



CA16224 - European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility

Working group workshops on

“Prioritisation of species (WG 1, 2, 3 & 4) and best practice guidance for collecting raptor samples and contextual data (WG 4)”



Workshop 1: February 4-6 2019
Workshop 2: February 6-8 2019
Hotel Metropolitan, Thessaloniki





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“Prioritisation of species (WG 1, 2, 3 & 4) and best practice guidance for collecting raptor samples and contextual data (WG 4)”
in Thessaloniki



Basic information

- **Dates:** 4-6 February 2019 (Workshop 1) and 6-8 February 2019 (Workshop 2)
- **Location:** Metropolitan Hotel, Vasilissis Olgas 65, Thessaloniki, Greece
- **Local organisers:** Dr Anastasios Saratsis (Hellenic Agricultural Organisation Demeter/ Veterinary Research Institute/ Thessaloniki) and Dr Stavros Xirouchakis (Natural History Museum of Crete/ University of Crete/ Heraklion)
- **WG leaders in charge of scientific programme:** Prof Richard Shore (WG1) & Prof Antonio Garcia-Fernandez (WG2), and Dr Chris Wernham (WG4)



Photos kindly provided for use by Vasileios Saratsis



WORKSHOP 1 “Developing the scope for pan-European monitoring of contaminants in raptors: prioritisation of species and sample types”

14:00 on Monday 4th February to 13:00 on Wednesday 6th February 2019

WORKSHOP 1 is convened under the auspices of Working Groups 1, 2, 3 & 4. The workshop will discuss the scientific and operational technicalities of prioritising which species and specimen types (within those species) are likely to be suitable for contaminant monitoring in raptors *at a pan-European scale*, how such prioritisation of species/samples may need to be tailored for specific contaminant classes (or non-target screening), and consider likely availability of past, current and future samples. The workshop will develop an understanding of the key issues and the criteria that shape the choice of priority species and contaminants that can be a future focus for the ERBF facility COST action. A key output will be to develop concepts of which species/sample types can be used as an initial focus for shaping the immediate next activities of Working Group 4.

Participants are asked, prior to the workshop, to give consideration to which contaminants, types of samples and species may be suitable for prioritisation for the ERBF, where the aim is to demonstrate capacity and proof of concept using exemplar species/contaminants, not to establish a fully functioning monitoring network for all contaminants! It is recommended that participants refresh themselves with the two following open access papers (obtainable through their doi):

Gómez-Ramírez et al., 2014. An overview of existing raptor contaminant monitoring activities in Europe. *Environment International* **67** 12-21. [DOI: 10.1016/j.envint.2014.02.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2014.02.004)

Espín et al., 2016. Tracking pan-continental trends in environmental contamination using sentinel raptors—what types of samples should we use? *Ecotoxicology* **25** 777-801. doi.org/10.1007/s10646-016-1636-8



WORKSHOP 2 "Best Practice guidance for collecting raptor samples and contextual data"

14:00 on Wednesday 6th to 13:00 on Friday 8th February

WORKSHOP 2 is convened by Working Group 4 (Field Arena). The workshop will agree the template/contents of guidance documents on collecting raptor samples and contextual data that will form an integral part of the ERSamP (the European Raptor Sampling Programme). We will use two ongoing areas of activity as examples of good practice guidance documents, being developed for: (a) vultures, by a Working Group 4 Task Group; and (b) Peregrine and other similar species, via a Short-term Scientific Mission. These will be presented, discussed and further progressed during the workshop. We also have sessions devoted to the other two ongoing STSMs of Working Group 4, which are reviewing: (a) current constraints to sample and contextual data collection and distribution; and (b) existing and potential raptor ringing effort across Europe.

Participants are asked, prior to the workshop, to consider whether they have used, or are aware of, guidance on the collection and storage of samples from raptors or guidance on how to collect relevant contextual information (ringing guidance, guidance on population and demographic monitoring). The focus of the work in Thessaloniki will be assimilating and reviewing such protocols for (a) vultures and (b) Peregrine and other falcons, but other groups are likely to be the subject of two further Short-term Scientific Missions during Grant Period 3 (from May 2019 onwards) and a further workshop to be held in the autumn.

Participants are also asked, prior to the workshop, to think about constraints that exist within their country for collecting and sharing (transporting) samples and contextual data from raptors.

