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INVALIDIS

Newsletter

INVALIDIS
Interreg Europe



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INVALIDIS | Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species: 2nd semester of the project implementation

INVALIDIS 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 second Semester of the project implementation partners advanced with the research activities of the project, organising also multiple meetings for the dissemination of the results of the project, participating as well in 3rd party events.



Trachemys spp

Interregional workshop in Bucharest on how to manage emerging conflicts of interest in IAS management practices, 02-03 of October 2019



The interregional workshop on how to manage emerging conflicts of interest in IAS management practices was hosted by Bucharest – Ilfov Regional Development Agency and lasted 2 days.

The first day of workshop, 2nd of October 2019, was held at Club Snagov, Ilfov County and the second day of the workshop, 3rd of October 2019, was held at Radisson Blu Hotel Bucharest, gathering both project partners and their stakeholders.

The 2-day interregional workshop was based on an input paper delivered by ADR-BI to project partners

and contained guidelines on how to identify the situations in which the implementation of policies on IAS management will lead to conflicts of interest, whilst suggesting ways of dealing with such conflicts (e.g. awareness raising, compensatory measures, regulation).

Project news



Regional meeting in Athens

On October 29, 2019 at 10:00 am, the National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development organized the 1st Regional Meeting, with the subject "Environmental vulnerability: the impact of Invasive Alien Species", at Villa Kazouli (241 Kifissias Street, Athens). In the meeting the NCESD presented the INVALIDIS project and discussed the need to establish a network of stakeholders from the administration, the scientific community and the NGOs that will exchange information and ideas systematically on Invasive Alien Species to assist the administration in implementing the European Commission Regulation 1143/2014.

Info-day in Pavia

On October 23rd, FLA participated to an info-day in collaboration with ASAP project, organised by the Regional Office of Pavia Province. In this context, the FLA presented the INVALIDIS project and discussed the role of citizens in the management of IAS.

Upcoming 2nd info-day by the Lombardy Foundation for the Environment

On the 24th of November, the 2nd info-day for the project INVALIDIS by FLA is foreseen. This second info-day is an opportunity to increase the awareness in Lombardy and to organise an event in collaboration with the University of Pavia. During the info-day, FLA will share and disseminate the project outputs of the project and the knowledge gained. The picture on the right is the poster of the event.

<https://universitiamo.eu/en/campaigns/un-mattone-contro-le-specie-aliene/>.



Participation in 3rd party events

Workshop on Invasive Species, organised by: R&D Institute for Plant Protection

On the 12th of September 2019, the Research & Development Institute for Plant Protection organized a workshop (round table) on invasive species where Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency was invited. Exploring dissemination opportunities for the project and also building collaboration for INVALIDIS outcomes, the organisation took the invitation as an opportunity to communicate and disseminate the objective of the project and introduced in the agenda a presentation of the INVALIDIS project. The main discussion about the project was structured in such a way as to underline both the objective of the INTERREG program and the project itself.

BioDiv 2019 congress, organised by the University of Alessandria

In occasion of the BioDiv 2019 congress hosted by the University of Alessandria (Piemonte, Italy) with the participation of Dr. Daniele Paganelli, University of Pavia - Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, FLA presented the Interreg INVALIDIS project, focusing on factors that determine the ecosystem vulnerability to Invasive Alien Species.

XXIX Congress of the Italian Society of Ecology, organised by the Italian Society of Ecology

Over 200 researchers from 38 different Universities and 12 Research Institutions participated in the congress, held in Ferrara between 10-12 September 2019. Participants discussed about "Natural Capital: Conservation Management" through two round tables and six working sessions introduced by expert reports. Within this congress, FLA presented lessons learnt from the INVALIDIS project, with the presentation title being "Ecosystem vulnerability: the environmental factors that favour the invasion of alien species".

