



# INNOVATION AGAINST POISON

Newsletter N° 1.- 2013 #Winter

Quarterly Newsletter on the LIFE+ Project  
“Innovative Actions against Illegal Poisoning in EU Mediterranean Pilot Areas”



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# Life "Innovation Against Poison" is...



workshops

european  
canine  
team

open days



networks  
sessions



schooltalks



international  
conferences

anti-illegal  
poisoning  
tools



and more...

## Workshop on illegal poisoning for teachers!

*On Tuesday, January 22, 2013, the municipality of Trikala (Greece) held at the council hall the workshop: educational activities under the LIFE + Biodiversity "Innovative Actions against Illegal Poisoning in EU Mediterranean pilot areas» [LIFE09 NAT/ES/000533].*

*The purpose of the workshop was to inform teachers of primary and secondary schools of Trikala about the potential implementation in educational activities of the schools and the awareness raising program that ARCTUROS develops during the 5 years of the Life+ project, until 2015.*

The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Municipality of Trikala, who participates in the program as a member of the European Network of Municipalities Against Poison (ENMAIP) and Leaders School Activities of Primary and Secondary Education.

The workshop included a general presentation of activities of ARCTUROS by Mr Lazaros Georgiadis, Director of Programmes and Coordinator of the IAP Life+ project in GR1 pilot area, focused on the 20 years of wildlife conservation and animal protection in national and international level. Zoi Karanika, Office Technician in GR1 pilot area, presented the IAP Life+ project in GR1 pilot area, focusing on the activities of the project.

The last lecture was presented by Mrs Niki Boulaki, Coordinator of Environmental Education of ARCTUROS. The lecture compile the demonstration and analysis of the special educational presentation that ARCTUROS education team prepared for the need of the IAP Life+ project in the pilot area of continental Greece.



**The European Networks of Municipalities against Illegal Poisoning (ENMAIP) is composed of European Municipalities from 8 pilot areas, 4 in Spain, 2 in Portugal and 2 in Greece (Crete and Trikala) by mutual agreement and synergy, which objective is:**

- > Eliminate illegal use of poisoned baits as a very harmful practice that endangers the health of residents and the environment.
- > Implementation of measures to help fighting the illegal use of poisoned baits with the network and with any other local or national strategy against poisoning.
- > Informing the local population about the dangers and consequences caused by using poisoned baits and support the prosecution of such illegal activities in the region.

We thank the Mayor of Trikala Mr Christos Lappas for the concession of the room, Mr. Alexandros Kofas School Activities Officer of Primary Education and Ms. Heleni Tziotziou Head of School Activities Secondary Education of Trikala for their valuable assistance. They have given crucial help for the success of the workshop as well as a basic and continuous contribution to the effective and efficient implementation of educational activities in schools of Trikala Regional Unity by the voluntary group of ARCTUROS education team.

The workshop host more than 130 attendants and had a very interested and long discussion about the wildlife conservation, the problems of poisoning as well as the implementation of the educational activities in the schools of the Region Unit of Trikala.

## ARCTUROS EDUCATIONAL PROJECT Focused on:

- ~ The introduction of the relations between humans and animals to the pupils.
- ~ The differences of people lifestyle between urban and rural areas.
- ~ The analysis of the differences of the biology and ecology between domestic and wild animals.
- ~ The creation of the status of the relationships between humans, domestic and wild animals.
- ~ The emerging of the basic reasons for conflicts between human and wildlife.
- ~ The proposal of effective measures for the symbiosis and coexistence of humans and Wildlife sending the appropriate message.

## Life project "Innovation against poison" at the workshop "How to apply for LIFE funding" in Spain

The Life project was presented at the workshop about Life funding in Spain, last 4th March, as an example of a Life Biodiversity project being implemented.

Other Spanish projects from Nature & Biodiversity, Environment Policy & Governance and Information & Communication were also presented: Life+ CO2ALGAEFIX, Life+ INDEMARES and Life ConSuma Naturalidad.



Interested parties from the public and private sectors attended the event, devoted to explain the 2013 priorities for LIFE projects at European and national levels. Speakers, including staff from the European Commission, highlighted key considerations for project applicants, particularly important financial and technical issues. Advice was also provided about preparing project applications that have a strong added value in terms of integration with other territorial and sectorial actions.

