

LIFE SAFE-CROSSING

ACTION E6. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Proceedings of international conference – August 2023



Proceedings of the Final Conference, 17-18 May 2023, Sulmona, Italy

The final international conference of the LIFE SAFE-CROSSING project was held on 17-18 May 2023 in Sulmona, Italy, in the “Auditorium dell’Annunziata”. The conference itself was held on the whole day of 17 May and on the morning of 18 May, whereas on the 18 May afternoon there has been a field visit to the project area.

The final conference was an opportunity to present the results obtained during the implementation of the project and to discuss and compare with similar studies and initiatives that have been carried out in Italy and the rest of Europe.

Twenty-four presentations were made by experts from 9 European Countries and North America, regarding all different aspects concerning the impact of linear infrastructures on biodiversity.

We enjoyed over 120 participants from all over Europe. Participation was mainly in person, but also round 20 persons joined the conference remotely.

An important aspect of the conference has been the participation of several different interest groups: research organizations, protected areas, NGOs, private companies, conservation projects, key authorities such as road and motorway management companies as well as public authorities.

The conference was divided in the following sessions:

17 May:

- Introductory session, including greetings and keynote speech
- Monitoring and prevention of wildlife-vehicle collisions
- Improving habitat connectivity and the permeability of the roads

18 May morning:

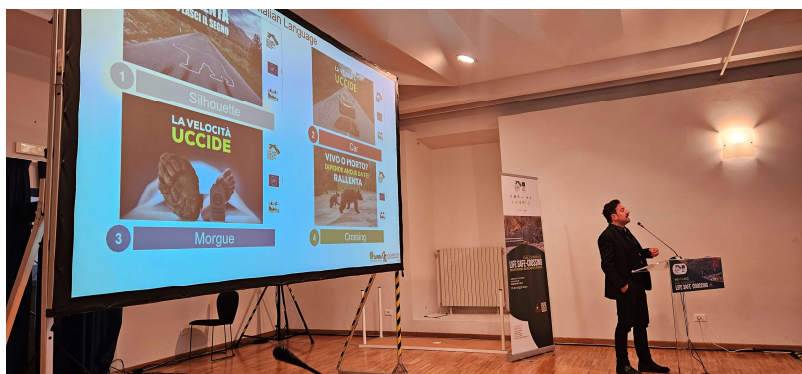
- Awareness raising and information campaigns to promote a responsible driving behaviour
- Stakeholder involvement in the management of the impact of linear infrastructures on biodiversity

These sessions reflected the structure of the LIFE SAFE-CROSSING activities. In each session the first presentations were made by partners of the project for giving an insight into what has been done in the project, and then the discussion was extended by presentations from other projects and initiatives. The conference was closed by a podium discussion with key stakeholders in order to learn more about the tasks and point of view of those who have responsibilities in the management of roads and accidents with wildlife to ensure the safety of drivers. We enjoyed the contributions from representatives of ANAS, the Abruzzo Region and Prefecture, the Greek partner Egnatia Odos, the Terni Province as well as the Maiella National Park and Abruzzo Lazio e Molise National Park.

The field visit on the 18th May afternoon was attended by round 30 persons and involved the visit to two AVC PS systems, a segment of virtual fence, crossing structures and road information panels. This was very important to show the concrete interventions carried out and to explain the functioning of the different mitigation tools directly on the road.

