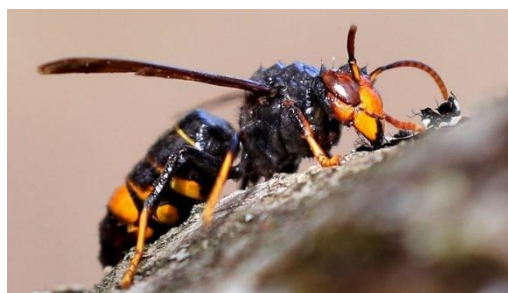




# ACTION PLAN



## EXTREMADURA



**ACTION PLAN 2021-2023 of the INTERREG  
Europe Project INVALIDIS:  
Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species**

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## Part I - General information

Project:	<b>INVALIDIS: Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species</b>
Partner organization:	General Directorate of Sustainability, Regional Ministry of Ecological Transition and Sustainability
Other partner organizations involved (If relevant)	NONE
Country:	SPAIN
NUTS2 region:	Extremadura
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## Part II - Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

<b>Investment for Growth and Jobs programme</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>European Territorial Cooperation programme</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>Other regional development policy instrument</b>	<b>X</b>
<p><b>Name of the policy instrument addressed:</b></p> <p><b><u>Original Policy instrument addressed:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational Programme ERDF EXTREMADURA 2014 - 2020</b></li> <li>• <b>Extremadura Rural Development Program EAFRD 2014 - 2020</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Policy instrument addressed:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational Programme ERDF EXTREMADURA 2021 - 2027</b></li> <li>• <b>Extremadura Rural Development Program EAFRD 2021 - 2027</b></li> </ul>	

## Part III - Details of the actions envisaged

Extremadura is located in the NUTS2 region of Spain and is the Directorate-General for Sustainability of the Regional Government of Extremadura, which is participating in the Interreg Europe Invalis project, and since the beginning of the same year back in June 2018, a series of strategies has begun to be devised aimed at implementing political actions for the development of protocols, regulations and agreements between administrations, companies, action groups, partnerships, university, research centers, etc., that will lead us to a greater control of invasive alien species, with the aim of enhancing the biodiversity of our ecosystem, and that these actions can be considered as an example for other European regions.

Since the beginning of the actions that have been developed in the Interreg Europe Invalis project, the participation of key actors, representative of Extremadura society, has been one of the pillars on which the project has been based and has been advancing in Extremadura. The equal to equal treatment, has been one of the fundamental pillars, which has made it possible to initiate debates between parties, little given to dialogue and above all to put in contact in a more effective way different Extremaduran administrations, outside the formalities and structure of action that these administrations have. As already seen in the conclusions of action AI.3, where the need for greater involvement between administrations and the creation of multidisciplinary teams of different administrations was observed, so that information can flow effectively.

We search for the reality of the problem of invasive species in the different sectors and the degree of involvement and knowledge of these problems.

It is important to involve the key sectors, which has been participating and collaborating throughout the project, giving rise to the ideas, suggestions and ways proposed in the different forums in which they have participated. And although the pandemic has managed to slow down the pace of the actions, the guiding thread has never been broken, with which the staff continue to be involved and willing to collaborate in the way that their social group, company, etc., allows for this to come to a successful conclusion.

## ACTION PLAN

The action plan presented compile actions, focused on collaboration among stakeholders present at the Invalis meetings. We implemented what has been learned in the various international workshops and the actions and conclusions obtained from the different actions developed in the Invalis project:

- ✓ Cooperation with stakeholders -Ajaccio interregional workshop (Corsica)-, conflict resolution
- ✓ Bucharest interregional workshop-, actions with protected species and non-native species
- ✓ Action A3.4 (Lombardy and Extremadura), the results of “Mapping territorial authorities’ management capacities and needs related to the design and implementation of IAS policy measures”
- ✓ Action AI.3-, awareness of society -Ajaccio interregional workshop (Corsica)-, etc.

So, the development of our action plan is based on all these lessons learned, in addition to the results of the consultations carried out by the partners of the Invalis project and the current needs for the proper management of invasive alien species in the Autonomous Community of Extremadura.

For this reason, the Extremadura action plan has been presented, which we support in several lines of action, with the intention of being more effective and efficient when developing these actions and collaborations between parties.

These actions are aimed to archive:

- Greater awareness of the problems presented by the IAS, both for the biodiversity of the area, as well as at a European level and also
- How they influence economic, social, recreational development, etc. in our territories.

### Objectives.-

The main objective of this action plan is to develop political instruments that make it possible to guarantee the availability of budget items in the medium and long term, through different sources of financing:

- ✓ **ERDF** -European Regional Development Fund
- ✓ **EAFRD** -European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

To guarantee the development of management plans for invasive alien species in Extremadura.

