia grandiflora* (Water-primrose)



*Myocastor coypus (Coypu)*

## Project updates

The kick-off meeting held in Athens (July 2018) marked the official launch of the 5-year project

The kick-off Steering Group meeting of the INVALIDIS project was hosted by National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD), in Athens, Greece, on the 5th and 6th of July 2018, with the participation of all project partners.

The meeting was organised in sessions, during which participants delivered presentations addressing all aspects of the activities foreseen by INVALIDIS. At the end of each session, discussion took place, enabling participants to clarify issues, introduce considerations, set directions, and reach decisions by consensus. The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding of the work expected by each partner work during the 1st semester.

Overall, all participants to the meeting considered the kick-off meeting as a successful start of a very promising project and the Lead Partner thanked all participants for their presence and their significant contributions. As it was demonstrated during the meeting, all partners are eager to bring in their experience and knowledge to engage in interregional policy learning, and to make sure that the project will be implemented in the best possible way.

### ***Ongoing exchange of experience activities***

#### **Activity 1.1: Comparative analysis of territorial policies on IAS management**

The policy activity 1.1 aims to help project partners examine their own policies on IAS detection and management, as well as relevant policies in the rest of the EU-28. For the implementation of the activity all partners will collect data from their own regions, which Corsican Agency of the Environment will use to draft a comparative policy report (to be delivered at the end of April 2019). This activity will enable policymakers and public authorities to understand the territorial dynamics, potential and inhibitors related to IAS management.

#### **Activity 1.2: Identifying the dimensions determining INVALIDIS natural ecosystems' vulnerability to IAS**

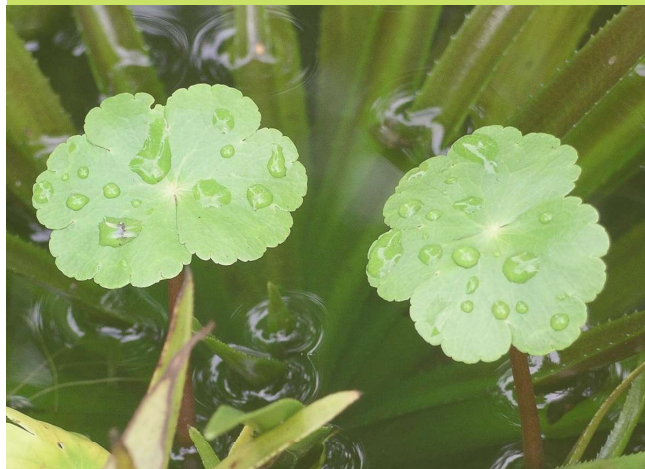
This activity aims to identify the factors that determine regional natural ecosystems' vulnerability to the introduction and establishment of IAS, such as invasion history, possible effects of climate change, existence of conflicting interests, and lack of relevant policy framework. Lombardy Foundation for the Environment will assist project partners in data collection efforts and the final results of the activity will help in the uptake of policy measures that protect natural ecosystems' vulnerability.

# Upcoming workshop in Corse

The workshop will focus on the different eradication and control methods for invasive alien species

Interregional workshops are an integral part of the policy learning process and cooperation among project partners. Partners, together with their stakeholders and relevant experts, will visit Corse (organised by Corsican Agency of Environment) to participate in an on-field workshop to discuss and exchange experiences on the best policy measures for IAS eradication and control methods.

*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*  
(Floating pennywort)



## Get involved

-  [www.interregeurope.eu/invalidis](http://www.interregeurope.eu/invalidis)
-  [www.facebook.com/InvalidisInterreg](https://www.facebook.com/InvalidisInterreg)
-  [www.twitter.com/InvalidisInterreg](https://www.twitter.com/InvalidisInterreg)
-  [www.linkedin.com/in/invalidis-interreg](https://www.linkedin.com/in/invalidis-interreg)
-  [invalidis@prv.ypeka.gr](mailto:invalidis@prv.ypeka.gr)

## Useful workshop information

Location: Corse, France  
Host: Corsican Agency of Environment  
Date: April 2019  
Duration: 2-days event  
Participants: 15-25

## Partnership

-  National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development
-  Lombardy Foundation for the Environment
-  Regional Ministry for environment and rural, agricultural policies and territory – Regional Government of Extremadura
-  Corsican Agency of Environment
-  Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency
-  Institute of Sciences, Technologies and Agroenvironment of the University of Porto
-  Zemgale Planning Region

