

THE IMPEL PROJECT JONEF FOR THE MONITORING OF MACROFUNGI IN EUROPE (ID 771)

Topic

AS02. Environment, ecology and interactions

Authors

Floccia F. ¹, Gonçalves S.C. ², Martin F. ³, Rusevska K. ⁴, Topalidou E. ⁵, Rathore D.S. ⁶, Madesis P. ⁷, Nai C. ⁸, Mifsud S. ⁹, Fodor L. ¹⁰

Affiliations

1 - Department for Environmental Monitoring and Protection and Biodiversity Conservation, Italian Institute for the Environmental Protection and Research -ISPRA, Roma, Italy, 2 - Centre for Functional Ecology, Associate Laboratory TERRA, Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal, 3 - Université de Lorraine, INRAE, UMR Interactions Arbres/Microorganismes, Centre INRAE Grand Est - Nancy, Champenoux, France, 4 - Mycological Laboratory, Institute of Biology, Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, North Macedonia, 5 - Hellenic Agricultural Organization "DIMITRA", Forest Research Institute, Thessaloniki, Vassilika, Greece, 6 - Teagasc, Forestry Development Department, Oak Park Research Centre, Carlow, Ireland, 7 - Laboratory of Molecular Biology of Plants, Department of Agriculture Crop Production and Rural Environment, School of Agricultural Sciences, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece, 8 - Freelance science writer and fungi evangelist, Jakarta, Indonesia, 9 - EcoGozo Directorate, Ministry for Gozo, Victoria, Gozo, Malta, 10 - Department of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract Body

Background and aims Currently, fungi are not or barely included in European environmental legislation and policies. In 2023, the European Network IMPEL approved a new project, Joint Networks for wild Fungi (JoNeF). JoNeF is focused on sharing guidelines for monitoring macrofungi in European habitats. The goal is to encourage the European Commission to consider fungi in environmental legislation and policies, based on the requests made by the scientific community over the years and considering the recent knowledge gained on them. **Methods** The JoNeF team conducted a survey based on a questionnaire that was distributed to experts and institutions interested in fungal conservation and data collection between October to December 2023. Thirty-two European respondents filled out the questionnaire, indicating a strong interest in the subject. **Results** This survey aimed to provide a current perspective on the state of fungal conservation in Europe. The results showed that almost half of the European countries have developed laws, policies, and plans for the study and protection of fungal diversity, whereas the remaining countries do not yet have specific laws on fungal conservation. **Conclusions** This inconsistency was caused by the lack of a common European operational framework. Common strategies employing modern approaches to unite the knowledge about fungal diversity can form the basis of a mushroom protection strategy within the framework of conservation in the living world. Requesting a joint directive from the European Commission to establish a conservation strategy that includes fungi and their habitats is crucial for the scientific community and environmental organizations.