



# **THE LIFE WOLFALPS EU PROJECT: coordinated actions for wolf-human coexistence across the Alps**

**19/01/2024**

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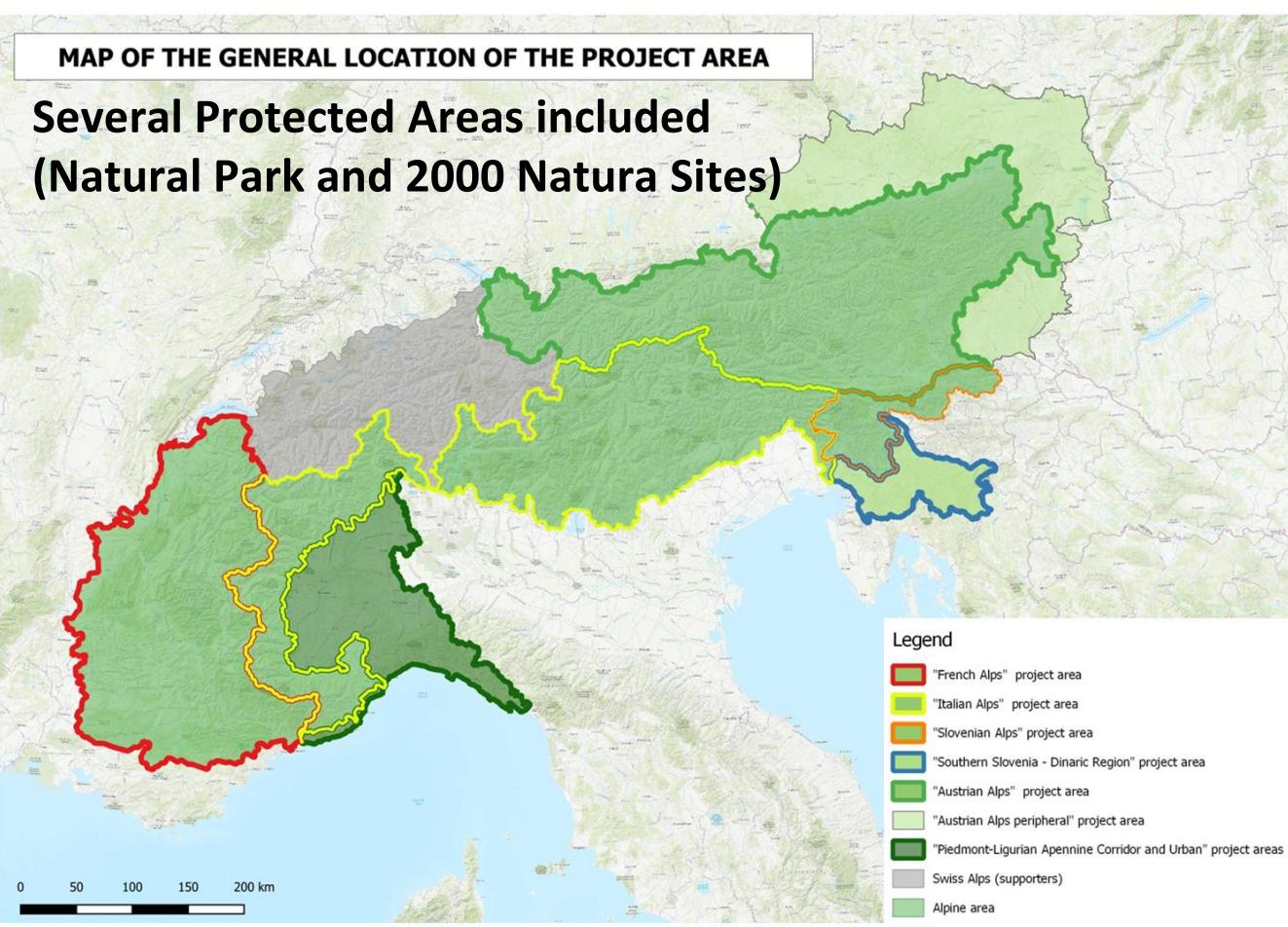
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<sup>2</sup> *University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna*

# LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity Programme

## LIFE WOLFALPS EU - LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972

01/09/2019 – 30/09/2024



**20 Beneficiary Partners (2 FR, 2 SL, 2 AU, 14 IT)**

**115 Supporters**

**6 Co-financers**

### Coordinating Beneficiary

Partners



Aree Protette  
Alpi Marittime



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO



OFB  
OFFICE FRANÇAIS  
DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ



REGIONE  
LIGURIA



Région Autonome  
Vallée d'Aoste  
Régione Autonoma  
Valle d'Aosta



ZAVOD za COZDOVE  
SLOVENIJE



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR



Fondazione  
Capellino



FONDATION  
PRINCE ALBERT II  
DE MONACO



PREFET  
DE LA RÉGION  
AUVERGNE-  
RHÔNE-ALPES



LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972



Natura 2000



Aree Protette  
Alpi Cozie



Aree Protette  
Appennino  
Piemontese



eurac  
research



MUSe



HBLFA  
Raumberg-Gumpenstein  
Landwirtschaft



ERSAF  
ENTE REGIONALE PER I SERVIZI  
ALL'AGRICOLTURA E ALLE FORESTE



Univerza v Ljubljani



vetmeduni



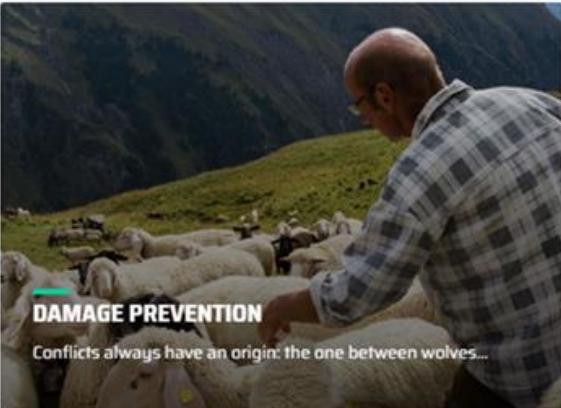
Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Climate Action,  
Environment,  
Energy,  
Mobility,  
Innovation and  
Technology



FONDATION  
FRANÇOIS  
SOMMERT

# AXES OF INTERVENTION

Nine major areas in which the project intervenes at Alpine level.



## DAMAGE PREVENTION

Conflicts always have an origin: the one between wolves...



## MONITORING THE ALPINE WOLF POPULATION

Successful conservation and management of the wolf in a...



## ANTIPOACHING

Poaching of wolves is among the most important causes...



## HYBRIDIZATION CONTROL

A recently recorded threat to wolf conservation in the...



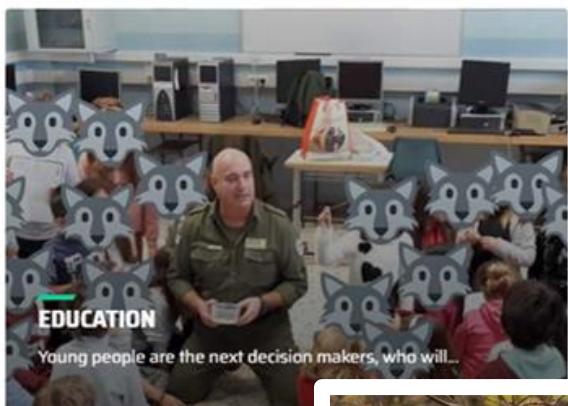
## STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT

The wolf presence goes far beyond the ecology issue...



## COMMUNICATION

The wolf is a highly symbolized animal in European...



## EDUCATION

Young people are the next decision makers, who will...



## ECOTOURISM

Ecotourism is not only one of the fastest growing...



## ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE WOLF ON WILD PREY

# MONITORING THE ALPINE WOLF POPULATION



- Knowledge of wolf presence **at national/local level**
- **Wolf Alpine Population Status and trends over 7 countries (IT, FR, CH, LI, GE, AU, SLO)**

## SHARED MONITORING STRATEGY (WAG, 2022\*)

- **standard criteria** for classifying and interpreting data
- **parameters** to be monitored over time
- **timescale and area**

*Source: Wolf Alpine Group, (2022). The integrated monitoring of the wolf alpine population over 6 countries. Report for LIFE WolfAlps EU project LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972, Action A5.*



