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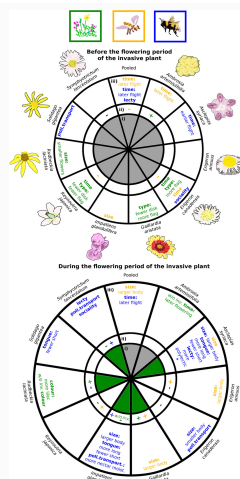


Safeguard's Second Annual General Meeting



Consortium members of the Safeguard project met up between 6 and 10 March 2023 for the project's second Annual General Meeting. During the four-day-long event, hosted by the partner institution Pensoft Publishers, attendees were involved in informative presentations, lively discussions, and a thorough update on the project's progress and upcoming initiatives. The format in mind was a hybrid conference environment, with people coming to Sofia, Bulgaria for the physical meeting and the remaining participants attending online.

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New Safeguard study investigates trait-based effects of plant invasion on plant-pollinator communities

A new observational study on 10 invasive plant species, published in *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, explores the trait-based effects of plant invasion on functional diversity and floral resources, hoverfly, and bee communities.



Policy Corner

Nature Restoration Law Proposal

- EU agriculture ministers voiced opposition to the Nature Restoration Law at the 20/03 Council meeting, ahead of discussions towards a “general approach” at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on June 20. A majority of ministers criticized the draft nature restoration legislation as potentially threatening EU food security, an argument the Commission vehemently rejected. [Learn more](#)
- Renew Europe, EPP, ECR and ID lawmakers are pushing to weaken the legislation by proposing to confine restoration measures to Natura 2000 protected sites only.
- The proposed goal for rewetting peatland is also a cause for concern for a number of countries, including Finland, Austria, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Greece, Estonia and Poland.
- Several EU countries are pushing back against a requirement in the Commission's nature restoration proposal that habitats, reaching a favorable conservation status, do not deteriorate from that condition.
- Over 35 European businesses signed a statement, published on 19/04, in support of a strong EU Nature Restoration Law with legally-binding targets. [Learn more](#)
- The European Parliament is expected to adopt its common position on the NRL at a plenary session in July.

Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR)

- The proposal with a legally binding target to halve the use of risk associated with synthetic pesticides by 2030 faces considerable opposition from many member states, or European Parliament conservative groups pushed by agribusiness. More and more MEPs are demanding the withdrawal of the proposal. The European Parliament's rapporteur on the SUR revision said in early March she feared a growing push from the centre-right EPP group could lead the EU executive to shelve this key proposal entirely.
- In early March, NGOs from the [Save the Bees and Farmers](#) initiative sent a document to all MEPs in which they fact-checked some of the main arguments against strong ambition for the SUR. The NGOs warn of “misleading” and “false” arguments used by lawmakers from the European People's Party and other conservative groups that the SUR would threaten food security while bringing no environmental benefits. [Learn more](#)
- The agriculture committee will hold its vote on the file in July, followed by a vote in the environment committee in September. The Parliament plenary vote will happen in the week of October 2nd. [Learn more](#)

The Commission Responded to the Citizen Initiative (05/04)

The European Commission has said it sees no need for a legislative response to a citizens' initiative calling for measures to reduce the impact of farming on biodiversity, instead calling on MEPs and the EU Council to “find swift and ambitious agreements on the already submitted legislative proposals” (SUR and NRL).

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#)

The Commission Publishes Draft Rules on Reporting Pesticide use (24/04)

The Commission published a draft implementing regulation on the Agricultural Inputs and Outputs (SAIO) statistics. This initiative sets out the rules for providing details of pesticide use for the year 2026 before annual data submission becomes mandatory in 2028. Farmers will be required to provide details of the use of all of the hundreds of plant protection

EEA Briefing: Pesticides Impact on Human Health and Ecosystems in Europe (26/04)

This briefing summarises the latest knowledge on how chemical pesticides impact our health and the environment and presents good practices to reduce their use and risk across Europe. It showcases good practices for how to reduce pesticide use and manage the associated risks without jeopardizing the food supply. Among the recommendations to policymakers, the report includes:

- setting a regulatory framework that drives pesticide reduction and monitoring;
- addressing shortcomings in risk assessment, including the 'cocktail effect' of different chemicals used in combination;
- respecting the precautionary principle, notably in the context of controversial emergency authorisations.

[Learn more](#)

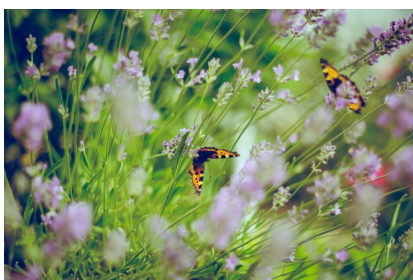
products currently approved for use in the EU, ranging from tea tree oil to glyphosate, while suppliers will have to provide granular data on products placed on the market.

[Learn more](#)

Bee Guidance Document Information Session by the EFSA (13/06)

EFSA has reviewed its guidance document on the risk assessment of plant protection products for bees, expected to be published in May 2023. An information session on the Bee Guidance Document will take place online on 13 June 2023, 00.00 (CEST). The event aims to present the new guidance document on the risk assessment of plant protection products to bees and explain the work carried out by EFSA for the revision of this document. The participants will have the opportunity to ask questions for clarification. The meeting is public and is open to anyone with expertise or interest in the area of risk assessment related to bees and plant protection products under EC Regulation 1107/2009.

[Learn more](#)



How IEEP and the Safeguard research project are supporting the EU pollinators initiative

In the newly published article on the Institute for European Environmental Policy's website, Laure-Lou Tremblay talks about Safeguard and how the project is supporting the [EU pollinators initiative](#) together with IEEP.

[Read more](#)



Cities and towns can be a major refuge for insect pollinators

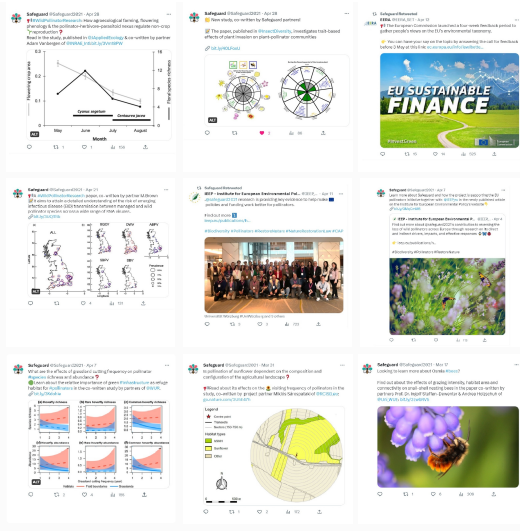
Project partner [Centre for Ecological Research](#) published a brochure that looks at opportunities in the municipal environment to help protect pollinators and maintain pollination.

[Read more](#) (Hungarian)

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