The conference recording can be viewed at the following links where it’s possible to view and listen all the presentations:

- 17 May 2023: <https://youtu.be/9CaHgtMzCww>
- 18 May 2023: <https://youtu.be/RZpxVsOGClc>



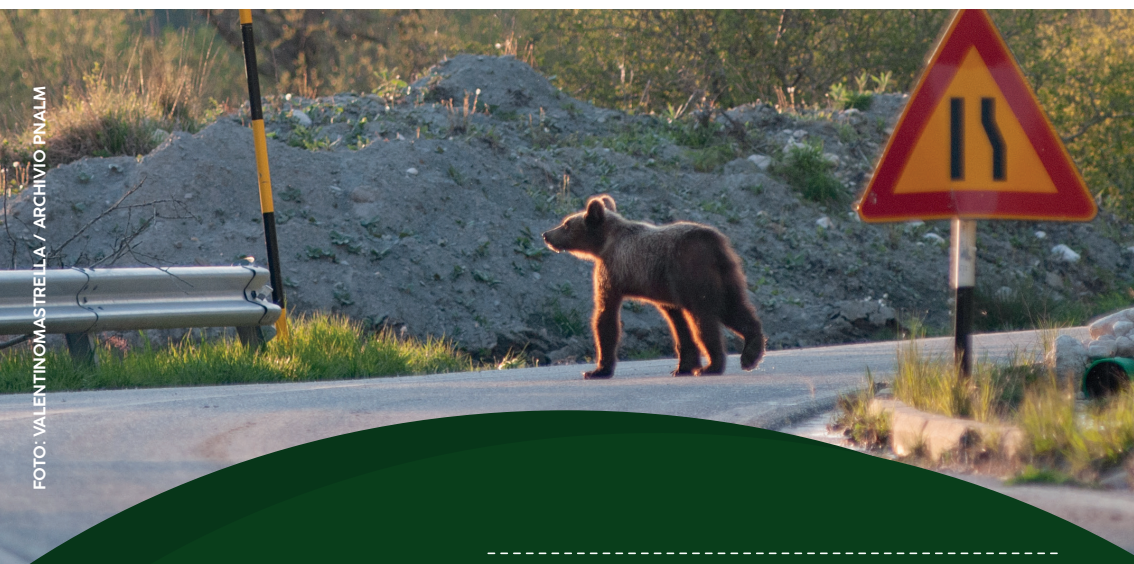




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FINAL CONFERENCE

LIFE SAFE-CROSSING

WILDLIFE AND ROADS: MULTIPLE ASPECTS OF AN ISSUE

Auditorium S.S. Annunziata
Corso Ovidio 231
SULMONA (AQ), ITALY

may **17-18** 2023



9.00

Registration

9.30

Opening Talk

The Changing Landscape of
Transportation: Designing Roads for
Wildlife Conservation

Antony Clevenger, *Montana State University, USA*

The role of LIFE SAFE-CROSSING for conservation

The LIFE SAFE-CROSSING - Overview of
the project

Annette Mertens, *Agristudio*

Session 1.

Animal-Vehicle Collision monitoring and prevention

Animal-Vehicle Collision Prevention
Systems as a prevention tool: general
considerations from the LIFE SAFE
CROSSING project

Simone Ricci, *Agristudio*

Use of electronic devices to prevent
AMCs: a suggested approach based
on the experience gained in the
Maiella National Park

Giovanna di Domenico, Antonio Antonucci,
Maiella National Park, Italy

Ex-ante and ex-post monitoring
and evaluation of underpasses use
by brown bears on motorway A29,
Greece

**Yorgos Mertzanis, Maria Petridou, Olivier
Gimenez, Maria Psaralexi, George
Lyberopoulos, Elina Theodoropoulou,
Yiannis Tsaknakis, Athanasios Tragos, Yorgos
Lazaros**, *COSMOTE and CALLISTO*

Insights in the brown bear population
and mitigation measures for the
habitat fragmentation in Romania

Mihai Fedorca, *INCDS, Iulia Baci, FC, Romania*

11.30

Coffee break

12.00

On the challenges related to
determination of WVC safety measure
effectiveness

Michal Bil, *Transport Research Centre Brno,
Czech Republic*

Developing acoustic deterrent system
to prevent ungulate collisions on
Scandinavian railways

**Andreas Seiler* & Mattias Olsson, Aina
Winsvold, Svein Eilertsen, Carolin Berndt,
Manisha Bhardwaj**, **Department of Ecology,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU,
Uppsala, Sweden*

Reducing brown bear traffic caused
mortality on the motorway A6 in
Croatia

Djuro Huber, *Veterinary Faculty of Zagreb*

Questions and discussion

13.30

Lunch

14.30

Session 2.