## INTERNATIONAL WOLF ALPINE NETWORK

- **Large involvement of operators** belonging to several Institutions, Associations and volunteers yearly trained (2020/2021; 2021/2022; 2022/2023, 2023/2024)
- **Common methods in collecting wolf signs** in wolf alpine population over countries **within the same international monitoring strategy**





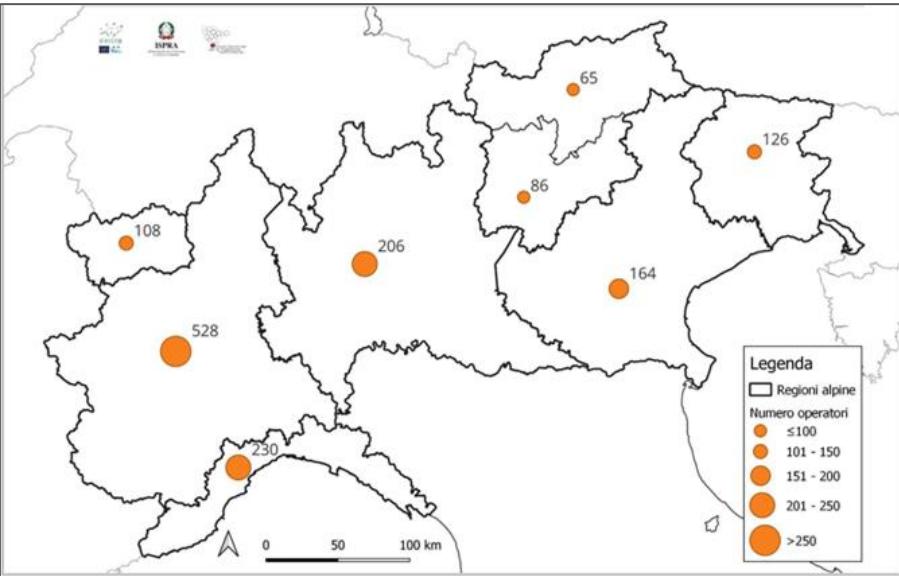
# ITALY: WOLF NETWORK OF ALPINE REGIONS

involved in wolf signs sampling (opportunistic and systematic)

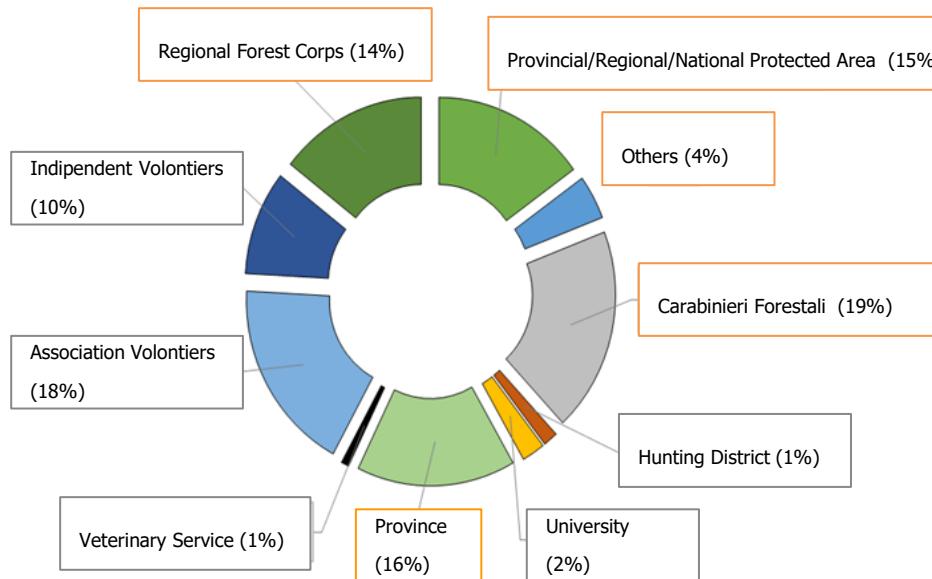


2020/2021 (First Italian Wolf Surveillance scheduled by ISPRA)