[More information >>](#)

## Workshop for "Stockbreeding and Biodiversity in Crete"



*The University of Crete – Natural History Museum of Crete (NHMC), in cooperation with the Association of Professional Stockbreeders of Heraklion Prefecture (SEKNH), the Group of Producers Stockbreeders of Crete «Kritika Mitata» and the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece – Branch of Crete (GEOTEEPK), implemented on Wednesday the 13th of February, 2013, a workshop on the topic «Stockbreeding and Biodiversity in Crete».*

The workshop was organized in the framework of the LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity project on "Innovative Actions against Illegal Poisoning in EU Mediterranean Pilot Areas" in the pilot area of Crete (mountainous areas of Idi, Asterousia and Dikti). The Association of Professional Stockbreeders of Heraklion

Prefecture (SEKNH) and the Group of Producers Stockbreeders of Crete «KRITIKA MITATA» are already participating in the project as members of the "European Network of Stockbreeders Against Illegal Poisoning" (ENSAIP).

The main objective of the workshop was to highlight the problem of illegal use of poisoned baits, their impact on biodiversity and its connection to the conservation and development of the primary sector of Crete and especially to livestock breeding. Moreover, the major problems concerning the stockbreeders were discussed.

The workshop could be characterized as a scientific seminar,

as all the presentations were highly informative. The crucial role of a healthy environment in the sustainability of stockbreeding was analyzed by all speakers. Furthermore, the importance of biodiversity in agricultural food chain, on economic development (e.g. tourism) and social cohesion (e.g. by strengthening the image of stockbreeders in local communities) was pointed out.

In addition, public events will be held in order to raise awareness among local communities on the consequences of illegal use of poisoned baits in biodiversity and its importance on the sustainable development of the island.

Within the framework of the Life project, the University of Crete – NHMC, in collaboration with members of the European Network of Stockbreeders Against Illegal Poisoning (ENSAIP), has scheduled to make three (3) more workshops in the aforementioned pilot areas of Crete for year 2013.

## Stockbreeders and hunters attended the public workshop about "Management of Animal Sub-products"

The session was organized by the Gypaetus Foundation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment of the Government of Andalucía, in the framework of the yearly course of the School of Stockbreeders of Andalucía. The meeting gathered around 50 people with high interest on the new regulation about management of animal sub-products.



related to protected feeding areas for scavengers and the sanitary criteria for the abandonment of carcasses and other animal sub-products at extensive livestock areas.

During the debate there were highlighted the administrative process and requirements for the application of the regulations to sheeps and goats, the limits for other type of cattle and the need of broaden the regulation for other cattle in the future.

The training session, organized by the Gypaetus Foundation and the School of Stockbreeders of Andalucía, in the framework of the European Networks of Stockbreeders against Poison, was held on March the 8th, and was part of the complementary actions that the School of Stockbreeders of Andalucía offers in its training schedule.

It was addressed to members of the "European Networks of Stockbreeders against Poison" of the Life project, among other groups, and took place at the municipality of Zahara de la Sierra (Cádiz, Spain). After the presentation of the event, the field technician of the Ronda Range pilot area, Jesús Carrasco, referred the work done during the project in the pilot area as well as the most important results of the actions developed. The representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment of the Government of Andalucía explained important concepts about the different topics

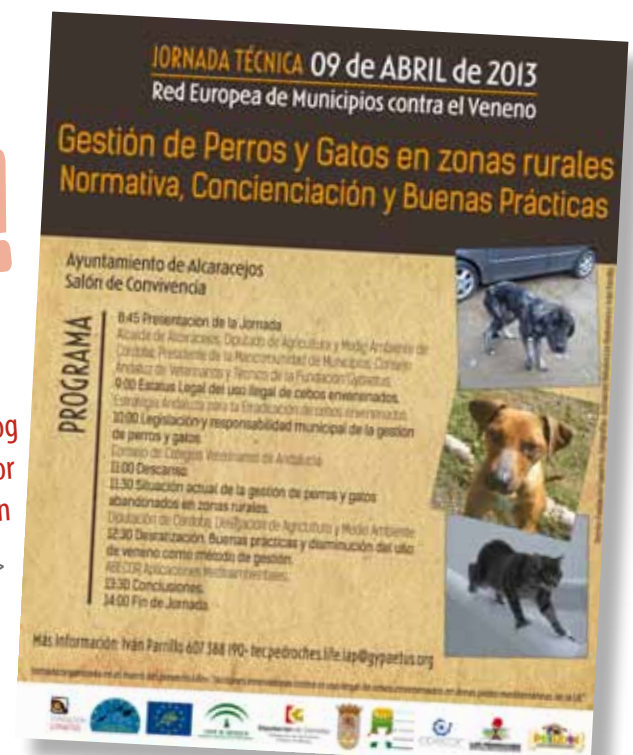
The **SCHOOL OF STOCKBREEDERS OF ANDALUCÍA** is co-financed by the Government of Andalucía and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) programme. It counts with the collaboration of several stockbreeders' associations devoted to endemic protected breeds of goats and sheeps. The School of Stockbreeders also counts with the collaboration of the Grazalema Municipality and other public entities and stockbreeding associations.

