

BioDiVine: *Demonstrating Biodiversity in viticulture landscapes*

The **Life+ 2009 BioDiVine** project is about managing biodiversity in vines through landscape. Prevention of pests, diseases and weeds, as well as preservation of soil from erosion or chemical alterations by overuse, salinisation, acidification, or other chemical soil contamination, may be considered at different hierarchical scales. While the field scale has traditionally received much interest in strategic and applied research, the higher hierarchical scales of landscape have only recently gained consideration. Interdisciplinary research on issues such as functional biodiversity and landscape connectivity demonstrates that new options arise when systems managements are approached from landscape scale. Over the last decades, many attempts have been made to enhance the quantity and quality of semi-natural elements left in the countryside such as hedges, groves or ground covers.

Most mentioned reasons for the improvement of such habitats are:

- ❖ To contribute to **nature conservation** (food, shelter, migration habitats of plants and animals)
- ❖ To **improve environmental quality** (buffer strips to prevent pesticides and nutrients contamination)
- ❖ To promote the **aesthetic and legacy** values of the countryside.

The LIFE+ 2009 BIODIVINE projects is about emphasizing the above motivations, by enlarging its scope at a **landscape level**; and also suggest **management plans using biological struggle through conservation** to demonstrate and enforce the **reliability of functional biodiversity**.

BioDiVine in short

- **6 partners** from three EU member states (France, Portugal and Spain)
- Budget: **1 951 043€** - EU financial contribution: **959523 €** (49.18% of total eligible budget)
- Concrete conservation actions:
 - ✓ Introduction of ground covers
 - ✓ Introduction of diversified hedges
 - ✓ Reorganization of low walls and other layout (slopes...)
 - ✓ Use of pheromones
 - ✓ Reorganization of headlands.



For more information, please, visit us at: <http://www.biodivine.eu/>

Recent news

6th Progress meeting:

The 6th Progress Meeting took place on Monday 08th and Tuesday 09th in Gradignan, France, and on Wednesday 10th in La Grajera, Spain.

Partners presented progress regarding conservation actions and biodiversity measures and explained what is planned for the rest of the project. Progress done so far and objectives to achieve have been discussed and agreed with the European Commission. The After-LIFE actions have also been discussed.

The next progress meeting will take place in October in Nîmes, France, organized by IFV.

On Monday afternoon - 08 April 2013 - VITINNOV organized, with the "Conseil des Vins de Saint-Emilion", a site visit where partners and European Commission have met 4 winegrowers and seen several conservation actions that have been implemented in Saint-Emilion.

On Tuesday morning - 09 April 2013 - both technical and financial issues have been checked by the European Commission.

On Wednesday morning - 10 April 2013 - the European Commission has visited the Spanish site of La Rioja. The visit of La Grajera's site was animated by ICVV and Mr. Juan Bautista Chavarri (Director of La Grajera).



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E-mail: paula.lopez-paredes@ec.europa.eu

URL: https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanCommission/app_386310531430573



Recent news

Brussels unveils green performance scheme for products

The European Commission has proposed EU-wide methods for companies to measure and communicate their 'greenness' and the environmental footprint of their products.

The voluntary scheme, called Building the Single Market for Green Products, will make use of the EU Joint Research Centre's controversial "lifecycle assessment" method (LCA) for calculating the environmental performance of a product.

A three-year testing period will begin after the Commission adopts the communication, aimed at developing product-specific green rules and benchmarks, easing the application of environmental footprint methods by companies, and assessing different compliance and verification systems.

The EU executive will also weigh different strategies for communicating the green credentials of products and organisations to consumers, including packaging and pricing signals.

Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik told reporters on Tuesday (9 April): "To boost sustainable growth, we need to make sure that the most resource-efficient and environmentally-friendly products on the market are known and recognisable. By giving people reliable and comparable information about the environmental impacts and credentials of products and organisations, we enable them to choose. And by helping companies to align their methods we cut their costs and administrative burdens."

Companies now wishing to highlight their green credentials must handpick from the many different methods recommended by governments and private organisations, which often confuse consumers and incur high costs.

The communication proposes EU-wide standards as well as recommendations for companies and organisations on how to carry them out.

Lifecycle assessment

Last month, three major European industrial associations wrote to Commission President José Manuel Barroso expressing their concerns at the use of environmental footprint methodology in EU legislation.

The consumer organisation ANEC, the engineering industries group Orgalime, and the automobiles association ACEA - whose members include BMW group, Daimler, Ford of Europe and Fiat - said the methodology risked exposing companies to unfair competition and market distortion as consumers may base their buying decisions on unreliable and misleading information.

They also claimed the green methodology would not do justice to the complexity of global supply chains.

ACEA's secretary-general, Ivan Hodac, said: "LCA ignores the complexity and diversity of products and supply chains: the current 'one-size-fits-all approach' of the suggested methodology overlooks the diversity and variety of the different products made available to consumers. Only the making of an engine, for example, consists of a multitude of different components, parts and materials that are sourced in complex, multi-layer, global supply chains".

Recent news

Eurocommerce, the European retail and international trade group, said it supported the environmental methodology but called for the Commission scheme to remain voluntary.

Christian Verschueren, director-general of Eurocommerce, said of the EU paper: "This is a step in the right direction. It should provide all actors with clear guidance to help them calculate their environmental footprint. However, the proposed methodologies are just one of many options. Retailers and wholesalers already use a variety of effective means to calculate their environmental impact. One size will not fit all in this instance. It is therefore essential for the commerce sector that the implementation of this new European proposal remains voluntary."

According to a recent Eurobarometer poll, 48% of European consumers said they were confused by the wealth of environmental information and various certifications on the market.

There are more than 400 environmental labels and 80 mainstream methodologies and initiatives worldwide, the Commission said.

NEXT STEPS:

2013-2016: Three-year testing period for environmental footprint methodology and communication strategy for products and organisations

2016: Beginning of in-depth evaluation of the results of the testing period with a view to further policy action.

Upcoming event

18th International Symposium GiESCO 2013

2013-07-07 to 2013-07-11

Porto, Portugal

The 18th International Symposium GiESCO 2013 (Group of international Experts of vitivinicultural Systems for CoOperation) takes place from July 7th to 11th at the Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto – Portugal. The Symposium will cover the main fields of viticultural sciences, and it will be expected to join about 200 presentations (oral and poster) by 250 researchers and scientists from more than 17 countries.

Started as a European group, by Alain Carbonneau and colleagues, GiESCO, originally focused on training systems and ecophysiology, studies nowadays an extended number of topics of basic and applied Viticulture.

This Symposium is also a good occasion to visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ALTO DOURO WINE VALLEY and PORTO HISTORICAL CENTER, and to know the latest advances in Viticulture and Portuguese wines production.

The LIFE+ BioDiVine project will then be highlighted by the presence of the partner ADVID in the organization of the meeting as well as the organization of site visits in the Douro vineyards, where BioDiVine is taking place.

URL: <http://www.fc.up.pt/giesco2013/index.html#PORTUGAL>