



## **Finvasive-LIFE (LIFE17 NAT/FI/000528)**

Awareness building, surveying and controlling invasive alien species (IAS) in Finland

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# Finvasive-LIFE - Putting EU policies into practice

- **EU's biodiversity strategy** to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020 requires that
  - **Invasive Alien Species are identified**
  - **Priority species are controlled or eradicated**
  - **Pathways are managed** to prevent the introduction of new invasive species
- **EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (1143/2014)** entered into force on 1 January 2015
- The core of the IAS Regulation is the **list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern** and a **set of measures** to be taken on them by Member States:
  - **Prevention**
    - Preventing the intentional or unintentional introduction of IAS
  - **Early detection and rapid eradication**
    - A surveillance system to detect the presence of IAS as early as possible and rapid eradication measures to prevent them from establishing.
  - **Management**
    - If IAS of Union concern are already established, concerted management action is needed to prevent them from spreading and to minimize the harm.



# Key figures and facts on Finvasive-LIFE

Duration 02-JUL-2018 to 31-DEC -  
2023

Total budget 2,473,531.00 €

EU contribution 1,484,118.00 €



- Coordinating beneficiary Finnish Nature Conservation Union
  - first Finnish LIFE project managed by NGO

Finvasive LIFE (LIFE17NAT/FI/000528)



## Associated beneficiaries:



The Martha Organization (NGO)



The Finnish Nature League – Luonto-Liitto (NGO)



University of Helsinki / Natural History Museum



Natural Resources Institute Finland



City of Jyväskylä (130 000 inhabitants)



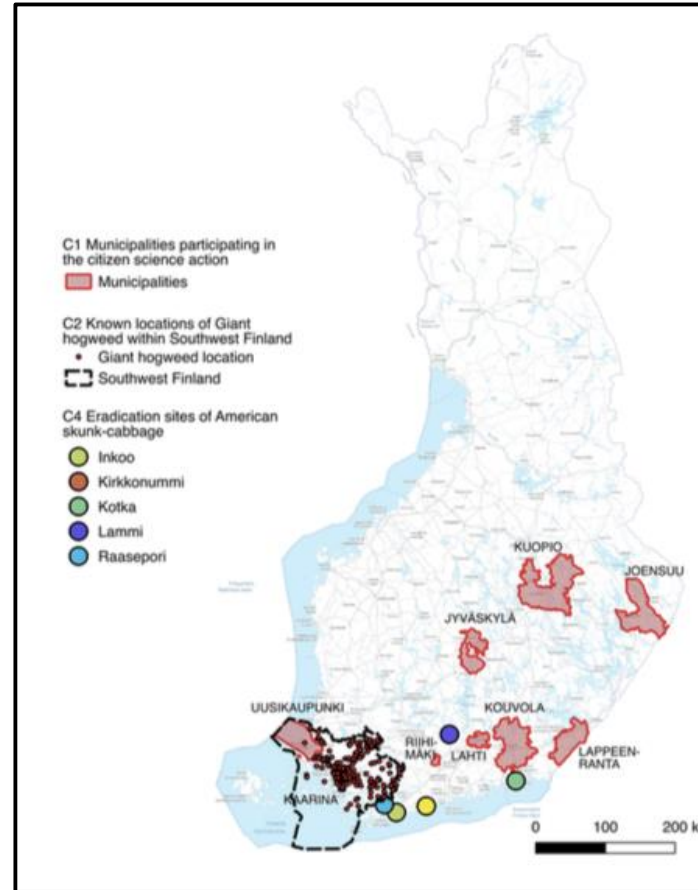
City of Riihimäki (30 000 inhabs)

Invasive LIFE (LIFE17NAT/FI/000528)



# Specific objectives of Finvasive-LIFE

- Reduce unintentional spreading of IAS through education
- Increase the general public's knowledge of IAS and relevant legislation
- Develop a framework for cooperation among stakeholders for future control of IAS in Finland
- Develop and disseminate knowledge of non-chemical eradication methods
- Eradicate and control three invasive plant species of Union concern.