1513 trained operators involved in opportunistic sampling



1198 trained operators involved in systematic sampling along transects

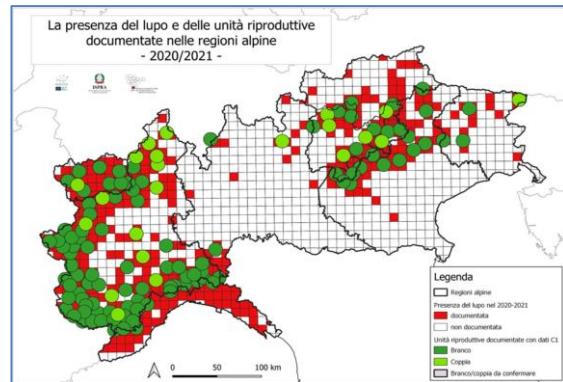


A capillary, coordinated and structured network that allows homogeneous wolf surveillance on a large scale: on the whole **a valuable asset also for biodiversity monitoring!**

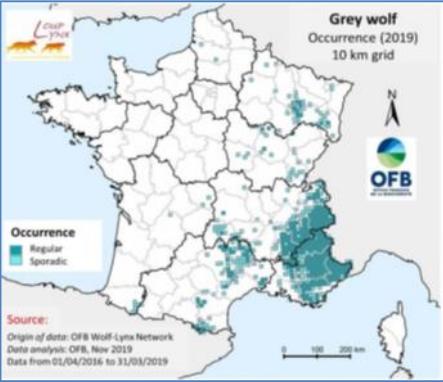


# Annual Monitoring Program in each Alpine country involved (2020-2024)

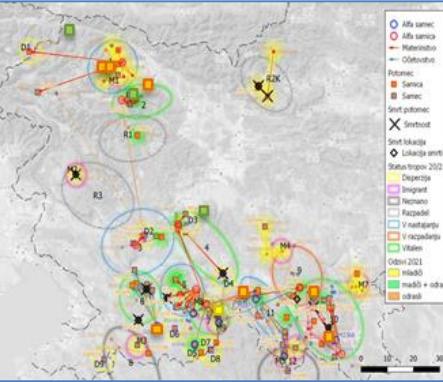
Italy



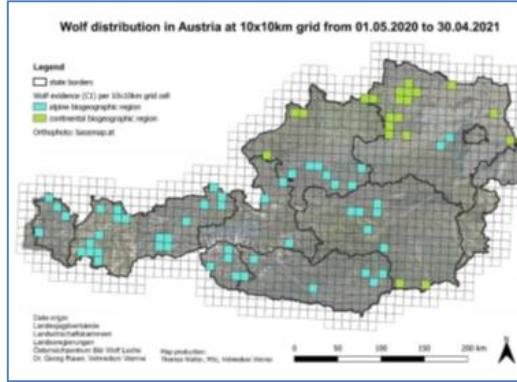
France



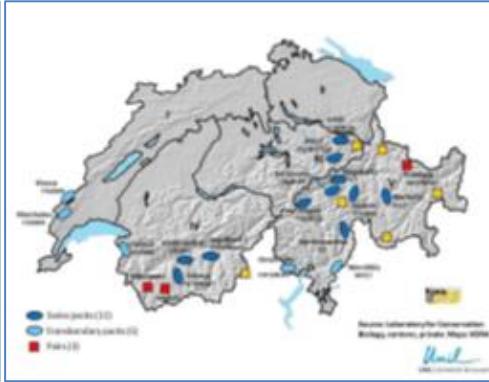
Slovenia



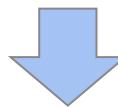
Austria



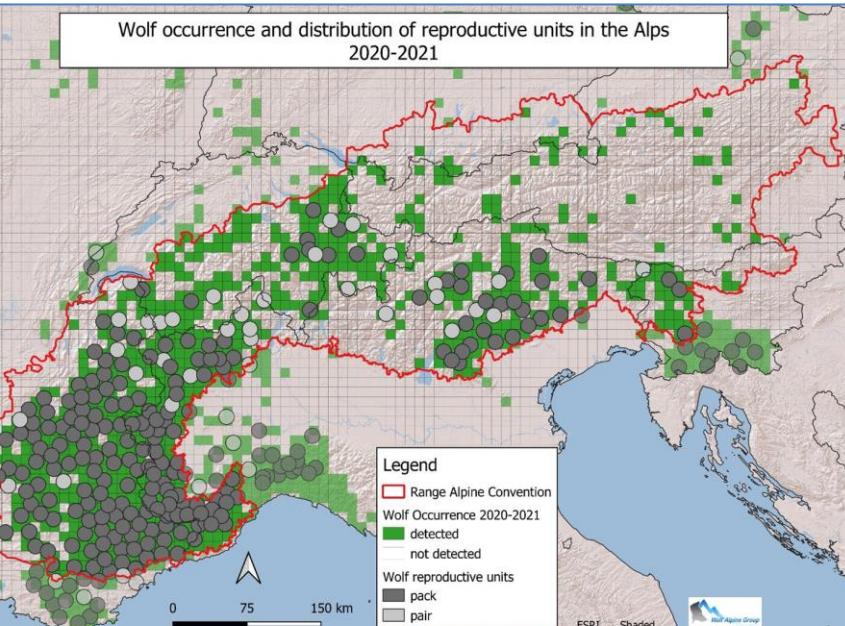
Swiss and Germany



Source: Wolf Alpine Group, (2022). The integrated monitoring of the wolf alpine population over 6 countries. Report for LIFE WolfAlps EU project LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972, Action A5.



## Wolf Alpine Population Status



.....2022/2023  
(Wolf occurrence)  
and 2023/2024  
(Wolf occurrence and reproductive units )

Source: Wolf Alpine Group (2023). The wolf Alpine population in 2020-2022 over 7 countries. Technical report for LIFE WolfAlps EU project LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972, Action C4.

