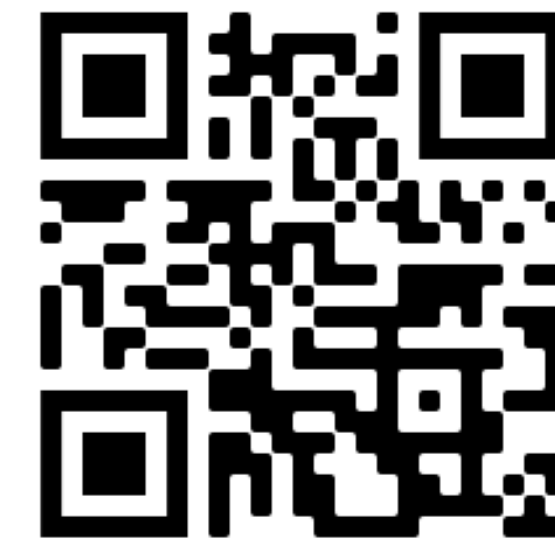


# A socio-ecological evaluation of wetlands restoration and reintroduction programs in favour of the emblematic European pond turtle and associated biodiversity: a pan-European approach



by the *Emys-R Consortium*

contact: [jean-yves.georges@iphc.cnrs.fr](mailto:jean-yves.georges@iphc.cnrs.fr)



