

The LIFE STRADE Project - brief introduction

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The presentation gives a brief summary of the LIFE STRADE project. The project is developed in three Regions in Italy: Umbria, Tuscany and Marche, and in 5 Provinces: Terni, Perugia, Siena, Grosseto, Pesaro Urbino. Underlying problems are 1. The lack of information about the number and distribution of road kills on Italian roads, 2. Many different prevention tools exist, but all of them have strong limitations, 3. There is a very strong lack of clear legal backgrounds for monitoring and managing the impact of road kills on biodiversity, and 4. A lack of awareness about the problem, leading also to inadequate driving behavior. Considering these problems the project aimed at the following objectives:

- the development and testing of an innovative system that simultaneously warns drivers and deters wildlife from crossing roads in critical moments, in an interactive way;
- the development and large-scale demonstration of a common management protocol;
- dissemination of the lessons learned and best practices developed

To achieve these objectives the project activities have been structured in the following sections:

1. A row of activities to assess the amount and distribution of road kills, in order to provide a sound information basis. The data was stored in a geodatabase, on which basis risk maps were produced
2. An innovative tool for the prevention of road kills has been developed and experimented in 17 locations.
3. A monitoring and management protocol has been developed and legally adopted in cooperation between the three involved regions.
4. A extensive information and awareness raising campaign was developed, in order to drive the attention onto the road kill issue.

All the actions have been developed successfully.