

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Interreg Two Seas project, Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe (RINSE).

As I write this, Great Britain is just coming down-to-earth again after the experience of hosting the Olympic Games. It was an exhilarating two weeks where we saw nations come together to produce sporting excellence and entertainment of the very highest order.

The Interreg Two Seas programme also promotes the spirit of co-operation to achieve excellence. It makes perfect sense for countries to come together to tackle a common environmental problem like that of non-native species. Individually, the problem is too big, we do not have sufficient influence and we are unlikely to succeed. Together we are stronger, more coordinated and we can learn from and warn each other of the problems ahead.

We are delighted to have been successful in our application, and feel fortunate to have such motivated, experienced and capable partners. With a total budget of just over 2.5 million euros, maybe, just maybe, we will be able to get a grip

on this problem before it is too late. We will use these newsletters to stay in touch, to spread the word and to share best practice. If you have an article you wish to include in the newsletter please forward it to Mel Gillings at the address below. Our wonderful new website is also up and running (see right).

Good luck, bonne chance, veel succes, everybody.

Heidi Thompson, **Biodiversity and Countryside Manager, Norfolk County Council (UK)**

RINSE Website Launched

The long awaited website is finally complete and was officially launched on 31 August 2012. After a competitive procurement process, Norwich company Big Fork were awarded the contract to develop the project website and Content Management System. More details on back page>>



"Investing in your future"
Crossborder cooperation programme
2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union
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Reducing the impact of
Non-native Species in Europe

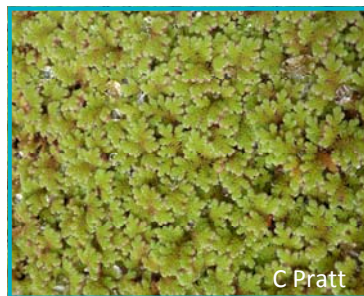
www.rinse-europe.eu

Field Trials and Demonstration Projects get underway

Trial across programme area—*Azolla* sites needed!

After maintaining a culture of the specialist weevil *Stenopelmus rufinasus* in the CABI facilities in Surrey over winter, work has begun on finding *Azolla*-infested sites to be used as demonstration sites. CABI are also securing the necessary permissions to conduct these demonstrations in each of the participant RINSE partner countries. Two promising sites have been identified in Hampshire and Norfolk already, but the only patch so far found on the Continent was on the verge of disappearing thanks to the weevil already being

present. Efforts will continue to find such sites but we would welcome information on any *Azolla* patches readers may have observed. Please e-mail c.pratt@cabi.org



Demo in Pas des Calais—Day of Action in Northern France to tackle Giant Hogweed!

CPIE ran a volunteer day in May to tackle giant hogweed at an invaded site in Neuville-sous-Montreuil, northern France. This highly successful event raised awareness of the problems caused by this invasive alien species, which can produce severe skin burns.

Project co-ordinator for CPIE, Celine Fontaine, was delighted with public interest in the event, which was covered in the local newspaper and television. “Our event has meant that people now know how to tackle giant hogweed safely,” she said.

Advice was given on how to protect the skin from the poisonous sap, and the best ways of killing the plant, which involves cutting the root with a spade. Many passers-by were intrigued by the work party and stopped to find out more. More details from celine.fontaine@cpie-authie.org

The RINSE effect...

A strong identity has been developed for RINSE and the RINSE ‘collection’ of promotional materials is growing fast! So far we have created a leaflet which is soon to be released in French and Dutch, a pop-up banner for use at UK events, various templates for further products and of course, a brilliant logo which cleverly represents the partnership of four countries and the species being targeted by the project, while managing to still look very attractive too!

Now the claim is out of the way, the Lead Partner will be taking stock of what products have been produced, the budget

remaining and look to see what else we can deliver. Some partners have already made suggestions, please continue sending them to:

melanie.gillings@norfolk.gov.uk





Demo in Norfolk— Ambitious new Strategy to tackle American mink

A new Strategy to tackle the invasive American mink has recently been approved by the project's Steering Group. The Strategy has been developed in collaboration with Simon Baker, who played a major role in the successful campaign to eradicate coypu from Great



Britain during the 1980s. For the project to succeed we need the help of the land owners and managers to

act as trappers. All trappers are loaned a mink 'raft' and trap, and training is provided on how to use the equipment to monitor for the presence of mink and, when they are detected, to trap them. A Project Officer from the Norfolk Mink Project will also be able to provide advice on the best place to position the raft and trap. The ambition is to expand the project across the county over the next 2 years. As a starting point we are currently establishing a new trapping network on the River Wissey. To find out more contact michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk.

Demo in East Flanders— Fieldworkers tackle Giant Hogweed by the Stem!