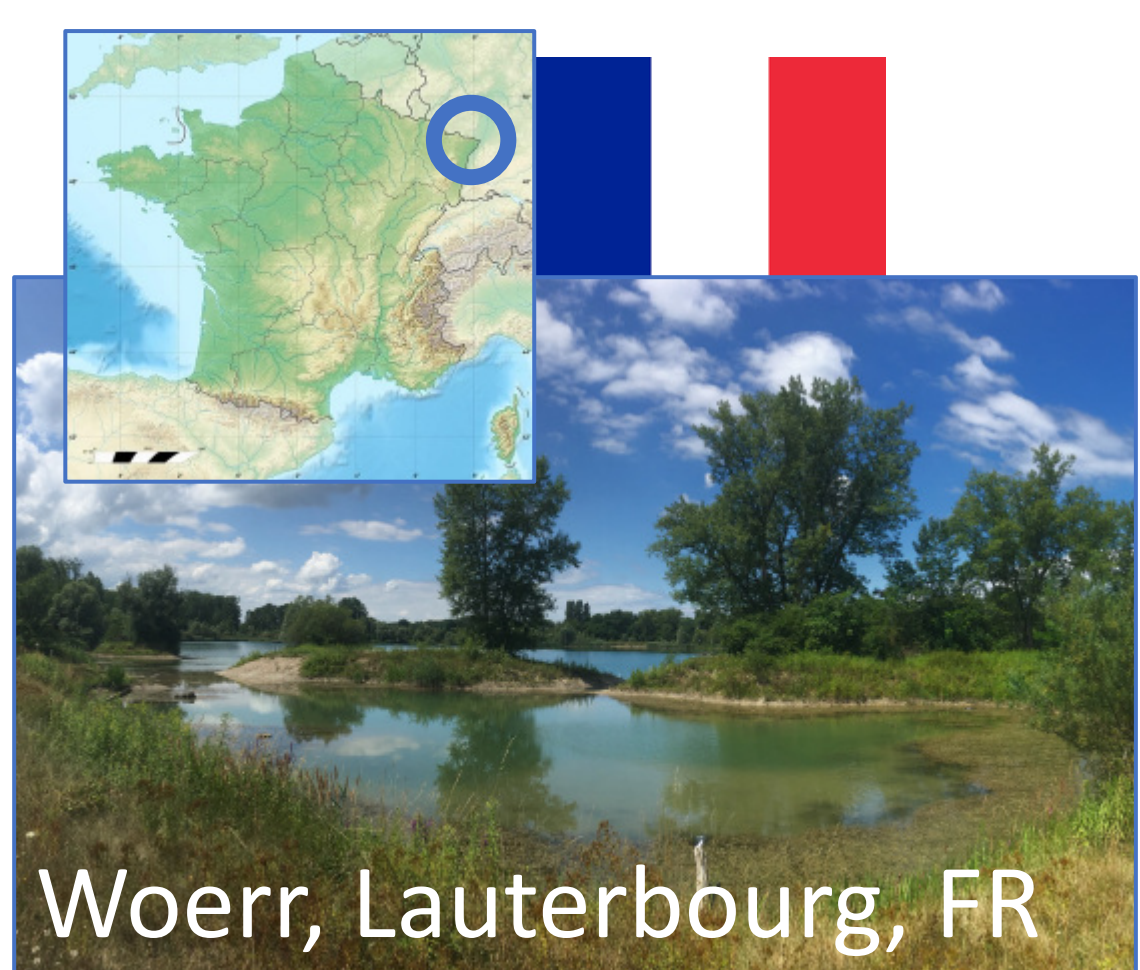
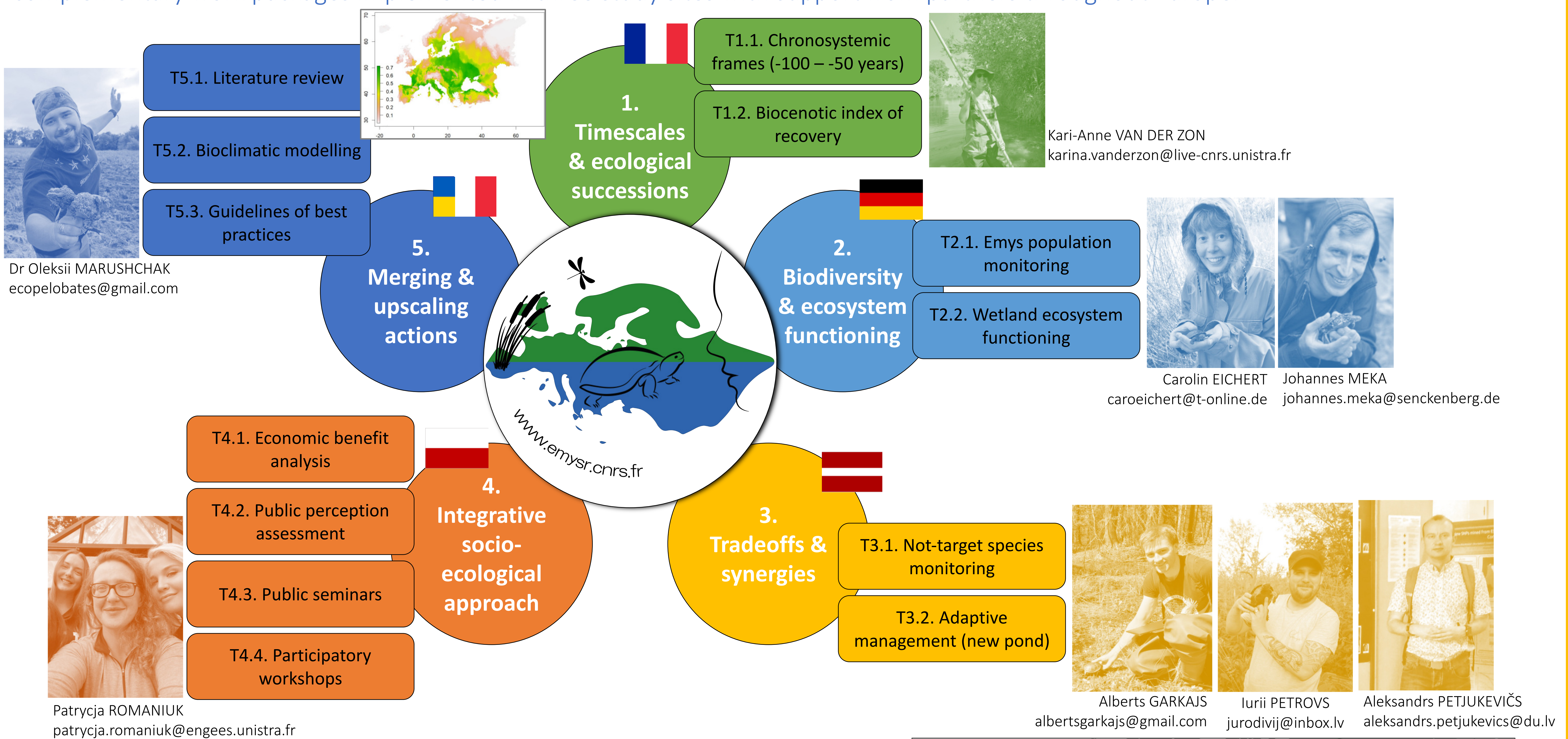
Emys-R is a pan-European transdisciplinary participatory action-oriented research project aiming at defining the most effective, socially supported, ecological methods to restore wetlands in favour of the European pond turtle reintroduction and associated biodiversity throughout Europe.

In Europe where wetlands have declined by 90% since the 1700s, the European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis* has suffered the most dramatic decline of all reptiles. This small-sized turtle emblematic of wetlands has benefited numerous conservation initiatives throughout Europe. Yet the actual results of these projects have been little disseminated.