Improving connectivity

The activities in SAFE CROSSING and
the interventions to reduce bear
vehicle collisions on the A25 highway
by Abruzzo Lazio and Molise National
Park

**Luciano Sammarone, Roberta Latini, Daniela
D'Amico**, *Abruzzo Lazio e Molise National park*

Guidelines to improve the use of
crossing structures by large carnivore

Carme Rosell, *Minuartia, Spain*

To restore and maintain ecological
corridors on EU-level: First results
of the EU-Project BISON

**Marita Böttcher, Cindy Baierl und Heinrich
Reck**, *Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany*

Road ecology activities to enhance
bear coexistence corridors
complementing the action of the LIFE
Bear Smart Corridors project

Mario Cipollone, *Rewilding Apennines*

16.30

Coffee break

17.00

The reduction of environmental fragmentation in the Alta Val di Susa: a case study

Paola Bertotto and Paola Violino, *LIFE Wolfalps*

Cross-sectoral integrative approach for securing functional connectivity at landscape level

Radu Mot, *Zarand, Romania*

21st Century: A Paradigm Shift in Iberian Lynx Conservation

Javier Salcedo, *LIFE LYNXCONNECT, Junta de Andalucía, Spain*

Questions and discussion

18.00

End of working sessions

DAY 2 MAY 18 2023

9.30

Session 3. Awareness raising and information

Neuroscience in support of creativity and environmental communication

Simone D'Alessandro, *Università degli Studi di Chieti-Pescara, Italy*

Exploring the replicability potential of LIFE SAFE CROSSING in LIFE LYNXCONNECT

Marcos Lopez Parra and Matias de las Heras, *AMAYA, Junta de Andalucía, Spain*

Harmonization of green and grey infrastructure. The BISON Learning Hub and Online handbook

Carme Rosell, Minuartia and Maros Finka, *Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia*

Session 4. Stakeholder involvement

Improving the structures of Egnatia Motorway against fragmentation

Niki Voumvoulaki, *Egnatia Odos S.A., Greece*

The BISON project - Mobility and biodiversity at a nexus of challenges for policies

Charlotte Navarro, *Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité, France*

Combining GIS and SWOT analysis for enhancing ecological connectivity in the Alpine-Adriatic Area

Filippo Favilli, *Eurac Research*

The Safe Crossing theme as a need of the local community: how the topic emerged within the Life ARCPROM project

Anna Crimella, Giovanna Di Domenico, Antonio Antonucci, *Maiella National Park*

The cooperation of ANAS (Italian road authority) with the LIFE SAFE-CROSSING project for reducing the impact on bears

Antonio Marasco, *ANAS*

11.30

Coffee break

12.00

Stakeholder discussion

13.00

Lunch

15.00

Field visit to interventions in the area



Organizing Secretariat



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How to reach the conference



From Highway A14 North/South

Take the E80/A25 exit towards Rome

Continue on A25/E80

Take the exit Pratola P-Sulmona towards Sulmona/Pratola Peligna

Continue on Strada Statale 5 Dir. Take Strada Statale 17/SS17 and Viale della Repubblica in the direction of Vico dell'Ospedale in Sulmona



From Rome (Highway A24)

Follow A24 and A25/E80 towards Strada Statale 5 Dir in Pratola Peligna.

Take the exit Pratola P-Sulmona from A25/E80

Continue on Strada Statale 5 Dir. Take Strada Statale 17/SS17 and Viale della Repubblica in the direction of Vico dell'Ospedale in Sulmona



From Railway Station (2.0 km - 27 min)

Turn right and take Viale Stazione Centrale

At the roundabout take the 1st exit and take Viale Roosevelt

Continue on Corso Ovidio