**next event !**

**APRIL, 9<sup>TH</sup>. 2013 ~**

**Workshop about "Feral/stray dog and cat control management" for municipalities. Spain**

More information >>



## The ARCTUROS workshop informs managers and civil servants in Antichasia Mountains Koziakas - Meteora-Trikala pilot area

*On Thursday, March 14, the Life project partner ARCTUROS conducted a workshop on "poison baits: Implications for Biodiversity and Techniques of Treatment" at the Public Library auditorium of Kalambaka. The session was developed under the dissemination actions of the LIFE + Nature & Biodiversity "Innovative actions against illegal poisoning in EU Mediterranean pilot areas».*

The purpose of the workshop was to inform managers of public services of the Trikala region, and to start a debate about the effects of the use of poisoned baits on biodiversity and human health. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Municipality of Kalambaka, who participated in the program as a member of the "European Network of Municipalities against Illegal Poisoning", along with the municipalities of Pili and Trikaion.

Attendants included members of the Municipality of Kalambaka, Trikaion and Gate, members of the Monitoring Committee of the Life Project, the Forestry Services of Trikala and Kalambaka, the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Kalambaka, the Trikala Development Agency (KENAKAP) and the Hunting



**The European Network of Municipalities Against the use of poisoned baits joins European Municipalities in 8 pilot sites implementing the program, 4 in Spain, 2 in Portugal and 2 in Greece (Crete and Trikala), promoting agreements and synergies in the fight against illegal poisoning.**

Associations of Gate and Kalambaka participating in the European Network of Hunting Areas against the use of poison.

During the conference, the lecturers made a special presentation of the project activities in Trikala and Crete, explained the effects of the use of poisoned baits over biodiversity, and presented the specific actions of the LIFE program for vultures. It was highlighted the legal framework for the management of stray animals, and the administrative management of rabies in Greece, as poisoned carcasses of animals are the main source of disease transmission and increase the chances of vertical transmission.



## Open days and fieldtrip in Crete. Psiloritis Mountain with the LIFE project "Innovation against Poison"

*The members and friends of the Cultural Association of Gouves participated in a field trip to Psiloritis Mountain (Crete) on Sunday 10th March 2013. The excursion was jointly organized by the University of Crete - Natural History Museum of Crete (NHMC) and the Cultural Association of Gouves within the framework of Open Days Actions of the LIFE+ Biodiversity project.*

In total, 85 members of the Cultural Association of Gouves participated in the trip. The program of the trip included a visit to the Vosakos' Monastery in the Municipality of Mylopotamos (member of the "European Network of Municipalities against Illegal Poisoning" / ENMAIP), a conducted visit to the cave of Sfendoni in the Municipality of Zoniana (member of ENMAIP) and lunch in the village of Anogeia (member of ENMAIP).

On the way to Anogeia, the accompanying scientists from NHMC informed the participants about the network NATURA 2000, the Geopark of Psiloritis Mountain, the importance of the area's biodiversity and the threats to the fauna and flora of the island. Furthermore, the actions of the LIFE IAP project were discussed and a particular reference was made to the problem of illegal use of poisoned baits, its effects on wildlife, biodiversity and public health.

Several participants raised questions about the environment and the issue of poisoned baits. Following the visit to

the cave of Sfendoni, more details for the cave environment and its species were requested by the participants. Also, participants had a chance of birdwatching of Griffon Vultures, which were flying over the village. Before departure information material, brochures and posters, was distributed to all participants.