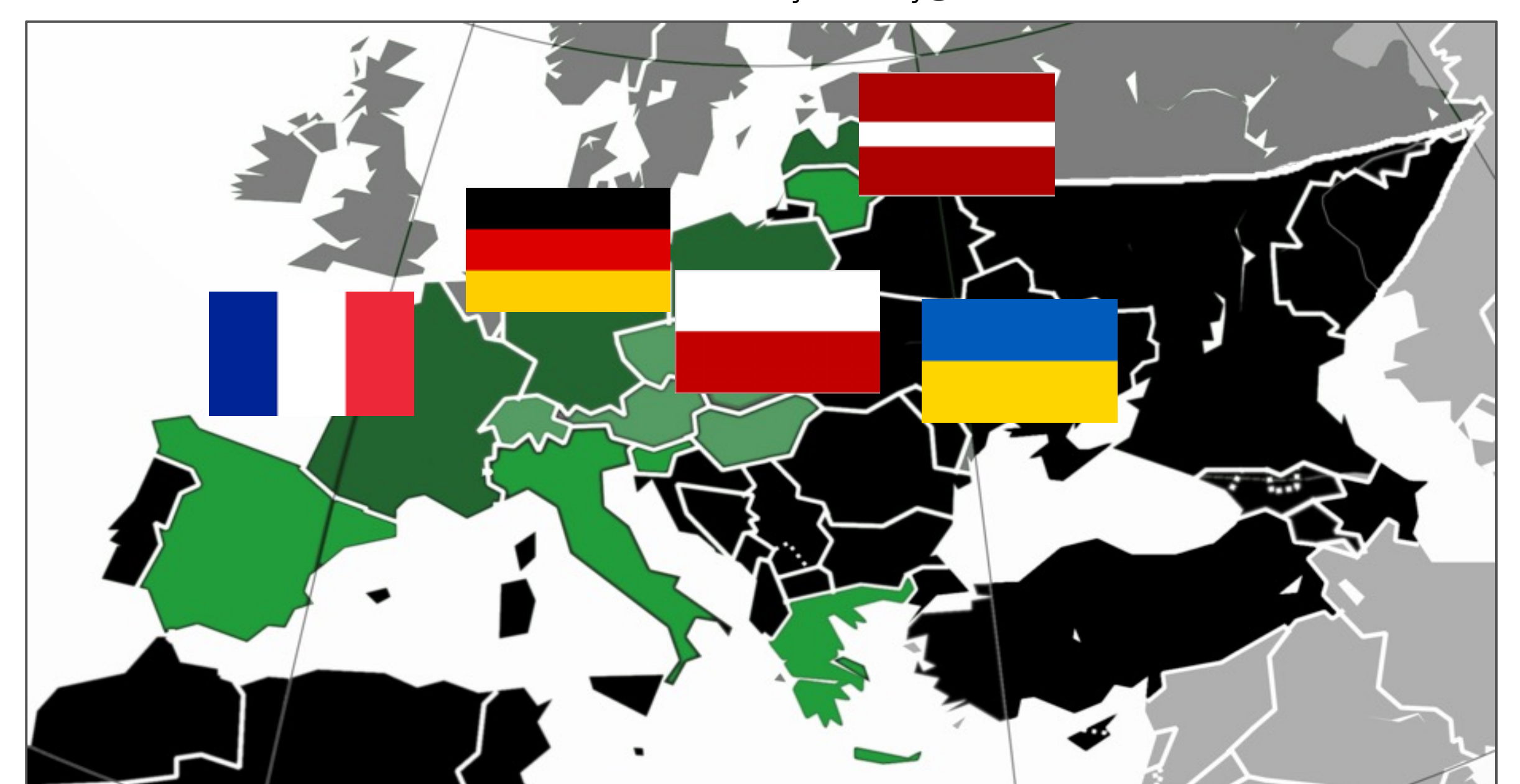
In the context of the 6<sup>th</sup> crisis of biodiversity loss, habitat restoration and species reintroduction are considered to be an operational strategy for limiting biodiversity erosion. Species reintroductions consist of releasing captive-bred individuals of a species in its formerly natural habitat. They are open-air experiments both basic and applied that may contribute to Human-Nature connectedness as a pathway to sustainability.

Emys-R will test three main hypotheses: 1) higher degrees of wetland restoration can compensate for limited capabilities of captive bred *Emys* to settle in the wild; 2) conservation actions can benefit society by bringing together people and nature; 3) well-perceived *Emys* can be an emissary (echoing "Emys-R") for improving public perception of nature, and more specifically poorly-perceived wetlands.

Emys-R will disseminate a guide of best practices based on the research of eight postdoc and PhD candidates collaborating through five complementary work packages implemented in three study sites with support from partners throughout Europe.



Location and illustration of the three study sites monitored by Emys-R



Map of reintroduction initiatives and supportive partners