Following the outputs from Workshop 1 about selection of focal species and samples for priority treatment by the ERB Facility Action, Workshop 2 will include a discussion around the choice of species to fulfil the priorities identified. It would be useful if participants could brief themselves on current knowledge of raptor monitoring effort in their own countries, and across Europe as summarised in the following open access publication:

Derlink et al. 2018. A review of raptor and owl monitoring activity across Europe: its implications for capacity building towards pan-European monitoring. *Bird Study* (early online). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00063657.2018.1447546>



Programme – WORKSHOP 1

Day	General topic	Lead	Things to consider	Outputs
Monday 4 February (afternoon) SESSION 1 – REGISTRATION FROM 13:00				
14:00 - 14:15	Welcome to Thessaloniki and domestic arrangements	Anastasios Saratsis & Stavros Xirouchakis		
14:15 - 14:30	Introduction to ERB Facility	Guy Duke		
14:30 - 14:45	Introduction to the role and overall aims of Working Groups 1 & 2	Antonio Garcia Fernandez		
14:45 - 15:15	Introduction to the LIFE APEX project	Guy Duke		
15:15 - 15:30	Introduction to workshop -general objectives, purpose and aim of the workshop (where we want to get to by the end of the meeting)	Richard Shore		
15:30 - 16:00	Outline of and feedback on proposed objectives and session topics	Richard Shore		
16:00 - 16:30	COFFEE			



Monday 4 February (afternoon) SESSION 2				
16:30 – 17:00	Definition of the key questions monitoring is designed to address (including feedback from APEX) for: non-target and non-targeted monitoring	Igor Eulaers (tbc)		Prioritised list of questions plus capture of uncertainties/issues to be captured for STSM
17:00 - 18:30	Defining and prioritising the key functional chemical groups for targeted monitoring	Nico van den Brink	o Relevance to ERA with respect to processes and regulations of ECHA and EFSA (make way for future white paper)	Prioritised list of chemical functional groups for monitoring and capture of uncertainties/issues to be captured for STSM
			o Environmental input and fate	
			o Usage, spatial and temporal	
			o Combined toxicity within and outwith functional groups	
			o Environmental distribution, major compartments, space/time	
			o Persistence and bioavailability	
19:30	DINNER AT HOTEL			



Tuesday 5 February (morning) SESSION 3				
09:00 – 09:45	Prioritisation of matrices for: measuring non-target compounds using live and dead birds	Antonio Garcia Fernandez	Base on Espin et al paper, be specific to agreed priority questions	Priority list of matrices needed for monitoring
09:45 – 11:00	Prioritisation of matrices for: monitoring priority chemical functional groups using live and dead birds	Antonio Garcia Fernandez	Base on Espin et al paper, be specific to agreed priority questions	Priority list of matrices needed for monitoring
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE			
Tuesday 5 February (morning) SESSION 4				
11:30 - 13:30	First pass at identification of candidate species	Nico van den Brink (tbc)	o Lessons to date from LIFE APEX	
			o Diet/foodweb	
			o Diet....insectivores/carnivores, marine, specialist/opportunists	
			o Diet variability within habitat (complexity of exposure routes)	
			o Seasonal shifts in diets	



				o Diet variability	
				o Home range and distribution-relative to suitability for pan-European monitoring	
13:30 - 15:00	LUNCH				
Tuesday 5 February (afternoon) SESSION 5					
15:00 - 16:30	First pass at priority list for species/species groups linked with contaminant class	Richard Shore			Initial priority list for species linked with contaminant class
16:30 - 17:00	COFFEE				
Tuesday 5 February (afternoon) SESSION 6					
17:00 - 18:30	Key issues and uncertainties for STSM	Oliver Krone/ Alex Badry			List of key issues and uncertainties for STSM
19:30 onwards	DINNER IN THE CITY				



Wednesday 6 February (morning) SESSION 7				
09:00 - 11:00	Practicalities and best practice for collection, storage and transportation of samples	Chris Wernham	Licences, sample weights, key uncertainties, sample pooling, replication	List of issues that need elaboration/ refinement
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE			
Wednesday 6 February (morning) SESSION 8 – FINAL SESSION				
11:30 - 13:00	Review of workshop outputs, key areas of uncertainties and next steps	Richard Shore		Priority list and list of issues for STSM
13:00 - 14:00	OPTIONAL LUNCH			