# Three invasive plant species of Union concern specifically targeted by Finvasive-LIFE

## Himalayn Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

- Already widespread in Finland
- Relatively well known and easy to identify
- Efficient eradication by weeding can be done by almost anybody – no special skills or equipment needed
- Total eradication no longer feasible – mapping and prioritization of control measures important



→ **Get involved!**

## Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum persicum* -group)

- Widespread especially in Southern Finland
- National IAS strategy aims at complete eradication
- Causes severe harm to human health → eradication only by professionals
- Total eradication still possible, but requires systematic and long-term action and collaboration



→ **Complete eradication is difficult but not impossible!**

## American Skunk-gabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)

- Has invaded natural areas in less than 10 known localities in Finland
- Total eradication is the goal – Finvasive-LIFE takes part in the effort
- Was quite recently still sold as an ornamental plant



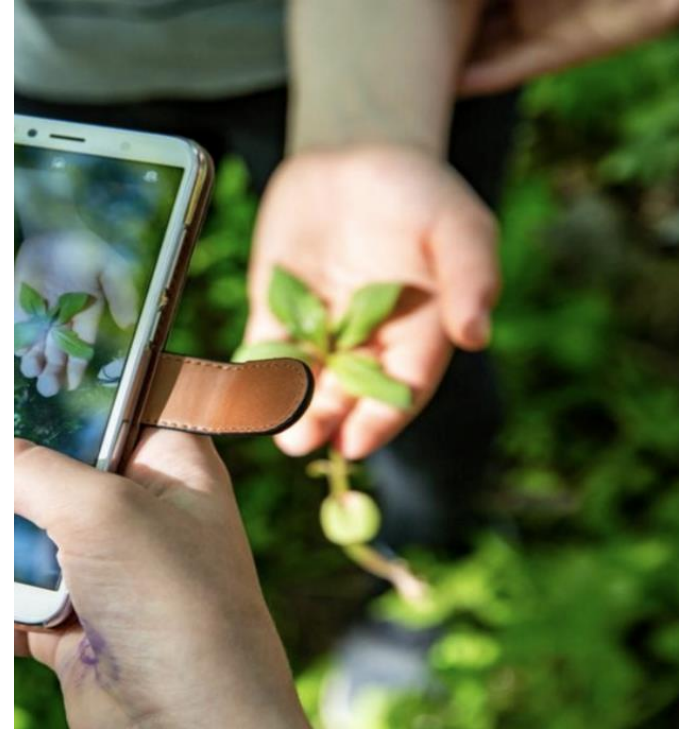
→ **Gardeners be aware!**

# Action A1 Developing a Citizen Science IAS portal and its services

Practical IAS information tools for citizens - public service focusing on the project, communication and participation

- Citizen science tool for submitting observations on IAS
- Gateway to data, map services and comprehensive information on IAS
- Network of eradication sites established for long term monitoring of eradication
- Reporting service and discussion forum
- Species Identification tools
- Integral part of the national IAS portal [www.vieraslajit.fi](http://www.vieraslajit.fi)
- Available at <https://viekas.laji.fi/>

**LUOMUS**  
LUONNONTIETEELLINEN KESKUSMUSEO



# Raising awareness on IAS, pathways of dispersal and eradication and control methods – citizens as target group

## Action C1 Citizen science against Himalayan balsam

- Teaching **citizens** to survey IAS and report findings
- Teaching citizens to eradicate Himalayan balsam and report the effort through Finnish IAS portal
- Founding an IAS citizen science network and providing support for citizen scientists
- Goal is to have 500 highly active citizen scientists, 5000 who significantly support the eradication and 50 000 citizens who have participated at least once in education or eradication

## Action A4 Developing stakeholder cooperation against IAS

- How to make citizen science an integral part of the work done in **municipalities** against IAS
- Goal is to produce a model of good practices and distribute it widely

## Action E2 Awareness raising in target groups

- E.g. trainings, interactive online lectures and chat consultations for **gardening hobbyists and private gardeners** (the Marthas)
- Training package, training lessons and a webinar for universities teaching green infrastructure building
- 50 open IAS lectures and 6 interactive online lectures

## Action E5 School ambassadors

- Finnish Nature League organizes lessons to **pupils of 7th-9th grades and students in vocational education in the fields of gardening and nature management**
- Organizing at least 100 school visits per year in 2019-2021, reaching total of 6600 students





# Large-scale eradication of IAS – Giant Hogweed and American Skunk-cabbage



## **Action C4 Eradication of American skunk-cabbage**

Target: Eradication in 5 sites where the species has dispersed to nature (all known localities in Finland)



## **Action C2 Eradication of Giant Hogweeds**

Target: Eradication of ca 360 sites in Southwestern Finland (all localities known in the region in 2016)

