

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

The 5th Progress Meeting – Limoux, France.

The 5th Progress Meeting took place on Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 October 2012 in Limoux, France.

Partners presented progress regarding conservation actions and biodiversity measures and explained what is planned for Autumn 2012 and Spring 2013, as well as the concrete objectives expected for the end of the project.

Partners also presented communication actions that have been done so far and those that are planned by the end of the project on each site.

The next progress meeting will take place in May in Douro, Portugal, organized by ADVID.

On Wednesday evening - 17 October 2012 - VITINNOV organized, with the Chamber of Agriculture, a meeting addressed to local winegrowers to present the BioDiVine project and the 2012 results for the French sites.

On Thursday afternoon - 18 October 2012 - VITIINOV and the Chamber of Agriculture have organized a site visit with a winegrower to see some concrete actions implemented in Limoux (hedges, groundcovers...).



Building biodiversity back into the wine business – London, UK.

“May 22nd is International Day for Biological Diversity; this year's theme, Biodiversity and Agriculture, aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable agriculture to preserve biodiversity but also to feed the world, maintain livelihoods, and enhance human well-being.”

The article of Earthwatch Institute focuses on Biodiversity in vineyards : “The impact of this widespread monoculture on biodiversity is significant. Wine producers, consumers and traders are becoming increasingly environmentally conscious.” This institute created also a project in order to protect biodiversity by measuring it: the Earthwatch project, called “Sampling Vineyard Ecology and Biodiversity in Bordeaux”, and based at Château les Vergnes (Gironde) aims to promote farmscaping practices to enhance biodiversity at the regional level in grape growing areas. To achieve this goal, appropriate methods have to be developed to quantify biodiversity in a simple and efficient way that can be used by non-experts. These techniques will empower farmers to be able to measure biodiversity in their vineyards and to assess the efficacy of techniques applied to boost biodiversity on their land.

To read the article of the Earthwatch Institute:

http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/expeditions/exped_research_focus/rf_bordeaux.html



Upcoming events

The 2013 LIFE+ Call for Proposals will be published on 19 February 2013



The seventh LIFE+ call for proposals was published by the European Commission on 19 February 2013, with up to 278 million available for co-financing of projects under three headings: Nature and Biodiversity (NAT); Environment Policy and Governance (ENV); and Information and Communication (INF).

Project proposals should be submitted to the relevant national authority using the eProposal tool no later than 16:00 hours (Brussels time) on 25 June 2013.

Member States will forward proposals to the European Commission by 5 July, 2013. The earliest possible starting date for 2013 projects is 1 June, 2014.

Please note that applicants must only use the eProposal tool to create and submit proposal(s) under the 2013 LIFE+ Call for Proposals.

To read more information about the 7th LIFE+ call for proposals:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus2013/call/index.htm>