



## Integrating biodiversity protection and socio-economic development: issues and options

An European workshop organized by the LIFE+ Alister project<sup>1</sup>

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Representation of the French Grand-Est Region - 15, rue du Luxembourg B - 1000 Brussels

### Introduction

Biodiversity remains today strongly impacted and degraded by human activities, despite national, European and international regulatory frameworks that promote the protection of an increasing number of species, habitats and ecosystem types – and of biodiversity overall. The state and health of ecosystems remain fragile, and species and habitats continue to be lost every day as a result of farming practices, the development of transport infrastructure, urban development, tourism, climate change.... The simplification of the landscape in many rural areas, combined with the pressures imposed (directly or indirectly) by mankind remains a high priority concern in Europe. Past (decreasing) trends in the population of the European Hamster in the Alsace plain is one example among many endangered species that might disappear as a result of the multiple pressures that are imposed on the European Hamster and on its habitats.

Approaches for protecting biodiversity can build on: (1) establishing “protected areas” within which human activities are strongly regulated (or banned); or (2) integrating biodiversity protection needs into the practices, investments and processes of human activities so as to ensure an adequate functioning of ecosystems for responding to the needs of species. The second approach, potentially more challenging in the short term as requiring “changes in perception/practice/behavior” at relevant territorial scales, might however be more promising in the medium to long term.

### What? The objectives of the workshop

In this context, the partners of the LIFE + Alister project are organizing an European workshop which objectives are the following:

<sup>1</sup> [www.grand-hamster.Alsace.eu](http://www.grand-hamster.Alsace.eu)

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**Objective 1 – Which solutions that « account for » the functioning of ecosystems and the needs of species can be implemented by economic operators and land planning actors? And what are the pre-conditions for ensuring these solutions are implemented and effective?**

**Objective 2 – Which opportunities in the existing European (biodiversity & socio-economic) regulatory framework can be seized – or adaptation in the framework proposed - so as to strengthen the integration of biodiversity protection into socio-economic development?**

The workshop has an **operational and practical focus**, the intention being to share solutions and approaches that address a wide range of biodiversity issues (species & habitats) and that have been tested, implemented and evaluated. The workshop focuses on a **diversity of habitats/species of rural plain areas** to identify common challenges/solutions and those that are specific to some contexts, habitats/species and sectors (agriculture, transport infrastructure, urban & tourism developments...).

## When – and where?

The workshop takes place in Brussels on **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

It is hosted at the premises of the **representation of the French Grand Est Region in Brussels**: 15, rue du Luxembourg B - 1000 Brussels ([www.europe-grandest.eu](http://www.europe-grandest.eu)).

## Who?

The workshop targets three different target audiences : **Operational stakeholders** of rural territories that are involved in land use and development strategies and projects and/or in the protection of species and habitats – professionals (agriculture, urban development...), nature protection managers, government and local authorities services, civil society organizations... ; **Researchers** – natural sciences, geographers, agronomists, social scientists, economists... ; **Decision makers** at different scales (local, regional, national and European) in charge of the development and implementation of biodiversity and sector policies

## How? Proposed workshop agenda

The European workshop combines plenary sessions, time for individual thinking and interactive group work, and a final plenary session. It builds on the results of the **LIFE + Alister** project combined with experiences from other research, demonstration and operational projects. The agenda of the workshop is presented below.

Time	Session & focus of presentations	Speakers
10h00	Registration and welcome coffee/tea	
10h30	<b>Session I – Introduction</b>	
	Welcome	<b>Nicolas Wurm</b> , Bureau Europe, Région Grand Est
	Addressing the <b>challenges of biodiversity for the Grand Est Region in France</b>	<b>Christèle Willer</b> , vice-president of the Région Grand Est (France)
	<b>The Alister LIFE + in a nutshell</b>	<b>Sarah Pinkélé</b> , Région Grand Est, coordinator of the Alister project & <b>Eric Thouvenot</b> , DREAL Grand Est, coordinator of the Hamster National Action Plan (France)
	The <b>workshop</b> : objectives, expected results & agenda	<b>Pierre Strosser</b> , ACTeon
11h00	<b>Session II – Setting the scene</b>	
	Integrating biodiversity and socio-economic development: <b>the example of the protection of the Great Hamster in Alsace</b>	<b>Sarah Pinkélé &amp; Pierre Strosser</b>
	Integrating biodiversity & socio-economic development: <b>lessons from LIFE projects</b>	<b>Maja Mikosinska</b> , European Commission, EASME
	<b>Questions-answers</b>	

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Time	Session & focus of presentations	Speakers
<b>11h30</b>	<b>Session III - Solutions in practice, and pre-conditions for their effective implementation</b>	
	<b>Zoom 1 - Solutions at the scale of field, farm &amp; management units</b> Integrating the <b>needs of the European hamster</b> in field/farm practices Permanent covers in <b>conservation agriculture</b> : lessons from experience Interactive discussion	<b>Alister project team</b>  <b>Simon Dierickx</b> – Greenotech (Belgium) tbc*
	<b>Zoom 2 - Managing landscape at the territorial scale</b> Protecting & <b>connecting!</b> Moving beyond traditional habitat protection for the European Hamster in Alsace How can agriculture management support <b>wild life protection?</b> Interactive discussion	<b>Alister project team</b>  <b>François Omnès</b> - ONCFS, (France)
<b>13h00</b>	Lunch break	
<b>13h45</b>	<b>Zoom 3 - Integrating biodiversity protection into value chain and wider territorial plans</b> - Promoting the development of <b>high-value products</b> to internalize biodiversity protection in farm strategies - <b>Widening stakeholder mobilization</b> for supporting biodiversity protection: experiences from the <b>PACA Region</b> (France) - From a <b>German experience</b> to results of the <b>PEGASUS H2020</b> project  Interactive discussion	<b>Jørgen Bidstrup &amp; Hanne Stadsgaard Jensen</b> , LIFE Naturman (Denmark) <b>Cynthia Llas</b> , coordinator of LIFE Habitats Calanques (France) <b>Simone Sterly</b> , Institut für Ländliche Strukturforshung an der J.W.Goethe-Universitat (Germany)
	<b>Extracting key messages: general discussion</b>	All participants
<b>15h00</b>	<b>Session IV - Seizing opportunities in the EU policy framework at different decision making scales</b>	
	<b>A roundtable discussion with....</b>	<b>Harm Kossen &amp; Maurice Lahaye</b> (The Netherlands, Hamster WorkGroup) <b>Angelo Innamorati</b> (DG Agriculture) <b>Olivier de Sadeleer</b> – Europarc (Belgium) <b>Eric Thouvenot</b> - DREAL Grand Est (France) <b>Flavio Conti/ Carlos de la Paz</b> – European Network for Rural Development (Belgium)
<b>16h30</b>	<b>End of the workshop &amp; drinks</b>	

#### For more information, to contact ...

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