# Action I.- Introduction of new lines of action in Political Instruments

## ***I. - Background.***

The development of biodiversity conservation actions is financed mainly with European funds, such as the ERDF and EAFRD funds and their possible variants. These funds have allowed the development of a large number of actions, the development of regulations for the protection of biodiversity (RN2000), which has set a path in the actions to be carried out in compliance with European regulations.

The presence of invasive alien species (IAS) is not a problem that has arisen recently, but it's now when this problem has entered in the agendas of political representatives, due to the implications in many fields that these species generate.

Until now, the performance of actions with or about IAS, were carried out within projects whose main objective was the conservation of other species, or to enhance biodiversity in certain protected areas, etc. and the actions that were carried out with or about the IAS, were a necessary cause of the general performance of the project that was presented.

That is why this action is aimed at enabling actions, projects on IAS, can be financed by themselves, without having to include them in other projects.

## ***2.- Action.***

**Objective I. Inclusion of a new thematic objective, within the priority axes of the ERDF funds.**

With the inclusion of this new thematic objective, it is intended to score and set a series of points to include in the Rural Development Plan that Extremadura must present Europe for the period 2021-2027.

In order to carry out these actions, new points of view must be included in the European policies applied in the Spanish state, focusing on those aspects set by European policies in the development of the "Extremadura" operational program, for which they are requested ERDF aid, within priority axis 6 'Conserve and protect the environment and promote resource efficiency' by including a new



thematic objective **“Management, control and elimination of invasive alien species”**  
specific for actions related to IAS .

## **Objective 2. Inclusion of new actions within the strategies of EAFRD funds.**

The inclusion of new actions within the P4 strategy of the EAFRD funds, **“restore, conserve and improve ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry threatened by IAS”**.

This new action would be included within the P4 strategy, increasing the number of actions that can be developed, enabling actions aimed at minimizing the negative interactions caused by IAS, to agriculture and forestry, generating large economic losses in these important sectors in the conservation of habitat and biodiversity.

## **Objective 3.- Inclusion of sub-measures within the measures established in LEADER Participatory Local Development**

With the inclusion of new sub-measures in Participatory Local Development (DLP), it is intended to mark and fix a series of points to be included in the Rural Development Plan that Extremadura must present to Europe for the period 2021-2027.

The LEADER funds are included within the EAFRD Funds, which is structured in a series of measures within Participatory Local Development (DLP - Art. 35). The inclusion of new actions is proposed, within Measure 19 'Support for LEADER local development', within the sub-measure of Participatory Local Development (DLP):

- ✓ Sub-measure 19.2, with the inclusion of a new action **“19.2.2 Support for the application of actions against IAS”**
- ✓ Sub-measure 19.3, preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of local action groups, with the inclusion of a new measure **“19.3.1 Cooperative actions in raising awareness and awareness of IAS”**

These actions will enable the City Council to use these funds to carry out actions of various kinds in relation to IAS, within their municipalities and municipalities (actions of which the municipalities are competent).

The development of the Rural Development Plan (PDR) that Extremadura is developing with the inclusion of these modifications that will be integrated, given and made possible for any regional administration to carry out actions related to IAS, without having to include these actions in other projects, streamlining and increasing the number of actions that can be developed.

The actions for the inclusion of a new thematic objective, within the priority axes of the ERDF Funds, the inclusion of actions within the sub-measures and measures of the EAFRD Funds, within the national framework of rural development, will place the actions of control and eradication of IAS and what this entails, such as the protection of Extremadura and therefore European Biodiversity (main precept of the Interreg Europe Invalis project), placing it in an important framework to take into account within rural development policies within the Extremadura community, which will imply an important and fundamental consideration and action within the Extremadura public administrations (aspect that was reflected in the survey of action A1.3 of the Invalis project).

The financing and the inclusion of actions and operations within the ERDF and EAFRD funds (LEADER) they are going to enable development of the actions to be carried out.

### **3.- *Players involved.***

- National administration
- Regional administration
- Extremadura Provincial Councils
- Extremadura city councils
- University of Extremadura
- NGO's
- Associations of the sector

### **4.- *Timeframe.***

These actions have already begun, in the discussion and drafting of the Extremadura Rural Development Plan, which must be carried out at the beginning of 2022, for its presentation and approval to the European Commission in 2022.

## **5.- Costs.**

None

## **6.- Funding.**

No funding is needed for the development of this action.

## Action II.- Development of actions arising from the semiannual meetings of INVALIDIS

### **I.- Background.**

The development of the INVALIDIS project has come to show during its execution that the problem of invasive alien species does not only depend on the action carried out by the competent administration in the management of these species, but that the problem is cross-cutting in nature. It is a problem that affects a large number of administrations that are directly or indirectly involved.