RATO has been tackling giant hogweed in a community in Merelbeke, East Flanders.

A team of fieldworkers used non-chemical techniques which involved splitting and cutting the plant stem in May to ensure the plants were unable to flower and set seed. The method worked well and no plants were found in seed during September. RATO will return to the site next year to check that there are no plants in flower. Project Officer Sofie Standaert is pleased with progress: "We will be expanding our fieldwork across East Flanders and raising awareness of the RINSE

project with leaflets," she explained.

In another project, RATO has been working to control populations of Canada geese. Large populations of the bird cause problems for agriculture (due to their intensive grazing of crops) and waterways (where their droppings cause pollution). RATO used humane methods to reduce numbers by 2000 birds in East Flanders which will lead to benefits for native biodiversity.

For further information regarding either action, please contact sofie.standaert@oost.vlaanderen.be.

What is Q-Bank?

Q-bank offers descriptions of invasive plants and pests. It includes ecological, morphological, physiological, and sequence characteristics of species which include plant pathogenic bacteria, fungi, insects, nematodes, phytoplasmas, viruses, viroids and invasive plants. The Invasive Plant Database focuses on vascular plants (excluding algae and mosses), with special attention to freshwater aquatic plants, because these cause acute problems in the Netherlands.

RINSE will facilitate the translation of existing interactive image-driven identification tools into French (at present these are only available in Dutch and English). Also, the c. 50 fact sheets available in Dutch which relate to the situation in the Netherlands, will be broadened to encompass the entire RINSE area and will be made available in French and English. An additional five plant species will be added to the information system: these do not yet pose an imminent problem in the Netherlands, but could be problematic for the wider RINSE area.



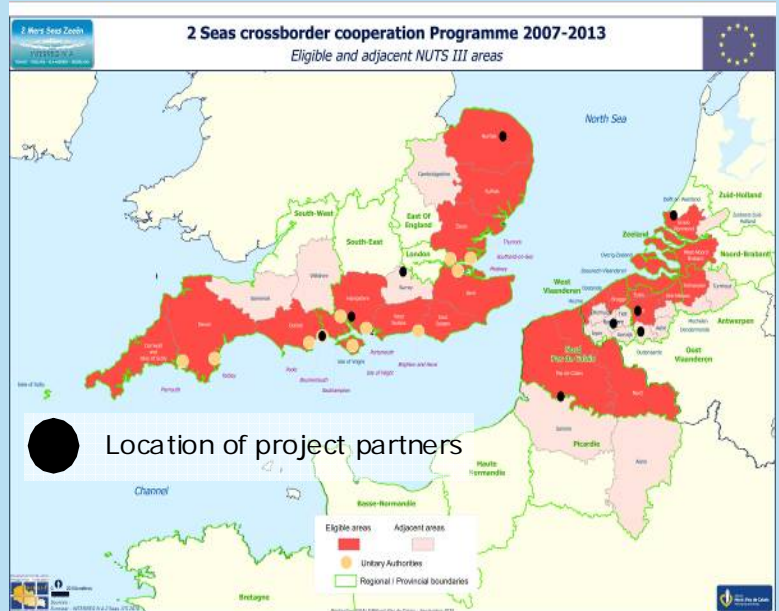
About RINSE

Our project has been funded by the European Union - Interreg IVA 2 Seas programme and has a total of nine partners from France, England, Belgium and the Netherlands.

RINSE will look at ways of managing invasive non-native species (INS) across the project area. It will also seek to improve awareness of the threats posed by INS, and the methods to address them.

For more about projects approved by the 2 Seas Programme, see the Project Directory (RINSE features on page 53)

http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page_ext_attachments/753



Website Launched <<continued from front page

The primary function of the website is to share information with the general public and stakeholders, but also amongst the project partnership. A 'Project Partner' area has been created, where information regarding meetings, case studies and resources etc can be shared. Each lead representative will shortly receive an email asking them to set a password via a web link as below:

Set Your Password
Enter your new password below
Password:
Password confirm:
Set Password

Don't worry if you forget your password as this can be reset in the 'Project Partner' area. If you can, please take some time to look at the website and send us any suggestions for useful content. Please also remember to add the website link to



RINSE gets social



'Follow' us on Twitter: [@RINSE_Europe](https://twitter.com/RINSE_Europe)

'Like' us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RINSE.Europe

Or see www.rinse-europe.eu

Dates for your Diary

2012

- ◆ **November 21 & 22—Work Package 1 Experts Workshop; Cambridge, UK**
- ◆ **December 4 - Work Package 2 Workshop; Lille, France**
- ◆ **December 31 - Period 3 ends**

2013

- ◆ **January 31 - Claim 3 due to Lead Partner**



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