# **FIELD ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS «WOLF PREVENTION INTERVENTION UNITS»**

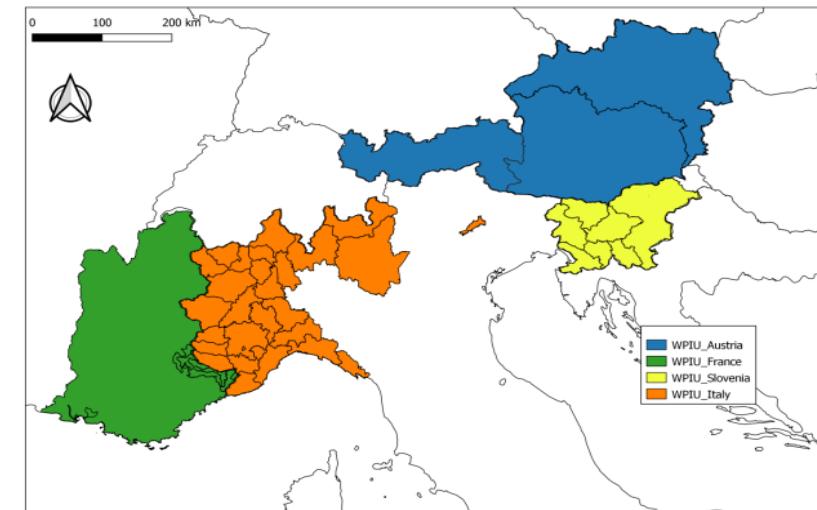


**Objective:** to provide immediate support and assistance to farmers in wolf areas

International Alpine approach

## **Intervention mode:**

- FOLLOWING A DEPREDATION EVENT
- FOR PREVENTIVE PURPOSES
- TO ASSESS PREVENTION SYSTEMS



**42 WPIU created**

# **FIELD ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS «WOLF PREVENTION INTERVENTION UNITS»**



**Prevention Strategies (specific to each farm)**

**Damage compensation system**

**Availability of prevention funds**



**Immediate supply:**

- Prevention material (free loan)**
- Livestock Guarding Dog assistance and Signs**



# **FIELD ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS «WOLF PREVENTION INTERVENTION UNITS»**



## **Italian WPIUs**

### **Personnel belonging to agencies/institutions**

Park Rangers

Carabinieri Forestali Army

Guards of the Provinces

**Public Veterinary Service**



# DOGS HELPING TO FIGHT WILDLIFE CRIME

## «ANTI-POISON DOG UNITS»



**Objective:** to fight illegal activities, which have a severe impact on protected species (i.e. wolves, eagles, vultures, red kites) and all other wild animals