The semiannual meetings held by the General Directorate of sustainability in the INVALIDIS project with sectors involved have revealed the lack of interconnectivity and coordination between the different Administrations and other agencies and entities (a matter highlighted in Action A1.3).

During the development of Action A.3.1, the management needs on the different topics discussed in the meetings have been evaluated and the result has been the mapping of the capacities of each of the participating entities and the willingness to cooperate, in addition to the perception that each entity has about compliance with regulations, both state and European.

Knowing the actions that the partner countries have presented, further reinforces the idea of the importance of developing this regional action plan.

The presentation of the catalog of good practices that has already been carried out in the INVALIDIS project and continues to be updated, implies that with this action plan, not only actions by the competent Administration in matters of management of invasive alien species can be implemented. Rather, a greater range of results will be achieved through collaboration between different coordinated entities, this being one of the basic pillars of this action plan, being able to reproduce these actions and new actions in other administrations that in some matters are closer to citizens and some target sectors.

Within this Action Plan, actions will be included that will be developed at different levels and with different administrations involved, which will include other key sectors that are related to the objectives to be achieved.

## **2.- Action.**

### **Objective 1. Actions to be developed with public entities.**

Address the management of invasive alien species at the local level, mainly at the municipality level. To this end, it is intended to develop agreements with Administrations and local entities and develop tools and procedures that facilitate the management of these species in a coordinated way. The results will translate into:

- Improved management
- Coordination with the competent administration in matters of invasive species at the regional level
- Updating information on these species at the local level and support in the implementation of specific actions that favor awareness
- The participation of society in order to participate in this serious environmental, economic and health problem.

At Municipal level, rules will be developed within the Local Regime Law (ordinances), so that the Town Councils can have tools that can legally support any of the actions and procedures that are implemented.

The actions to be developed within this action are:

- Carrying out sensitization, dissemination and awareness activities on IAS.
- Making an inventory of existing IAS in your municipality (urban area-public places)
- Realization of a strategy for the elimination of IAS in your municipality (public places)
- Making a registry of exotic pets in your municipality
- Approval of an Ordinance on EEI, in your municipality
- Perform IAS control and elimination actions
- Dissemination of the actions carried out on EEI
- Act as focal points of the EEI Alert network.

## **Objective 2. Creation of provincial entities.**

Establish provincial intermediary entities that facilitate vertical management. It will work with the provincial councils, their commitment will allow to provide administrative and logistical support in the actions that are intended to be developed between the regional and local administration, due to the competences, relationship with local entities and infrastructures (it would be with the Cáceres County Council and Badajoz County Council). In addition, the councils are administrations that distribute funds of various kinds in the territories and it is intended that several issues related to IAS can be included.

The action process depends on the collaboration agreements that are formed between administrations (autonomous and regional), in such a way that the existing agreements are gradually adapted and the inclusion of actions against IAS, is a turning point both when granting subsidies, as well as being able to have actions financed or directed by the councils, this being a cross-cutting aspect in the development of actions of Extremadura populations.

The actions to be developed would be:

- Collaboration in the realization of the informative material and its distribution
- Awareness and sensitization campaigns
- Collaboration in the delivery of talks / monographs on EEI, in those training processes that they manage (Workshop Schools, Trade Centers, etc.)
- Collaboration with the nurseries service for the replacement of invasive plant species with other ornamental plants without invasive potential, aimed at City Halls
- Collaboration in the preparation of technical documents for action and dissemination to the Town Halls.
- Collaborate with the municipalities with fewer resources in the execution of EEI control actions.
- Collaborate with being the link between the Regional Government of Extremadura and the regional city Councils.

## **Objective 3.- Collaboration with Fempex (Federation of Municipalities).**

Fempex is a Federation of municipalities with less 'power' than the councils, but with tools and contacts with the municipalities, very favorable when developing actions in the rural world.

In addition, it has structures for the development of local regulations, ordinances and decrees, which are necessary for these actions to be established as mandatory standards.

