

LIFE DINALP BEAR is the best “Nature” project in Europe

23. 10. 2020

Press release

On 21st October 2020, as part of the European Green Week conference, the EU Commission jury announced the best among the LIFE projects that were completed last year. The LIFE Awards, now in their 14th year, recognise the most innovative, inspirational and effective LIFE projects. The best projects were nominated in the following categories: environment, nature protection and climate action. Among the 15 nominated projects altogether, LIFE DINALP BEAR won in the “Nature” category.

The LIFE DINALP BEAR project - Population level management and conservation of brown bears in northern Dinaric Mountains and the Alps – was coordinated by the Slovenia Forest Service and was financially supported also by the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. The project brought together partners from four countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Austria. In fact, the international cooperation and joint solutions for better coexistence with brown bear were the reasons that convinced the jury members to Award the project. David Sassoli - President of the European Parliament, Ambroise Fayolle - Vice-President of the European Investment Bank and Luciana Miu - a researcher from Imperial College of London have chosen the winner. You can read more about the achievements of the LIFE DINALP BEAR project in the [Layman report](#) that was prepared at the end of the project.

Rok Černe, project coordinator from Slovenia Forest Service, commented on the award: *“Despite the completion of the project, our work continues, as we have established some exemplary good practices that contribute to reducing conflicts between brown bears and humans and increasing tolerance for coexistence with bears. We will continue to use these solutions in the future.”* Project partners continue to implement efficiently the preventive measures, intervention measures, when bears are wandering into settlements, to monitor the population status and pay special attention to cooperation with local inhabitants living in areas of brown bear presence.

Reacting to the LIFE Awards 2020, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius said: *“The inspiring winners and finalists of these LIFE Awards show that solutions to the planetary challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, resource scarcity, and even health emergencies exist. These individual success stories need to be replicated across the EU quickly and at broad scale, in order to help the EU achieve its ambitious EU Green Deal goals”*.

The European Commission celebrates EU Green Week every year, but this was the first year that it was held virtually through an online platform due to restrictions. The main theme of the Week was “Nature and Biodiversity”.

Links:

[Presentation video of the LIFE DINALP BEAR project](#)

[LIFE DINALP BEAR project website](#)

[EU recognises best nature, environment and climate action projects](#)

Contact for Media:

Maja Sever, Slovenia Forest Service (maja.sever@zgs.si , +386 40 525 336).



Bear-proof garbage bins installed in the local environment, one of the many results of the LIFE DINALP BEAR project. Photo: LIFE DINALP BEAR Archive



The winner in the “Nature” category was announced by Mr. David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament. Photo: LIFE DINALP BEAR



Brown bear in the sunset in Slovenia (*Ursus arctos*). Photo: Miha Krofel LIFE DINALP BEAR



#LIFEawards20



European Commission



University of Ljubljana



vetmeduni vienna



REGIONE DEL VENETO



ERICo



AUTOCESTA RIJEKA-ZAGREB d.d.
DRUŠTVO ZA GRABENJE I GOSPODARENJE AUTOCESTOM