



LIFE FOR EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC MONITORING SYSTEM

# LIFE GEN MON Newsletter

First year of LIFE GEN MON  
2015/1



## ABOUT LIFE GEN MON

The aim of the LIFE GEN MON project is to support long-term maintenance of adaptability of forest genetic resources to the changing environment through **development of a system for European forest genetic monitoring**. The project is co-funded by the **European LIFE** (the Financial Instrument for the Environment) and **local funding agencies**. It combines efforts of **6 partners from 3 European countries** (Germany, Greece and Slovenia); it is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Hojka Kraigher, **Slovenian Forestry Institute**, and lasts **from July 2014 until June 2020**; the total budget is **5.484.162 €**.

## LIFE GEN MON ACTIONS

- A. **Preparatory Action** (Action leader: Dr. Barbara Fussi)
- B. **Implementation Actions**
  - B1. **Definition of optimal criteria and indicators** (Action leader: Prof. Dr. F. A. Aravanopoulos),
  - B2. **Preparation of guidelines and management strategies** (Action leaders: Dr. Monika Konnert, Dr. Roland Baier), and
  - B3. **Policy guidelines** (Action leaders: Prof. Dr. Hojka Kraigher, Dr. Marjana Westergren)
- C. **Monitoring of the Impact of the Project Actions** (Action leader: Veronika Vodlan)
- D. **Communication and Dissemination Actions** (Action leader: Boris Rantaša)
- E. **Project Management and Monitoring the Project's Progress** (Action leaders: Prof. Dr. Hojka Kraigher, Tjaša Baloh)

### A. Preparatory Actions

Preparatory Action activities began in July 2014 with the formalization of National Focal Points (NFPs) from countries between Germany and Greece, and the establishment of the Advisory Board. The most notable activities were the **two LIFE GEN MON Transect Drives**, which took the project team through Central and South-East Europe to obtain information **about forests, legislation, forest research and monitoring** and to **discuss the importance of forest genetic monitoring with NFPs**. Information on other existing long-term study plots have been compiled and their characteristics described. Definitions, concepts and the relevant literature were collected and a **review paper on forest genetic monitoring concepts** was **submitted to an open access journal**.



### B. Implementation Actions

Forest genetic monitoring sites for two species, the European beech and silver fir, were selected and described in Slovenia, Germany and Greece (two per country). **Plots for both species were established and samples for genetic analysis were collected**. Procedures for the description of plots, collection of samples and phenological observations were prepared, and ring tests for genetic analysis initiated. **Monitoring regions were delineated for seven keystone species** within the LIFE GEN MON transect, discussed within the team and with NFPs, and are now being prepared for publication.



## C. Monitoring of the Impact of the Project Actions

The role of CNVOS, the Internal Project Monitor, is to **make sure that the project has a sustainable impact on targeted stakeholder groups, and that the whole community** benefits from forests and their services. It **regularly follows the progress made, checking the deliverables, outcomes and targets set**. In addition, its purpose is to foster understanding about particular issues within the project and with external stakeholders.



## D. Communication and Dissemination Actions

In 2014, the **LIFEGENMON visual identity and basic communication tools were created**. The project website was initiated, together with **profiles on social networks**. About 10,000 visits to the website have been recorded in the first year. The project has been directly introduced to **over 1,500 children, teachers, families, forestry professionals, scientists and others** at events that were organized or co-organized by the project. LIFEGENMON was presented to the media at the 2015 Slovenian Forest Week press conference. Several print, radio, TV and on-line publications about the project and its topics were published. The project team also appeared at fairs in **Slovenia, Germany and Greece**.

## E. Project Management

The project management team has prepared **Standard of Operations for project management**, the **project's risk matrix** and implemented a **financial reporting system** on the partner and project levels. The **Advisory Board (AB)** was established at the beginning of the project, and its first meeting took place in Teisendorf, Germany, just after the first **Technical Board (TB) meeting**. Additional TB meetings were organized in Thessaloniki and Ljubljana. At the second AB meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, the **draft of Inception report was prepared, which was later accepted by the European Commission**. The project management team has been busy networking – an important presentation has been made at the **EUFORGEN Steering Committee** just before the project started, among others.



## VISIT US

If you are interested in our project and would like to know more or if you would like to talk to us, please visit our website <http://www.lifegenmon.si/> and social networks:

 [facebook.com/lifegenmon](https://facebook.com/lifegenmon)  [twitter.com/lifegenmon](https://twitter.com/lifegenmon)  [linkedin.com/company/lifegenmon](https://linkedin.com/company/lifegenmon)

Slovenia:



**GOZDARSKI INŠTITUT SLOVENIJE**  
SLOVENIAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE

Slovenian Forestry Institute  
(coordinating beneficiary)



**ZAVOD za GOZDOVE SLOVENIJE**

Slovenia Forest Service



Centre for Information Service, Co-operation  
and Development of NGOs

Greece:



Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki, Faculty  
of Forestry and  
Natural Environment



Hellenic Republic -  
Decentralized Administration  
of Macedonia & Thrace  
General Directorate of Forests  
& Rural Affairs

Germany:



Bavarian Office for Forest  
Seeding and Planting

Impressum / LIFEGENMON Newsletter / First Year of LIFEGENMON 2015/1 / ISSN 2463-8102 / Publisher: Slovenian Forestry Institute, the *Sliva Slovenica* Publishing Centre / Editor in chief: Prof. Dr. Hojka Kraigher / Technical editor: Boris Rantaša / Language editor: Prevajalska zadruga Soglasnik, z.o.o. / Design: Iz principa / Print: Birografika Bori, d.o.o. / Circulation: 500 copies / The newsletter is published on the [www.lifegenmon.si](http://www.lifegenmon.si) website in PDF format / Contact: Slovenian Forestry Institute – the LIFEGENMON project, Večna pot 2, SI-1001 Ljubljana, Slovenia, e-mail: [info@gozdis.si](mailto:info@gozdis.si)



**Sliva Slovenica**



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SPATIAL PLANNING



Project is financially  
supported by the  
European Union's LIFE  
financial mechanism.



LIFE FOR EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC MONITORING SYSTEM