



Natural
Environment
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Change Agency

N.E.C.C.A.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Action Plan of Greece

INVALIS - Final Dissemination Event
Athens
11 October 2022

INVALIS Action Plan Development - Greece

Evaluation of the situation of IAS management in Greece

- State of play at the beginning of the project (2018)
- Developments 2018–2021: legislative framework, research, INVALIS stakeholder meetings etc.
- Identification of gaps

INVALIS: Interregional exchange of experience

- Baseline studies
- Interregional workshops
- Site visits
- EU-wide policy learning event

**INVALIS Action Plan
2021–2023**

Situation of IAS Management in Greece (2021)

- Adoption of Joint Ministerial Decision for implementing the IAS Regulation (EU Regulation no. 1143/2014)
- Project on drafting a national list of IAS of member state concern and organizing a methodology for their risk assessment
- Several other ongoing or completed projects and research programs (LIFE ATIAS, ALAS, Alien Plants in Greece), networks (e.g. ELNAIS) and citizen science initiatives (Alientoma, “Is it alien to you? Share it”)

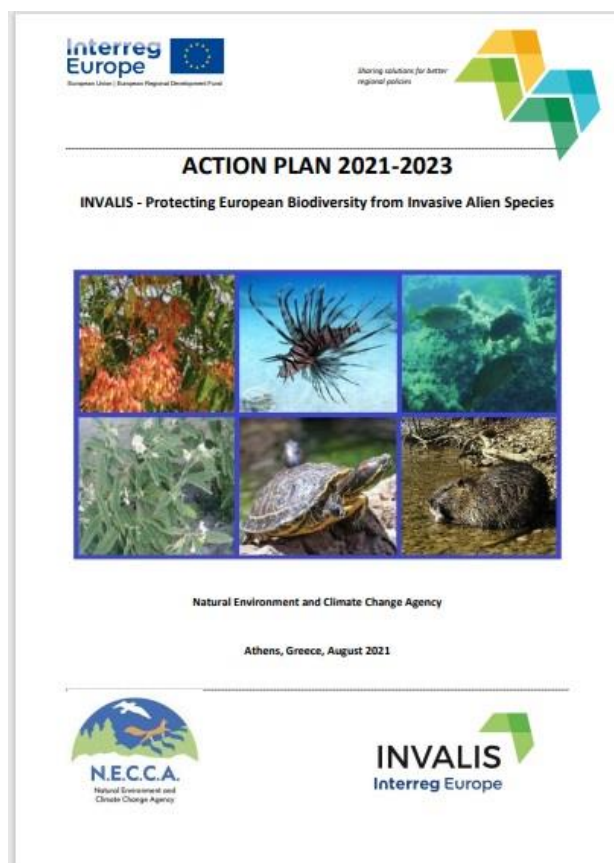
→ Gaps:

- *Limited awareness and understanding of the threats posed by IAS not also by general public, but also of competent authorities.*
- *Networking among stakeholders needs to be maintained and improved*
- *Large amount of data and knowledge, but not always available to policymakers.*

INVALIDIS Action Plan – General Information

- Final Version adopted in August 2021:

https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/tx_tevprojects/library/file_1629970399.pdf



- Three Actions:
 1. Project: Education & Raising Awareness on IAS
 2. Web Portal on IAS
 3. IAS Management Working Group
- They will act as a support to the legal framework and research on IAS

INVALIS Action Plan - Article



Project Report

Protecting Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species by Improving Policy Instruments in Greece: The INVALIS Project Action Plan

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Abstract: The Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species (INVALIS) project objective is to improve policies for protecting biodiversity from invasive alien species (IAS), by bringing together seven partners from seven countries and supporting policy measures for prevention, early detection, and control of IAS in their respective territories. The project is funded by the Interreg Europe program. The learning process of the INVALIS project consisted of various experience-exchanging activities among the project partners (interregional workshops, site visits, etc.), as well as among stakeholders at a regional level. This exchange of experiences led to the drafting of regional Action Plans by each partner. The INVALIS Action Plan of Greece is based on an analysis of the current situation of IAS management in Greece, and the transfer of good practices and conclusions derived from the exchange of experiences. Gaps in IAS management were identified mainly in the areas of raising public awareness of IAS and networking among IAS stakeholders. As a result, three actions were proposed to address these deficits: initiating a project on education and raising awareness about IAS, creating a web portal on these species, and establishing an IAS management working group. These actions will contribute towards improving specific policy instruments in Greece.