**poison does not have a selective effect!**

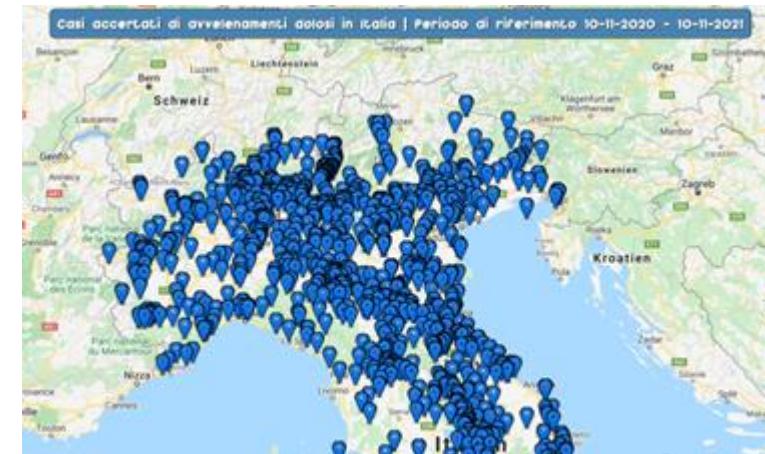
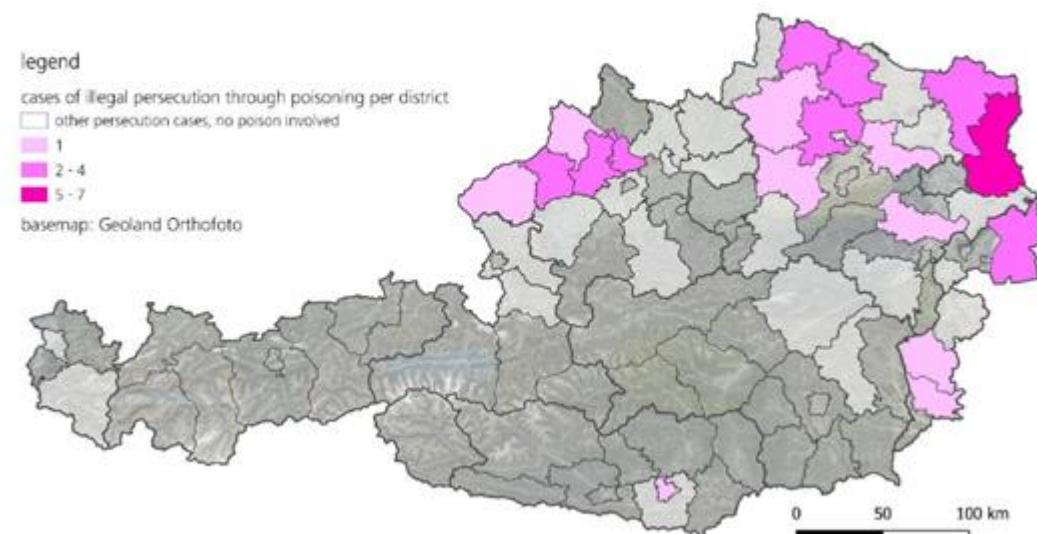


Figure 2: Cases of illegal persecution through poisoning reported within the PannonEagle-LIFE project (10/2016 - 08/2020)

**Dogs** can help with their **great sense of smell**

- easy to search big areas
- easy to find even tiny carcasses/residuals



Sources: Wildlife Crime. A report by WWF Austria and BirdLife Austria 2020.

Wildtierkriminalität in Österreich 2023. Ein Bericht von WWF Österreich und BirdLife Österreich.