The University of Crete - NHMC would like to thank the Cultural Association of Gouves and the participants for their cooperation in the successful completion of the field trip.



## next events!

**APRIL, 5<sup>TH</sup>. 2013 ~**

Open Days in Sierra Nevada. Spain

Public talks, awareness raising in the local school and Public Exhibition of the European Canine Team.

More information >>

**APRIL, 14<sup>TH</sup>. 2013 ~**

2nd open day-guided tour. Crete - Greece

Public talks, awareness raising and field trip to the pilot area with the University of Crete - Natural History Museum of Crete.

## Vets, Guardia Civil and Environmental civil servants joined against illegal poisoning in urban areas

*The Life Project "Innovation against poison" organized a working group which joined several stakeholders involved in the fight against the illegal use of poison.*

*During the meetings, the lines of work for collaboration and coordination in the cases of poisoning were settled.*



In recent months, certain municipalities of the Ronda Range pilot area registered a high number of episodes of urban poisoning over pets and feral dogs in parks and streets. Due to the increased use of poisoned baits, which put high risk to the local population and especially the smaller ones, the Ronda Council promoted the organization of a working day.

The field technician of the Gypaetus Foundation in the pilot area coordinated the appointment of the multi-disciplinary team, assisted by the Local Police, Environmental Officers of the Strategy against illegal poisoning of the Regional Government of Andalucía, local vets and Guardia Civil.

The initiative has a very high importance to progress against the illegal use of poisoned baits at local level, as it got together the main groups involved and tried to establish working lines to promote the exchange of information, to homogenize protocols and to facilitate collaboration among groups. A previous meeting took place on November, 2012, where attendants highlighted the need for legal tools

for allegations of poisoned animals

**FREE  
PHONE  
LINE**

Portugal: 800 500 108

Spain: 900 811 482

Continental Greece: 800 11 01 01 01

Crete: 800 11 02 02 02

that reinforce responsible ownership, reducing the abandonment of animals, their feed in public, or possession of dangerous animals, among other bad practices. The second meeting was focused on the need of collaboration between the different bodies with the objective of improving the results of detection and fight of poisoning cases inside the towns.

The Gypaetus Foundation, under the Life project "Innovative Actions against Illegal Poisoning in Mediterranean Pilot Areas of the EU", promotes the union of municipalities through the European Network of Municipalities against Poison, and offers free counseling for conflict resolution.

The Gypaetus Foundation under the Life Project, promotes collaboration of groups involved at the municipal level, but also inter-municipal level, trying to find common solutions to the territory in this problem which threatens our wildlife and our society.



GREECE

# Awareness raising



SPAIN



GREECE



PORTUGAL



SPAIN



PORTUGAL



GREECE

# Awareness raising



SPAIN



PORTUGAL



GREECE



PORTUGAL

## The Life project “Innovation against Poison” participates in national and international conferences and workshops

*As part of the awareness raising actions and communication campaign, the staff of the Life project collaborates with other projects, entities and initiatives in order to spread the important message against the illegal poisoning in the environment.*



### The University of Crete-NHMC attended the International Conference on the Protection of Griffon Vultures in Cyprus, 15/03/2013

On 6-8 March the International Conference on the Protection of Griffon Vultures in Cyprus was held at Hotel Elias Beach Hote in Limassol. The Conference was attended by scientists specialized in vultures from Cyprus and abroad, as well as representatives of government agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned about the protection of this species.

The participants had the opportunity to exchange views and experiences on Griffon vultures conservation, providing their expertise in protecting and enhancing the population, reintroduction of the species, best practices, monitoring and inventory techniques, among other topics. The knowledge shared in the conference will serve to launch an Action Plan and the Protocol for the protection of Vultures in Cyprus.

Participants from the University of Crete –Natural History Museum of Crete were Dr. Michalis Probonas and Dr. Stavros Xirouchakis, who also made a presentation on «Griffon Vultures of Crete: Protection and conservation program of Griffon Vultures».

### The Gypaetus Foundation and Seo BirdLife join efforts against the illegal poisoning in a training session for vets

The Association of Vets for the Attention of Exotic and Wild Fauna (AVAFES) of Barcelona, organized on March the 14th a round table in the Faculty of Veterinary in the Autonomous University of Barcelona with the participation in session of the current Life projects against illegal poisoning in Spain.

