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INVALIDIS

Newsletter



European Union
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Development Fund

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INVALIDIS | Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species: 5th 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 fifth Semester of the project implementation partners advanced with the activities of the project, organising also meetings and events for the dissemination of the results of the project.



Trachemys spp

4th Stakeholders Meeting in Latvia-Action is essential to eradicate invasive species

The 4th Stakeholder Meeting “Management of Invasive Alien Species in Latvia” was organized in the context of INTERREG program project “Protection European biodiversity from invasive alien species (INVALIS)” in Vaives Parish, Cēsis Region.

As a result of climate change and other factors, various alien species have been introduced in Europe, including Latvia, with some of them being invasive and aggressive. Not only they affect local biodiversity, but also create other negative effects, such as threats to human health, food and the economy. During the event, there has been a discussion on a number of invasive alien species (IAS), their characteristics and control methods.

Prevention is the cheapest and most effective method in the fight against IAS. The latter includes stricter border controls and information exchange at regional, national and international levels. Another method is fighting - if the ISS has already adapted to local conditions, then they must be destroyed, mowed or sprayed. However, if this action is no longer possible, then a long-term control must be carried out. This year, Latvia has been particularly concerned about the spread of the invasive Spanish slug. It damages the plantings of both small garden and large farm owners.

The species are present almost all over Europe and is listed as one of the 100 most invasive animals in Europe. That is why the fight against this species is complicated and all small garden owners and neighbours must be involved. Preventive and mechanical measures include soil loosening, drainage, protection zones, placement of special fences and traps, weed removal, placement of water containers and other baits in gardens.

After the theoretical part of the seminar, attendees went to the farms "Kundziņi" and "Silavas", as well as the company "Kalna Paltes" to learn the stories of the owners' experience in the fight against invasive alien species.



3rd Stakeholders Meeting in Latvia-Real actions are needed to limit invasive alien species

During the 3rd Stakeholders Meeting of INVALIS organized by the Zemgale Planning Region, experts discussed various topics such as invasive species, legislation, importance of public involvement as well as the impact of invasive species on Latvian nature.

The meeting was opened by project manager Evija Ērškšķe, who introduced the project's topics, including an analysis of the territorial policy for the management of invasive alien species (IAS) and factors affecting the sensitivity of ecosystems to the IAS. The project manager also talked about the importance of citizen science or public involvement in IAS data collection, pointing to www.dabasdati.lv as the most important platform for Latvians.



3rd party event- OEC-Insects in Corsica: between high diversity and high threats



With the covid-19 health crisis, the organization of face-to-face meetings was very challenging.

The OEC has therefore given priority to disseminating information and raising awareness among target audiences during in natura events, which present little risk of the virus spreading.

Thus, on July 24, OEC part in the "Fridays of Cuscione", an event regularly organized by the manager of this Natura 2000 area, the Community of Municipalities of Alta Rocca.

The event, hosted by bodies of the Conservatory of Invertebrates of the Corsican Environment Office, focused on the entomology of the site and addressed the question of invasive species as part of a general presentation of the insects of Corsica, as well as studies carried out, for example with INRAE, on invasive beetles.

This event enabled the OEC to provide information on the risks associated with IAS, as well as on the steps taken in this area within the framework of the two European projects ALIEM and INVALIDIS.

INVALIDIS project brochures were distributed to participants.

This action raised awareness among 11 people, including 7 "eco-guards" agents from the Alta Rocca Community of Communes.

ZPR participates in a 3rd party event



On October 2, Mrs. Ilze Lujāne, INVALIDIS project assistant of Zemgale Planning Region, participated in the event concerning slug restriction organized by the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre to promote INVALIDIS project, its significance and results.

As the event focused on slugs, especially the Spanish slug, the presentation about the INVALIDIS project fit perfectly into the theme of the event, emphasizing the importance of including invasive species in official, nationally approved lists to create a legal framework to determine how to deal with these species.

The event's lecturer, horticulture expert Mr. Māris Narvils, also noted that biodiversity is essential because it creates a stable environment.



He emphasized that the Spanish slug has not been officially recognized as an invasive species, but it should be done in order to establish a legislative framework, binding rules and actions to be taken at national level in order to restrict it. He also pointed out that, given the rate at which the snail is spreading, it would never be possible to destroy it entirely, but with the help of the legal framework we would be able to restrict the species in a way that facilitates the work of farmers, gardeners and others. The lecturer pointed out that education should be carried out at all levels - national, municipal and educational establishments.