<https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it>

# DOGS HELPING TO FIGHT WILDLIFE CRIME

## «ANTI-POISON DOG UNITS»

**7 new teams established:**

6 in Italy (Liguria, Piemonte, Lombardia, Veneto)

First 1 in Austria

**11 teams currently active in the whole project area (included 4 teams of the LIFE WOLFALPS 2014-2018)**



Roberta (APAM)/Virgilio

Paolo (Brescia Province-RELO)/Sole



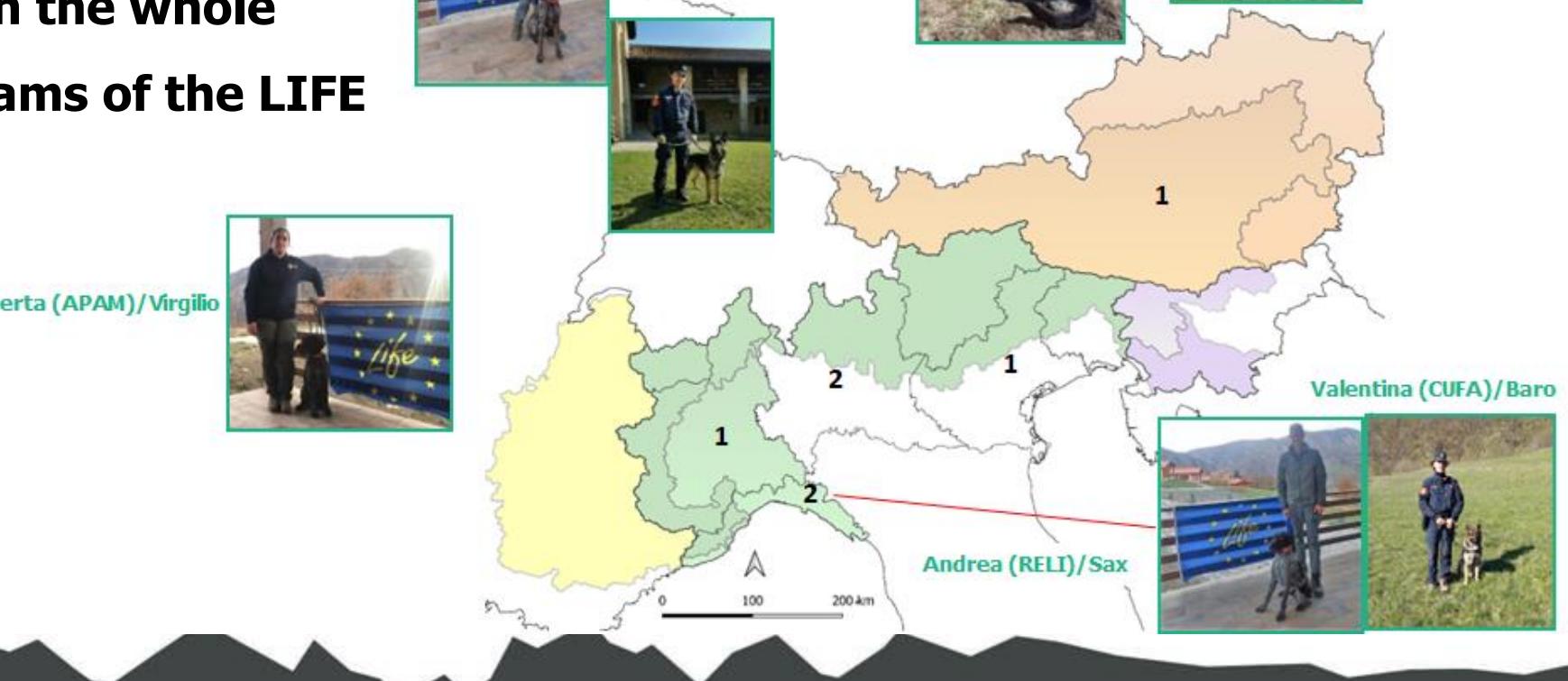
Luca (CUFA)/Dolce Vita



Theresa (VUW)/Jori



AUSTRIA



Andrea (RELI)/Sax

Valentina (CUFA)/Baro

# DOGS HELPING TO FIGHT WILDLIFE CRIME

## «ANTI-POISON DOG UNITS»



### In Austria:

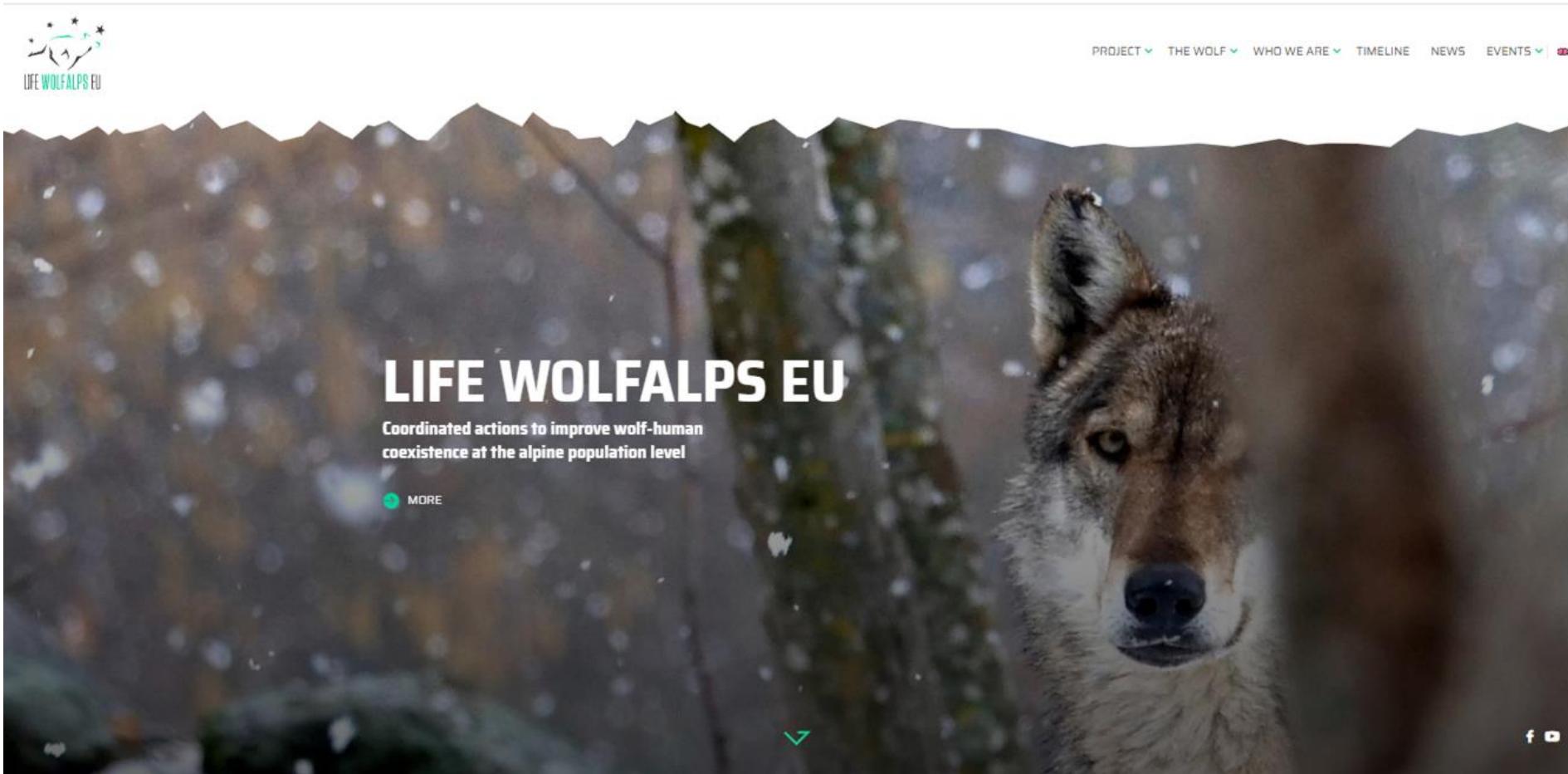
Certification to search for animal carcasses (NGO “Naturschutzhunde”) and first dog certified to search for carbofuran (Kynotec GmbH)

Carbofuran is a pesticide forbidden in the EU since 2008, in Austria most widely used poison in wildlife crime cases

urgent interventions only together with the police



# www.lifewolfalps.eu



LIFE WOLFALPS EU  
Coordinated actions to improve wolf-human coexistence at the alpine population level

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The website features a large, dark background image of a wolf's face in a snowy, mountainous environment. The top navigation bar includes the LIFE WOLFALPS EU logo, project links (PROJECT, THE WOLF, WHO WE ARE, TIMELINE, NEWS, EVENTS), and a language switcher. A central banner displays the project name and subtitle, with a 'MORE' button below it. Social media icons for Facebook and YouTube are at the bottom right.