David de la Bodega, coordinator of the Life project VENENO, showed the current situation of poisoning in Spain and the main actions that the Life project is executing in the country. The Life “Innovation against Poison” was represented by Iván Parrillo, field technician of the pilot area of Pedroches Range. Iván referred the example of the Andalucía region and the key actions developed in the field with the stakeholders involved.

The event ended with an interesting debate when many questions about poisoning and the Spanish procedures were clarified by the lecturers, who gave a relevant value to the figure of the vet as a rural interlocutor between the groups involved in the municipalities.

[Other events >>](#)



## Life Antidoto conference: “Strategy against illegal poisoning of wildlife in Italy”

*The Conference about the Italian strategy against illegal poisoning of wildlife took place in Roma (Italy) on February the 28th, 2013, in the facilities of the Ministry of Health.*

*The event was organized by the Gran Sasso-Monti della Laga National Park, in the framework of the Life project ANTIDOTO.*



The conference was attended by around 200 experts among vets, civil servants, Italian forestry officers and biologists. Several organizations participated along the lectures, which counted with presentations of the Ministry of Health, Civil Guards, the Forestry Service, the National Park Gran Sasso-Monti della Laga and the Andalucía Regional Government.

The more relevant highlighted topics were related to the current regulation about the illegal use of poisoned baits in Italy, the role of the different groups involved, as well as the obstacles founded by the police and vets bodies in poisoning cases.

The Italian Strategy against illegal poisoning includes a proposal about regulation, and must be considered the first reference for those bodies who want to fight this serious problem. This proposal has been elaborated in collaboration with biologists, technicians and vets, and compiles the orders and fines that are currently distributed among many different regulations. The Strategy also proposes new protocols for the groups involved, that is vets, police and public administration.

**All the documents related with the Italian Strategy against Poison and the conference are available at [www.lifeantidoto.it](http://www.lifeantidoto.it).**

## Life projects

### **LIFE07 NAT/IT/000436 ANTIDOTO - A new strategy against the poisoning of large carnivores and scavengers raptors**

The project's overall aim is to achieve effective preservation of large carnivores - wolves and bears - and of various species of scavenger raptor, in specific areas of Italy and Spain.

It seeks to develop an integrated strategy covering reduction in the risk of poisoning, mitigating conflict between large carnivores and farmers, and restocking key species in target areas.

The project will set up and manage Anti-Poison Units to directly oversee reductions in the use of poison on large carnivores and raptors in the Gran Sasso Park and Aragon and to encourage the adoption by Italian national bodies of measures to prevent such poisoning.

It plans to prepare a feasibility plan in cooperation with local stakeholders for re-stocking griffon vultures in both areas and to implement the plan. It intends to support this work with awareness-raising activities at national level on the threats to these species and the possibilities for harmonious coexistence.

## EVENTS & NEWS IN SHORT



### The University of Crete-Natural History Museum of Crete participate in the festival "Environment-Crisis-Development"

The University of Crete-Natural History Museum of Crete (UoC-NHMC) in cooperation with the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos participated in the two days festival themed "Environment-Crisis-Development". The festival was organized by the Ecological Movement of Mirabello on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th of February 2013, in Agios Nikolaos.

[More information >>](#)



### APRIL, 5<sup>TH</sup>. 2013 ~ Technical workshop for hunters: "Management of populations of Wild rabbit and Red Partridge". Spain

Training session organized for members of the European Networks of Hunters against Poison in Mágina Range Pilot Area. The session is free. During the event there will be treated different topics related to the management and handling of Wild Rabbit and Red Partridge populations, and debates on the illegal use of poison baits and the anti-illegal poisoning tools addressed to hunters.

[More information >>](#)



### MAY, 11<sup>TH</sup>. 2013 ~ Networks session and public demonstration of the European Canine Team in the Municipality of Moura

Moura's Municipality, in the Portuguese pilot area "Moura-Mourão-Barrancos" will hold on May a session with the contribution of the Life project and a public demonstration of the European Canine Team. The event is a specific communication session that will involve hunting associations, farmers and local population.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Facebook Greece: LIFE Against Poison Crete

Blog Greece: [lifeagainstopoison.wordpress](http://lifeagainstopoison.wordpress)



### Partners



### Co-financers



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