Citation: Roussos, O.; Kapetanopoulou, C.; Petza, D. Protecting Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species by Improving Policy Instruments in Greece: The INVALIS Project Action Plan. *J. Mar. Sci. Eng.* **2021**, *9*, 1205. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse9111205>

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Keywords: biological invasions; EU Regulation no. 1143/2014; management; action plan; awareness; stakeholders; networking; Interreg Europe

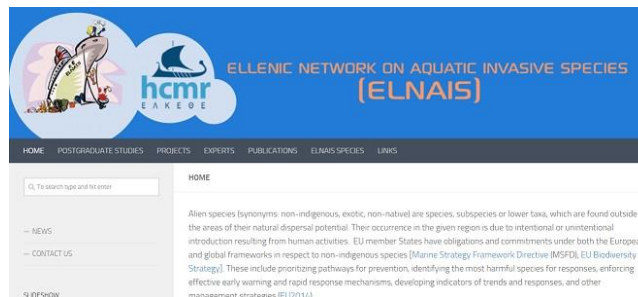
<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1312/9/11/1205>

Action 1 – Project: Education & Raising Awareness on IAS

- Objective: Raising awareness of the public and the competent authorities on the threats related to IAS and the need for management measures
 - Training seminars/workshops on IAS for local & regional authorities
 - Education and awareness-raising in schools
 - Environmental education events
 - Information material for visitors in protected areas, as well as for owners/customers of establishments related to pathways of introduction (e.g., pet shops, plant nurseries, boat owners, divers, port managers)
 - Exhibitions at country's entry points, such as ports or airports
 - TV and radio spots on IAS

Action 2: Web Portal on IAS

- General information on IAS
- Links to IAS-related projects and sites in Greece (e.g. Alien Plants in Greece, ELNAIS, ALAS, LIFE ATIAS, Alientoma) and internationally (e.g. EASIN)



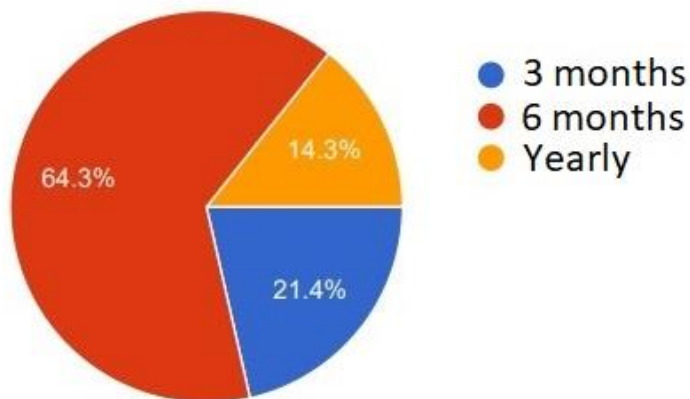
- News related to IAS management in Greece (e.g., scientific publications, new developments on the institutional framework, IAS sightings)
- Educational material, discussion room for IAS stakeholders

Action 3 - IAS Management Working Group

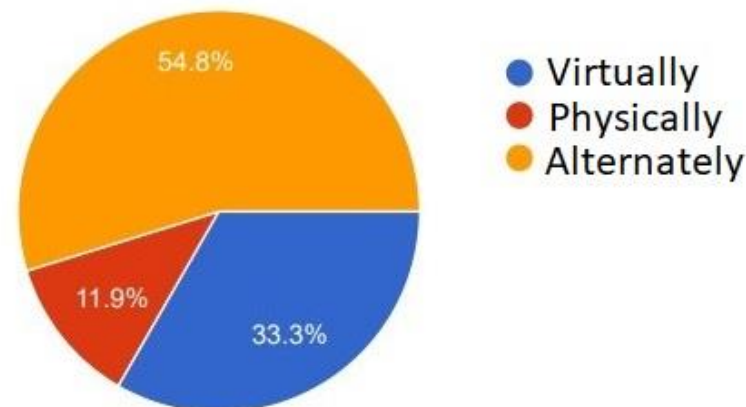
- Based on the INVALIS stakeholders' group already established during the project
- Planned to enlarge it by including, e.g., professional chambers, local fishers' associations, and regional authorities
- Involvement of all stakeholders in management planning → reduce possible hostility towards management measures
- Discussion of IAS project outcomes and policy measures
- Identify requirements for new projects and measures

