



INVALIS
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Action Plan of Latvia

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Regional policy impacted

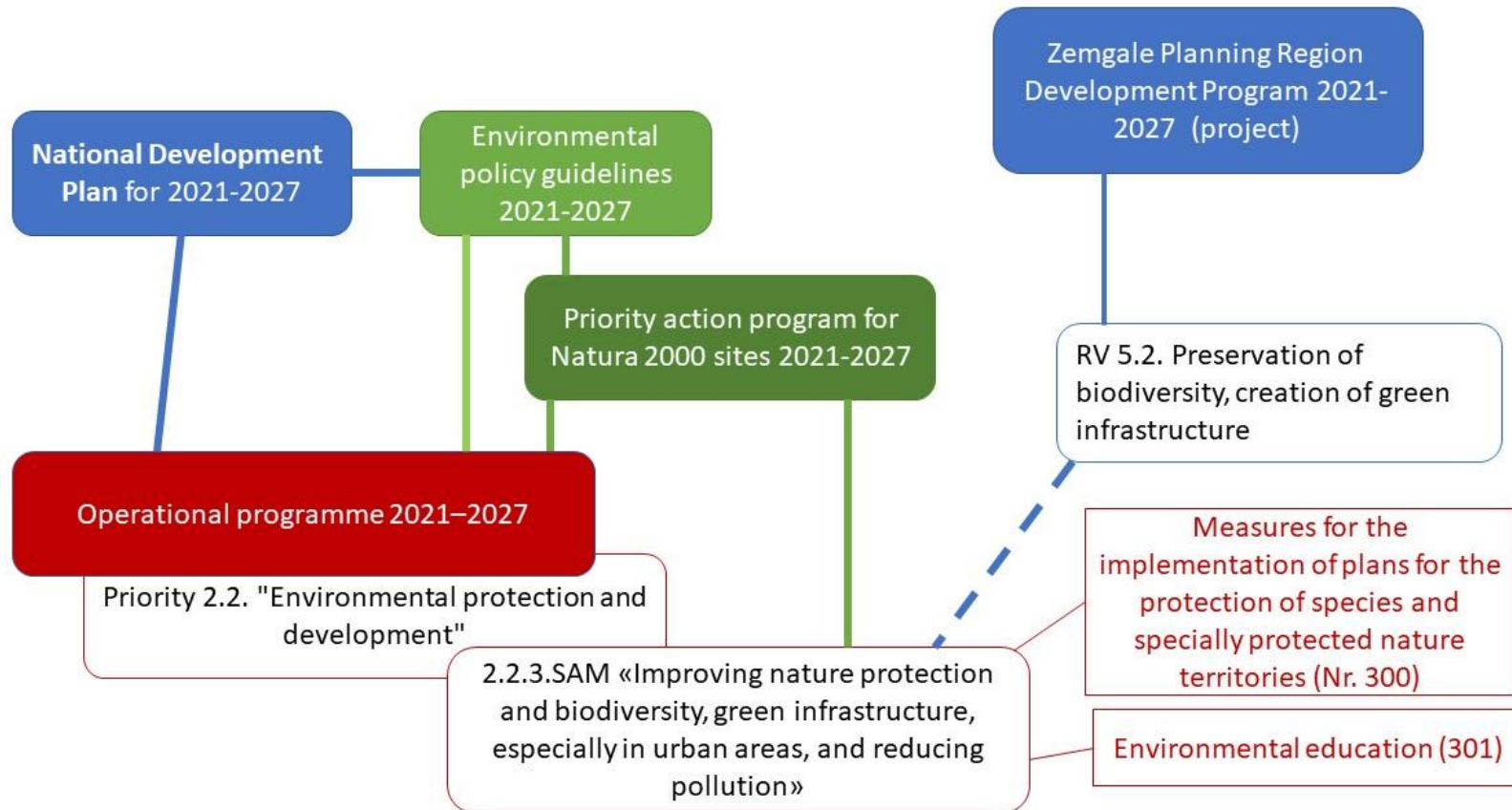
The project application envisaged the preparation of actions for the existing operational program "*Growth and Employment*". This operational program expired in 2020, but the implementation phase of INVALIS project with the preparation of the action plan lasted until May 2021.

Therefore, it was agreed that the action plan for Latvia be developed with the aim to prepare actions for the Latvian Operational Program for 2021-2027.

The impacted policy documents:

- Operational programme for 2021-2027;
- Environmental policy guidelines for 2021-2027;
- Zemgale Planning Region development program for 2021-2027.

Content link between national and regional policy planning documents in the field of IAS governance



Good practices derived from the project

During the implementation of INVALIS project, ZPR has identified the most appropriate practices related to the challenges of Latvian IAS management.

The collected practices demonstrate:

- 1) How to raise public awareness on IAS recognition and identification, using various platforms and mobile applications, where it is possible to find information about the IAS and register their spread;
- 2) How to organize national monitoring and information events, risk assessments and monitoring of the IAS;
- 3) How to involve the public in combating IAS by organizing campaigns and voluntary actions for the restoration of natural areas.



Action 1

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISKS AND IMPACTS OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Activities:

- Informative materials
- Informative events
- Training for different target groups
- Activities for pupils
- Public clean-up (restoration) activities

Action 2

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IAS ERADICATION AND CONTAINMENT MEASURES IN NATURAL AREAS

Activity	Description
Restoration of invaded habitats and ecosystems	Practical activities for the restoration of biodiversity in significantly affected areas, taking into account expert assessments.
Equipment support for combating invasive species	Small grant schemes, small-scale investment projects can support local organizations and municipalities to purchase the necessary equipment to combat IAS in public outdoor spaces and in hard-to-reach and difficult-to-manage places (river valleys, ravines, roadsides).



Small grant schemes



In the spring 2022, Latvian Rural Consultation and Education Center (LLKC) in cooperation with Nature Conservation Agency and Daugavpils University invited to apply for a small grants in order to find out the methods that have not been tested in Latvia yet, but possibly effective for combating IAS.

The competition was implemented within the framework of LIFE-IP LatViaNature project. In total, the project envisaged 2 small grant tenders for a total funding of 50,000 EUR.

EUR 20,000 were available in the first grant competition, with between EUR 1,000 and EUR 5,000 per project. The amount of support is planned to be up to 100%, which means that part of the costs may have to be covered by yourself. If the project is approved, it must be implemented within a maximum of two years from the signing of the contract.

In the first competition for small grants, 5 projects were approved:

- ❑ 4 of them aimed at the control of the Spanish slug *Arion vulgaris* and
- ❑ 1 project at the control of the Canadian goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*.

The approved costs for the implementation of real projects were EUR 19,785.19.



Main challenges encountered

- ❑ AWARENESS: timely and comprehensive dissemination of information is one of the key aspects of limiting IAS;
- ❑ FINANCING.





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Thank you!

