

INVALIS

Newsletter



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Contents

- Corsica interregional workshop
- INVALIS research activities
- News by INVALIS partners
- Upcoming activities



INVALIS | Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species: 1st semester of the project implementation

INVALIS brings together 7 partners 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, b) lack of awareness about IAS environmental and socioeconomic risks, c) low level of cooperation between key stakeholders for the implementation of IAS management measures, and c) conflicts of interests.

During the first Semester of the project implementation partners advanced with the research on territorial policies for the detection and management of biological invasions, and the factors that determine natural ecosystems vulnerability to invasive alien species. The 1st interregional workshop was organised by OEC in Corsica, in April 2019.



Harmonia axyridis

Interregional Workshop on the different eradication and control methods for Invasive Alien Species, Corsica, 10 & 11 April 2019



The first INVALIDIS interregional workshop on the different eradication and control methods for Invasive Alien Species was organised on 10th & 11th April 2019, by the Corsican Agency of Environment (Office de l'Environnement de la Corse, OEC) at the premises of the Prefecture of Corsica, in Ajaccio (Corsica, France).

The focus of the workshop was on the different practical methods currently used to gain control of and eradicate invasive alien species (IAS). Participants also discussed the factors that should be taken into consideration for determining which control method or combination of methods (such as pulling, cutting, targeted pesticide use, biological controls and native species reintroduction) is more efficient.

Except for the INVALIDIS partners, stakeholders and experts participated and actively contributed to the workshop. Moreover, participants participated to a site visit organised by OEC during the second day of the workshop.

The interregional workshop was based on a relevant input paper that was delivered by OEC and presented the background research conducted on the best available control and eradication methods for invasive alien species, discussing each method's benefits and limitations, alongside with practical examples from the EU-28. The input paper also provided a framework to help decision makers decide which control method(s) will be the most effective in mitigating the impact caused by invaders.

During the workshop Mr Paolini and Mr Zagars elaborated on IAS issues and the INVALIDIS expected impact, and Ms Gignoux Fredon made a presentation on the red palm weevil. More information and the relevant videos are available on the project website (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/invalidis/news/news-article/5603/invalidis-storytelling/>).

The second INVALIDIS project meeting was held a day before the workshop on April 9th with the participation of all project partners.



Action against the red palm weevil



Ongoing exchange of experience activities

Activity 1.1: Comparative analysis of territorial policies on IAS management | task leader OEC

The aim of Activity A1.1 is to examine and comparatively analyse the existing policies on the detection and management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) policies in partnership territories and beyond. OEC has prepared the relevant methodology and all partners have gathered input from their own country; ICETA has investigated the policies in EU28.

The activity will conclude with highlighting all key aspects of successful policies for the control and/or eradication of invasive alien species and the report is expected to be finalised in June 2019.

Invasive species have economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts, so their management can involve many different entities. Adequate, consistent legislation, agreed protocols, general compliance and effective enforcement are vital for harmonised, operational action.

Activity 1.4 Identifying good practices and case studies regarding IAS management | task leader ADR-BI

Activity A1.4 prescribes the collection of good practices that pertain to information systems, tools and registries whose contribution to the detection, documentation, monitoring and management of invasive species is positive and well documented, and hence can be used as reference models in similar endeavours.

ADR-BI has already shared the methodology to guide project partners on the identification and documentation of relevant practices and the good practice guide will be available in June 2019.

Activity 1.2: Identifying the factors determining natural ecosystems' vulnerability to IAS | task leader FLA

This activity aims to identify the factors that determine regional natural ecosystems' vulnerability to the introduction and establishment of IAS. The main factors identified relate to environmental changes and possible effects of climate change, existence of conflicting interests, issues related to territorial context and lack of relevant policy framework. FLA prepared the methodology and questionnaire to be used by all partners for data collection and all partners launched the survey in their country. FLA has gathered all input and will deliver the analysis report at the end of May 2019. The final outcome of this activity will help in the uptake of policy measures that protect natural ecosystems' vulnerability.

Upcoming research activities

Activity 1.3 Mapping territorial authorities management capacities and needs related to the design and implementation of IAS policy measures | task leader EXTREMADURA

EXTREMADURA will start working on the methodology and tools to identify public administrations' organisational and implementation needs related to the design and implementation of IAS related measures. The primary objective is to enable public authorities to comprehend the existing challenges and organisational limitations associated with the implementation of policy measures on the prevention, early detection and control of IAS.

Latvia: agreement on a common goal to combat invasive species has been achieved

18 species included in the EU list of invasive plant and animal species are found in Latvia, including the Sosnowsky's hogweed or *Heracleum sosnowskyi*. Experts admitted that large problems in the terrestrial ecosystem are caused by plant species such as Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), ash-leaved maple (*Acer negundo*), wild cucumber (*Echinocystis*), Ornamental jewelweed (*Impatiens glandulifera*). As regards inland waters, Matīss Žagars from the Institute for Environmental Solutions pointed out to some of them - zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) and silver Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*) are capable of completely destroying naturally occurring species.

During the 1st Latvian stakeholder meeting, representatives of related industries and organisations have reached an agreement that the country needs to preserve and restore its biodiversity and the way how to achieve this is by protecting ecosystems and reducing invasive alien species.



The ICETA team, represented by Luís Reino and Joana Ribeiro, will speak at the symposium "Managing biological invasions and their impacts in the Anthropocene" in the European Ecological Federation's Congress (<https://eeflisbon2019.org/en>), which will take place in Lisbon, from July 29th to August 2nd. The congress aims to promote discussions and interactions on how to integrate basic and applied ecological research, and their trans-disciplinary impacts, for the effective implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The presentation, titled "Trends in legal and illegal trade of wild birds: a global assessment based on expert knowledge", will focus on the legal and illegal aspects of trade and consumer demand across different countries. A global survey with 105 international experts on bird conservation, was implemented to identify expected trends, drivers and market characteristics of legal and illegal wild-caught pet bird trade and the main results will be presented in this symposium. As expanding trade networks and socio-economic changes continue to incorporate new regions into the wildlife trade, investigating the multidimensional and synergistic determinants of wildlife trade is pivotal for addressing the consequences of bird trade on biodiversity.

Dissemination activities by FLA

On April 1st 2019, during a day dedicated to the main European projects on the alien species in the Lombardy Region, Dr. Daniele Paganelli, scientific collaborator of the Lombardy Foundation for the Environment, presented the INVALIDIS project to the students of the course "Alien species and animal biodiversity" of the Master's degree in Natural Sciences of the University of Pavia.



FLA will also participate in the XXIX congress of the Italian Society of Ecology in Ferrara (10-12 September 2019) to present INVALIDIS to the Italian research community.

More info:

<http://sveb.unife.it/it/ricerca-1/progetti/site-2019-1/home>

ICETA team to participate in symposium "Managing biological invasions and their impacts in the Anthropocene" in the EEF Congress

Next INVALIDIS meeting & workshop in Bucharest

The workshop will focus on how to manage emerging conflicts of interest in IAS management practices

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 Bucharest to participate in an on-field workshop to discuss and exchange experiences how to manage emerging conflicts of interest in IAS management practices. The workshop will be organised by Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency (ADR-BI) in autumn 2019.

Alternanthera philoxeroides



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-  www.linkedin.com/in/invalidis-interreg
-  invalidis@prv.ypeka.gr

Basic workshop information

Location: Bucharest, Romania
Host: Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency
Date: November 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