Action 3 - IAS Management Working Group: Questionnaire Results

Frequency



Virtual vs. physical

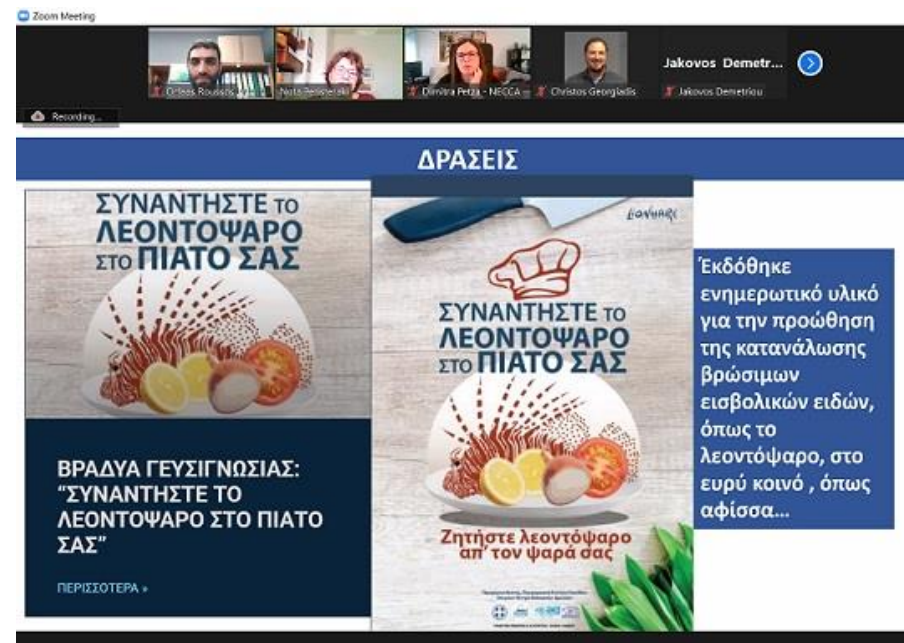
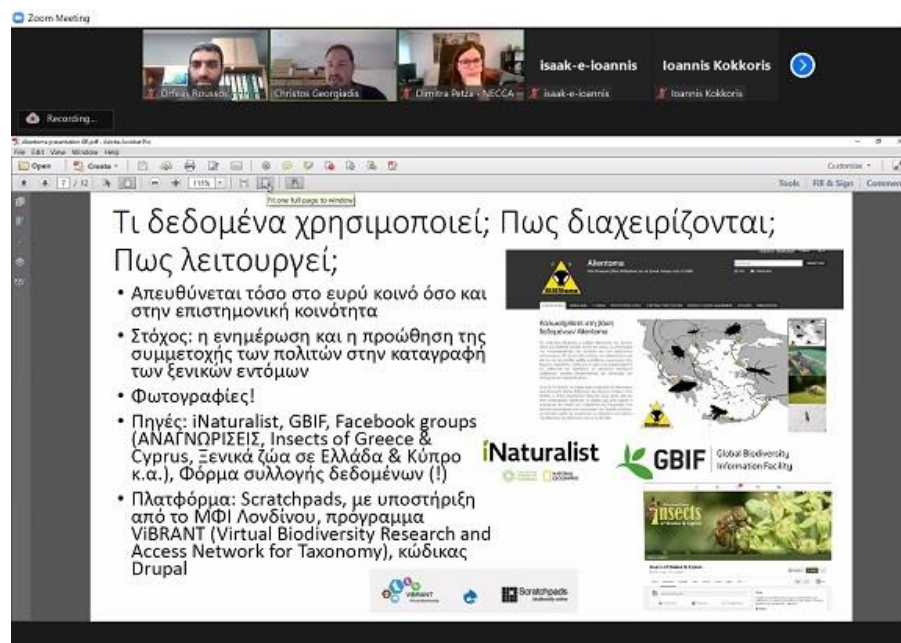


Subjects to be discussed:

- Ways of communicating the IAS problem to a wider public, bioethics
- Dissemination and knowledge transfer to end-users
- Views of citizens/organisations opposed to IAS management measures
- Harmonization of policies on IAS with other related EU policies (e.g., Common Fisheries Policy, Common Agricultural Policy)

Action 3 - IAS Management Working Group

- 1st meeting of Phase 2 (24.11.2021)
 - Focus: raising awareness and networking on Invasive Alien Species



- Next meeting: planned in November/December 2022
 - Focus: project on national IAS list



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Thank you!

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