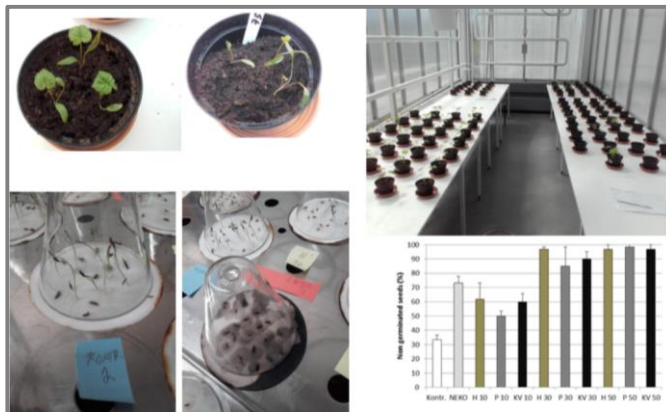
# Action C3 Developing a non-herbicide method to eradicate Giant Hogweed

## Research on efficiency of biodegradable liquid mulching for controlling giant hogweed

- Mixture of birch tar oil & peat & water used for mulching
- Compared with other controlling measures (plastic mulches and herbicides) in field and pot experiments
- Costs of various Giant Hogweed control measures will be calculated
- Literature survey

## Information on best non-herbicide management practices of terrestrial IAS plants compiled and published

- Comprehensive report written (also in English) based on literature survey and experiences gained during the project
- Production of 10 video tutorials
- Scientific conference presentations and scientific papers compiled
- Articles produced for professional journals



# Action C5 Demonstrative methods of IAS eradication by local authorities

## City of Riihimäki

- Eradication of Himalayan Balsam in city parks and recreational areas in Riihimäki
- Eradication team members are unemployed & in need of social services – the objective is to improve their well-being by offering meaningful team working experiences in nature



Suur-Jyväskylän Lehti Julkaistu 14.08.2019 15:19

## Lampaat tekivät Jyväskylässä kesällä sen, mihin ihmiset eivät ole pystyneet



Katso 2 kuvaa

Vehkalammen puistossa 60 lammasta osallistui tänä kesänä valtakunnalliseen hankkeeseen. Osa lampaista palasi kotiin jo aiemmin, ja loputkin lähtevät tällä viikolla. Kuokkalassa lampaat ovat ohikulkijoiden ilona vielä parisen viikkoa. Kuva: Jussi Komulainen

### Näitä luetaan juuri nyt

Palokkalainen tilasi pizzaa kotikuljetuksella, paikalle tarvittiin pelastuslaitos – "Enemmän ihmeteltiin, miten auto on tuonne saatu"

Pelityhti kertoo "erittäin poikkeuksellista" vedonlyömistä Big Brother -kohteessa – näiden kohteiden tarjoaminen päättyy r...

Jyväskyläläinen lähihoitaja lähtee Temptation Islandille viettelemään varattuja miehiä – "Mun kanssa saa nauttia täysin rintoihin!"

Isä pyysi pojaltaan apua verkkopankin käyttöön Jyväskylässä – kohta tilillä puuttä lähes kymppitonnin!

Polisi: Näyttävien ratsioiden kohteena rikollisjärjestö United Brotherhood – operaatioita myös Jyväskylässä

Keltimäessä miestä selkään puukottaneen le vankilatuomio – lääkäriin sormi nousi keskeiseksi oikeudenkäynnissä

### Uusimmat

## City of Jyväskylä

- Testing sheep grazing as a method for eradication of Himalayan Balsam in a 8 ha forested park
- Very successful first eradication summer 2019
- Over 30 000 visitors to the site – lot of media coverage and opportunities to educate people about IAS

# Raising awareness on IAS, pathways of dispersal and eradication and control methods – municipalities as target group

## Action A4 Developing stakeholder cooperation against IAS

- How to make citizen science an integral part of the work done in municipalities against IAS
- Goal is to produce a model of good practices

## Action E3 Transferability and replication of project results

- A framework model for municipalities on IAS eradication, developed based on experiences gained during the project
- Information on best non-herbicide management practices of terrestrial IAS plants compiled and published
- Reporting on the experiences gained and best practices developed during the project in eradication experiments of Giant Hogweeds

## Action E4 Networking very important also at national level





**Thank you for your attention!**

[www.sll.fi/viekas-life](http://www.sll.fi/viekas-life)

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