Programme – WORKSHOP 2

Wednesday 6 February (afternoon)	WORKSHOP 2 - WG4 Best Practice Guidance – REGISTRATION FROM 13:30 OR AT FIRST COFFEE BREAK @ 16:00 PLEASE		
14:00 - 16:00	<i>SESSION 1</i>		<i>Introductory session</i>
		14:00 - 14:15	Welcome to Thessaloniki and domestic arrangements (Anastasios Saratsis & Stavros Xirouchakis)
		14:15 - 14:30	Introduction to ERBFacility (Al Vrezec – Vice-Chair of ERBFacility Action)
		14:30 - 14:45	Introduction to the role and work of Working Group 4 (Chris Wernham)
		14:45 - 15:15	Plan for the workshop and introduction to ERSamP and best practice guidance work (Chris Wernham/Rui Lourenço/Maria Dulsat Masvidal)
		15:15 - 15:30	Introduction/definitions of contextual data collection / scope of guidance (Chris Wernham/Rui Lourenço /Maria Dulsat Masvidal)
		15:30 - 16:00	First discussion of format and content of guidance
16:00 - 16:30	COFFEE		
16:30 - 18:30	<i>SESSION 2</i>		<i>Guidance already in progress - vultures and falcons</i>
		16:30 - 17:00	Development of example guidance for vultures - progress to date – presentation and brief initial discussion (Jovan Andevski & Rafa Mateo)
		17:00 - 17:30	Presentation on development of best practice guidance for Peregrine/other falcons - including brief discussion (Lucie Michel)
		17:30 - 18:00	Further discussion of format and content of guidance
		18:00	Summary of first two sessions and plans for evening and Thursday (Chris Wernham & Anastasios Saratsis)



19:30	DINNER AT HOTEL		
Thursday 7 February (all day)			
WORKSHOP 2 - WG4 Best Practice Guidance			
09:00 - 11:00	SESSION 3		<i>Developing guidance for vultures and falcons further</i>
		09:00 - 09:30	Introduction, summary of previous discussions and plan for the day (Chris Wernham)
		09:30 - 11:00	Further development of guidance for (a) Peregrine and other falcons & (b) vultures
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE		
11:30 - 13:00	SESSION 4	11:30 - 12:30	Further development of guidance for (a) Peregrine and other falcons & (b) vultures
		12:30 - 13:00	Summarise thinking for best practice for the two groups and agree next steps (Chris Wernham/Al Vrezec/Rui Lourenço)
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH IN HOTEL		
14:30 - 16:30	SESSION 5		<i>Setting priorities for other species/groups to develop guidance - based on outcomes from WORKSHOP 1</i>
		14:30 -15:00	Summary of relevant discussions in WORKSHOP 1 (Al Vrezec & Chris Wernham)



		15:00 - 16:30	Discussion of priority species/groups - select two more groups or agree onward process for doing so
16:30 - 17:00	COFFEE		
17:00 - 18:30	SESSION 6		<i>Review of ringing effort across Europe</i>
		17:00 - 17:30	Presentation on ringing review work to date (Abigail Maiden)
		17:30 - 18:30	Discussion of ringing review and next steps
19:30 onwards	DINNER IN THE CITY		
Friday 8 February (morning)	WORKSHOP 2 - WG4 Best Practice Guidance		
09:00 - 11:00	SESSION 7		<i>Review of constraints on sample and contextual data collection</i>
		09:00 - 09:15	Introduction and plan for the morning (Chris Wernham)
		09:15 - 09:45	Presentation on constraints review work to date (Maria Dulsat Masvidal)
		09:45 - 11:00	Discussion of constraints work and next steps (Rui Lourenço & Chris Wernham)
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE		
11:30 - 13:00	SESSION 8		<i>Summing up session - ERSamP development - next steps for WG4 work overall..... (led by Chris)</i>
13:00 - 14:00	OPTIONAL LUNCH AT HOTEL		