For which, the following actions are developed:

- Collaborate in the production of informative material on EEI and its distribution
- Collaboration in the design of the register of exotic pets of the Town Halls.
- Collaboration in the design of the model EEI Ordinance, for the Town Halls

#### **Objective 4.- Involvement of the regional administration with the project.**

The Regional Government of Extremadura, a partner of the INVALIDIS project, wants to reinforce its commitment to the actions to be developed, as a result of the semi-annual meetings held with the stakeholders, therefore, it will commit to:

1. Make informative and training materials and action protocols of IAS
2. Delivery of plants to municipalities for the replacement of invasive plant species with other ornamental plants without invasive potential.
3. Advice and conduct of talks / monographs to the staff of the Town Halls and training actions that are developed in the municipalities.
4. Creating an effective communication channel between the different participating administrations
5. Realization of standard document of priority species and chronology of elimination.
6. Development of Guidelines for the strategies to be developed by the Town Councils.
7. Development of a model ordinance on IAS.
8. Coordinate the network of Alert focal points of the City Councils.
9. Development of informative posters for citizens on IAS.
10. Carry out guardianship and monitoring of control actions in town halls in cases where they are necessary.

#### **Objective 5.- Creation of a committee of experts.**

This will be in continuous contact with the advisory bodies on IAS of the Ministry for Ecological Transition of the Government of Spain.

It will be made up of representatives of different administrations of the Junta de Extremadura that favors the development of a joint strategy in the fight against invasive species. This committee will promote the fluidity of information between administrations and decision-making. As already mentioned, information within the administration itself is one of the most important and effective steps when executing control and eradication actions against IAS. This committee will need a regulatory structure, which enables its normalization within the administration, for which and after its first meeting, it must draft a regulation, which must pass through the governing body for approval and publication in the official newspaper of Extremadura.

This committee will mainly performance:

- Development of its statutes,
- The development of strategies,
- The fluidity of information, from various points of view, such as social networks, web pages,
- Promote the alert network through new technologies, among others.

### **Objective 6.- Establish coordination between entities.**

This is due to the intercession in the management of these species with entities that present concurrent competences. Sometimes, it can occur that several administrations concur with the competences that they develop within the same area. This is the case with invasive species. The General Directorate of Sustainability of the Extremadura regional government is the competent entity in matters of invasive alien species management. However, the Hydrographic Confederations or the bodies responsible for communication routes are also entities responsible for the management of these species in the public water environment and communication routes, as established by state legislation. Thus, it's necessary for these administrations to be able to clearly define the objectives and lines of action of each one of them and to participate in joint decision-making with the regional administration to establish protocols, actions or control strategies for invasive species

For which, these administrations must sign a protocol for the acceptance of coordination, based on goodwill between parties with the final objective of controlling the IAS.



This coordination is based on different fields of action, they belong to each of the parties involved, they must agree on the optimization of the resources that each of the administrations has, facilitating the use of resources for a better, quick and effective conclusion of the actions to be carried out.

### **Objective 7.- Promote public research related to IAS.**

This section must be carried out through the establishment of agreements and collaboration agreements with research entities and with other minor entities. The main aim is to establish agreements with the University of Extremadura and other minor research entities for the study of different aspects of invasive species and control and eradication methodologies.

Support NGO's in disseminating and raising awareness about invasive species and allow these entities to participate and contribute opinions on issues related to the management of these species. It will work mainly with conservation, agrarian, citizen, business associations, etc. to support economically and technically in those matters that need to develop awareness and information campaigns.

The development of these actions will focus on the realization of agreements and on the development of a calendar of contacts and actions with NGO's, agricultural and business associations, etc., so that meetings are held, with an organization chart accepted in advance and developed by each of the participatory entities and in these meetings is the place where the topics prepared individually by each organization are put together and conclusions and actions are obtained to be carried out within the period that is decided in them.

### **3.- Players involved.**

- Public administrations of national rank
- Public administration of regional rank
- Extremadura Provincial Councils
- Extremadura city councils
- University of Extremadura

- NGO's
- Industry associations
- Parties involved in Invalis

#### **4.- Timeframe.**

The start of these actions has begun in the second half of 2021.

It is proposed to carry out control actions of the actions initiated in the middle of the year 2022 and before the end of the Invalis project, where the results obtained can be presented.

#### **5.- Costs.**

The costs will be limited to the budget of each of the institutions that participate in this action plan.

Once Action I of this action plan has been approved, existing funds may be used for the development of these actions.

#### **6.- Funding.**

The financing and funds to be used will be those existing in each of the parties involved in the development of these actions.

## Signature and stamp

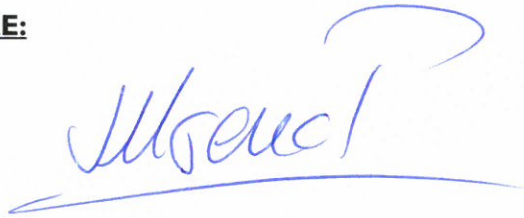
**DATE:**

19 / 10 / 2021

**NAME AND JOB TITLE:**

Jesús Moreno Pérez  
Director General de Sostenibilidad

**SIGNATURE:**



**STAMP OF THE ORGANISATION (if available):**