Although parts of the country have not yet been affected by this aggressive species, it should be noted that the rapid reproduction and the spread of the Spanish slug can have a significant impact, not only on the economy and local ecology, but also on the value of the land and number of visitors at tourism sites. More importantly, Spanish slug presumably has been in Latvia since 2009 and especially Zemgale region is the most affected by it.

N.E.C.C.A's participation in 3rd party event

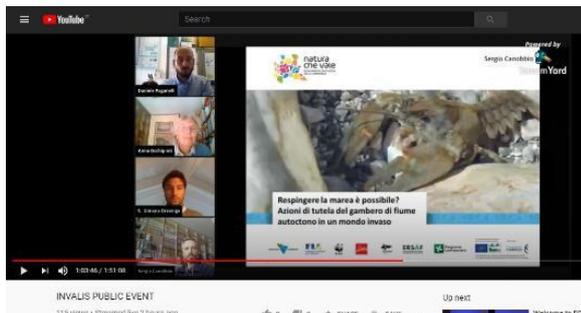
On the 14th of July 2020, the non-governmental organization iSea, which focuses on the protection of aquatic ecosystems and is represented in the INVALIDIS stakeholders' group in Greece, organized a gastronomic event aiming to contribute in Invasive Alien Species management.

The event was part of the project "[Pick the alien](#)", which aims to raise awareness in Greece regarding alien species and the consequences of their presence on local economy, tourism, indigenous species, environment and human health, while at the same time promoting the consumption of edible alien species as a mitigation measure to their expansion and the growth of their population. NECCA was invited to participate in the event and accepted the invitation as an opportunity to communicate and disseminate the objectives of INVALIDIS project among important stakeholders, as well as contributing to the success of the project "Pick the alien".



Lombardy-FLA-Public dialogue event

In the context of INVALIDIS project, FLA realized a public dialogue event virtually hosting a webinar on the 9th of October, 2020.



The event was mainly dedicated to increase the awareness of citizens on actions for the safeguarding of the local biodiversity and it was followed by 145 participants from different target groups such as sectorial stakeholders, local public administration, environmental NGO/Agency, Regional Agency, University and research centre, Managing Authority of protected areas.



The public event pointed out how the problems caused by IAS are underestimated by citizens, due to the often unclear message passed from researchers to citizens.



These days it seems that environmental problems are hot topics and citizens are quite aware of them, so it is highly recommended that the researchers focus their efforts on the increase of the citizens' knowledge, and translate their scientific results into something more understandable to the layman.

Furthermore, it is fundamental that citizens are made aware of the problems caused by IAS to the local biodiversity: incisive actions are possible only if they are supported by society. This aspect could be even more important (or at least of the same importance) in comparison to technical and scientific aspects.

14.00	Welcome and introduction: Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente	
14.20	Anna Occhipinti University of Pavia/Lombardy Foundation for the Environment	Invasive Alien Species: the European Regulation
14.40	Daniele Paganelli University of Pavia/Lombardy Foundation for the Environment	The Interreg Europe project INVALIS
15.00	Sergio Canobbio ERSAF	Good practices for safeguarding the native crayfish in Lombardy
15.20	Simone Orsenigo University of Pavia	Good practices for the conservation of european concern species in agriculture
15.40	Discussion on the emerged issues	
16.00	End of meeting	

Webinar: https://youtu.be/h_8may28y08

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/S4Dp1X14Yq75a8Cy6>



ORDINE DEI DOTTORI AGRONOMI E DEI DOTTORI FORESTALI DI MILANO
PUBBLICITÀ DI MILANO, LUCCA, MODENA E VERONA, PAVIA

In conclusion, events like this public consultation should be promoted as a good way to inform and involve citizens in the management of IAS.

FLA's participation in Climate Science Conference – Italy

On October 21st-23th, 2020 FLA participated in the 8th Annual Conference of the Italian Society for climate science with a poster referring to INVALIS project results.



INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Climate change leads to ecosystem instability and may affect the spread, abundance and impact of invasive alien species (IAS). Climatic stress potentially creates new opportunities for invasive species and weakens native species populations. In this scenario, the 5-year INTERREG Europe project INVALIS (Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species) aims to improve regional policies against Invasive Alien Species. INVALIS brings together 7 European partners:



Not all ecosystems are equally prone to new colonisations: factors determining the vulnerability of ecosystems to the establishment of IAS must be identified to manage IAS (figure 1). INVALIS approaches the contrast of biological invasions, considering the effects of climate change. Lombardy Foundation for the Environment prepared a tool in order to enable partners to collect information from their stakeholders: a common questionnaire was created to identify the factors that determine the vulnerability of natural ecosystem to introduction and establishment of IAS.

106 experts working in 56 protected areas (e.g. Natura 2000, Ramsar, Biosphere reserves) located in 6 EU countries provided insights on the determinants of ecosystem vulnerability to IAS. Specifically, we asked experts to report their expectations for the risk of IAS introduction into assessment areas, considering the predicted future climate conditions (figure 2).

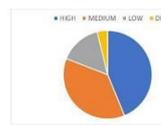


Figure 2. "Under the predicted future climate conditions, how do you evaluate the risk of IAS entry into the Assessment Area?" - (DK = I don't know)

Regions with increased expectations for future introductions of IAS (Portugal, Spain and Corsica) are insular or peninsular, rich in endemics, and knowingly vulnerable to climate change and biological invasions (figure 3).

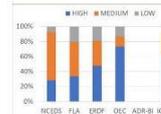


Figure 3. Results for each country to the question "Under the predicted future climate conditions, how do you evaluate the risk of IAS entry into the Assessment Area?"

Our results underline the complexity of IAS management, often hampered by the lack of clear policies, shortage of economic resources and specialized staff, and poor awareness of biological invasions.

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More information here:

<https://www.sisclima.it/hp-rewrite/9da4420ecca694aaf716e9a53efb5959>

FLA and the organization of the virtual visit in Lombardy



In this semester, despite the pandemic, the INVALIS FLA team actively worked on the organisation and the record of the virtual site visit.

The FLA's idea is to show to the INVALIS partners specific actions for the safeguard of the local biodiversity which, at the same time, contrast IAS.

First, FLA visited the fish nursery of the Ticino's Regional Park where, with the funds of a LIFE project (<http://ticinobiosource.it/en/home->

[eng/](#)), they safeguard the local freshwater fauna.

The second place was the crayfish's nursery of the Lombardy Region where ERSAF and GRAIA srl breed the autochthonous crayfish species *Austropotamobius pallipes* (<https://naturachevale.it/en/animals/actions-for-freshwater-crayfish-conservation/>).



Spain, Extremadura Junta- City council and INTERREG INVALIS Project: a tandem fighting against invasive species.



Urban nuclei have now become artificial ecosystems that function as ideal habitats for the development of some invasive alien species. Some of them introduced by the local administration itself through gardening in parks, public gardens and conditioning of communication routes of municipal jurisdiction, others instead through escapes from private properties or released by citizens unaware of the impact that these species cause on the environment, health and the economy. The INTERREG EUROPE INVALIS project has in place a system of collaboration between the Extremadura regional administration, the provincial councils and local administrations for

the control and elimination of invasive alien species in urban centers in order to develop local policies that allow the control of these species. For this, the INVALIS project maintains an on-line relationship with all Extremadura town councils and provincial government to publicize the problem of invasive alien species at the local level, control and elimination methods, and the possibility of promoting policies that transfer existing state legislation to municipal level.

ADR-BI- “Adequate Management of Invasive Species” in Romania



Within the project “Adequate Management of Invasive Species in Romania, in accordance with EU Regulation 1143/2014 regarding the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species”, implemented by the Romanian Ministry of the Environment, Waters and Forests, in partnership with the University of Bucharest, have been identified the most important invasive alien species for ecological, economic and social reasons in Romania. Thus, 51 factsheets and identification keys were made for 52 invasive allogeneic species (terrestrial and aquatic plants, vertebrate and invertebrate animals) and a TOP 10 Brochure - The most aggressive invasive species in Romania - Identification key.



More information can be accessed on the following links:

Project's website

<http://invazive.ccmesi.ro/>

Social media page:

<https://www.facebook.com/InvaziveRO/>

Follow the project on social media

 www.facebook.com/InvalisInterreg

 www.linkedin.com/in/invalis-interreg

 www.twitter.com/InvalisInterreg

Contact us

Email: invalis@prv.vpeka.gr

Web: www.interregeurope.eu/invalis

About us

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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

The INVALIS Partnership



Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency



Lombardy Foundation for the Environment