The Invalis Project participates in the ACECA Conference

On September 23, different representatives of administrations of the Junta de Extremadura, agricultural organizations, Agents of the Natural Environment, NGOs, hydrographic confederations and responsible for the Portuguese Environment and the Company for o Development and Infrastructure of Alqueva have gathered in the technical conferences on the advances in the control of the Camalote (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in the cross-border area of the Guadiana river, organized by the General Directorate of Sustainability within the framework of the ACECA Interreg project "Actions for the control and elimination of the Camalote (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in the transboundary section of the Guadiana river".

At the event, which was presented by Jesús Moreno, General Director of Sustainability and Samuel Moraleda, President of the Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation, both representatives stressed the importance of the collaboration between organizations during the work carried out for the management of the Camalote (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

Representatives of the Hydrographic Confederation of Guadiana, the General Directorate of Sustainability and the Portuguese Department of Territory and Infrastructure of EDIA addressed during the day, held at the School of Public Administration of Mérida, the problem of this species in the Guadiana River and actions carried out since the invasion in 2004 until the start of the Interreg ACECA project in 2018 and during its execution, as well as other actions carried out in the area of prevention, rapid detection and awareness to fight against this species in both countries.





Cormorants are not an alien species

It is a recent piece of news that the Lombardy Region has decided that, by 2020, a control action will be taken against the Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in some provinces of the Lombardy region. The populations in the provinces of Varese, Como, Lecco, Bergamo and Brescia will be reduced by about 10% (in total 993 specimens will be killed) in order to reduce the problems caused by this species to the local recreational and professional fishing activities.

This is not something new for the Lombardy Region: in the recent past, several control campaigns were performed against cormorants. The truth is that this species can reach a really high density and they can eat or damage a lot of fish (with no distinction between native or alien species).

However, another fact is that Cormorants are not invasive alien species as stated by the Lombardy Councillor for Agriculture and reported by ANSA news.

On the contrary, the Cormorant is a native species in

Europe that is enlarging its area of distribution due to various causes, such as the ban of hunting and climate change.

It should not be appropriate to interfere with the political decisions regarding the management of this species that can really be a threat for the fish fauna when associated to anthropogenic disturbance, habitat fragmentation and pollution. However, from an ecological point of view, it is important to underline that a native species cannot become a proper invasive species because its density will be regulated by the ecosystem, reaching a balance with other species.

In conclusion, this news represents another relevant example of how the increase in awareness of environmental issues (not only IAS) should be one of the crucial focuses of researchers and how the conflicts of interest could be a real problem even when we are not talking about IAS.

Invasive Alien Species: Free them or stop them?

In the management of invasive alien species, the empathy represents a challenge from a practical point of view. If an alien species is "beautiful and nice" and, above all, does not give us any direct discomfort, why should it be eliminated? Indeed: why not release them in Nature and let them free? Here the empathy towards the animal comes into play, but also a certain anthropocentric vision of Nature: the man who helps the animal and grants him freedom. However, the same could be said for the control actions of alien species. The management of alien species is seen by some as the affirmation of the concept of man's superiority towards Nature. Who are we to decide whether an animal must live or not? If by now the individuals of a certain species are present in an environment, what is their fault? The management of alien species will inevitably have to face these ethical questions, identifying the most appropriate communication strategy.

In article published on the website of the Italian magazine "La rivista della Natura" (www.rivistanatura.com), Dr. Daniele Paganelli (Lombardy Foundation for the Environment / University of Pavia) faced these questions and other topics on the perception of the Invasive Alien Species.

For more information, please visit: <https://rivistanatura.com/specie-aliene-invasive-liberarle-o-fermarle/>

Upcoming 3rd party Events

On 21st of November the Latvian Museum of Nature will hold a seminar for science teachers and environmental specialists titled “Visitor to stay”. Various industry professionals will participate in the seminar to discuss the legal framework for invasive species, the importance of biodiversity, invasive species in Latvia and other relevant topics. During this seminar, Evija Ērkšņe, project manager of the Zemgale Planning Region will introduce the Interreg Europe program project “INVALIS - Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species”, its activities, outcomes and importance to Latvia.

Partnership



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-  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