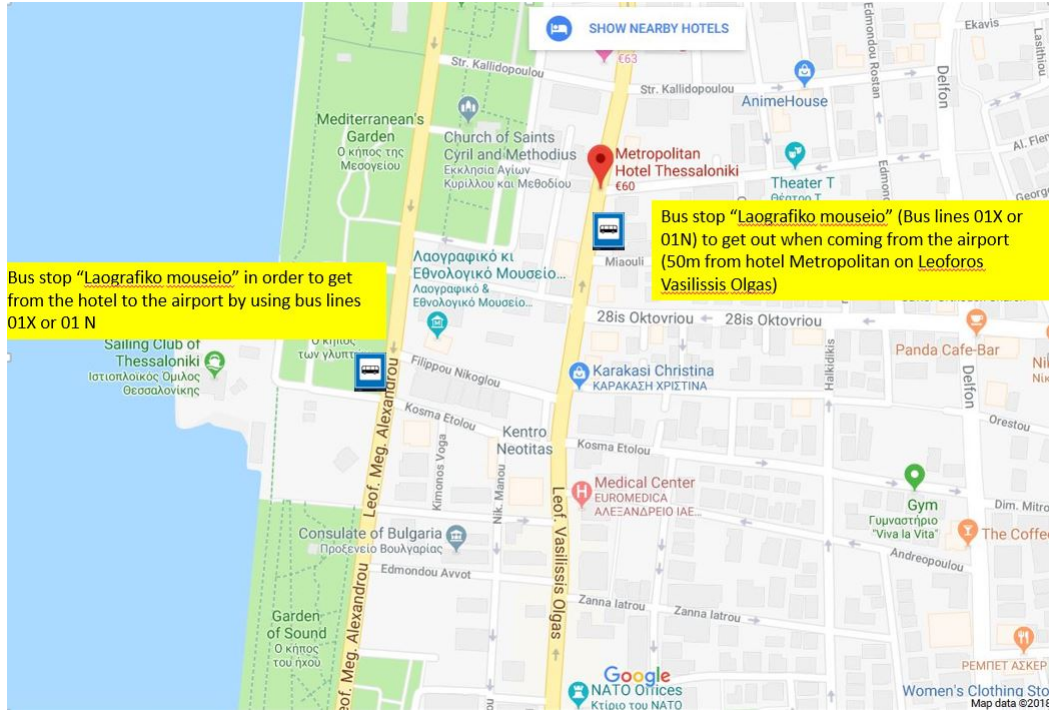


Friday 8 February (afternoon)	WG4 Core Team meeting (by invitation only)	Developing ERSampP and other WG4 business (Chris Wernham & WG4 Team to agree agenda)	
14:00 - 16:00	<i>Session 1</i>		Business meeting of WG4 Core Team and other invited individuals
16:00 - 16:30	COFFEE		
16:30 - 17:30	<i>Session 2</i>		Summary of meeting and agreed Action Points
18:00	DEPARTURE TO LAKE KERKINI & DINNER AT TAVERNA/HOTEL FOR THOSE BOOKED FOR OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP (AT OWN COST)		
Saturday 9 February (morning)	Field trip to Lake Kerkini		
MORNING c.08:00 - 12:30	Birdwatching field trip		
13:00	LUNCH AT KERKINI LAKE HOTEL		
14:30 (at latest)	Departure to airport/city for those travelling back to Thessaloniki		
AFTERNOON	Free for birding for those staying for Saturday night at Kerkini Lake		
OVERNIGHT AT LAKE FOR THOSE TRAVELLING FROM 11:00 ON SUNDAY FLIGHTS			
Sunday 10 February (early morning)			
Early departure(s) to Thessaloniki airport by jeeps			



Logistics

- **Meeting venue:** Both workshops will take place at the top floor meeting facilities of the Metropolitan Hotel (Address: Vasilissis Olgas 65/Thessaloniki/<https://www.metropolitan.gr/en/>). See map below.
- **Accommodation:** Participants of both meetings will stay at the Metropolitan Hotel (4star hotel), at a price of 53 €/night (including Overnight Stay Tax). Participants should make their own bookings by contacting the reservation department of the hotel by email (reservations@metropolitan.gr or sales@metropolitan.gr). Please make sure that you quote in the subject line of the e-mail: **"ERB facility meeting"**. **If you have not reserved your room yet you must do it immediately.**
- **Meals:** Lunches and dinners will be offered either directly at the hotel (15€ per lunch/dinner; check programme) or in the city centre (cost 20€; Tuesday evening during Workshop 1 and Thursday evening during Workshop 2). Both meals in the hotel and in the city will be paid during registration, **therefore please be so kind as to bring the respective amount of cash to pay for the meals that you will attend.** In order to be able to calculate the exact number of meals required per day and inform the hotel/restaurants, we kindly ask you to fill in your names (and those of any accompanying persons) and check the boxes with the respective meals you will be attending in the following doodle link: <https://doodle.com/poll/tgfi2ytgvy33by4r> . There will be no organised meal in Thessaloniki on Friday evening.
- **Transfer to – from Thessaloniki airport (SKG):** The only means of connection between Thessaloniki airport (SKG) and the city centre/hotel Metropolitan is either by bus or by taxi. Bus lines **01X** or **01N** (night bus) connect the airport with the city centre at regular intervals (every 30 min/cost: 2€) during day and night. Information on the schedule and route of the bus can be found at the following website: www.oasth.gr. Bus stop "Laografiko Mouseio" (see attached map), is located adjacent to Metropolitan Hotel and the drive from Thessaloniki airport takes about 25 minutes. Taxis are charged by a taximeter based on distance. The approximate cost of the journey by taxi from Thessaloniki airport to the city centre is 20€ during the day (05:00-24:00) and 25€ at night (00:01-04:59). Please note that COST has specific rules on the use of taxis, which can be found in the COST Vademecum.



Weather

The weather in the Thessaloniki area in February is largely dry but cool (2-11 Celsius), so please ensure you bring warm clothes (and appropriate outdoor gear if staying for the field trip to Kerkin Lake).



Optional birdwatching field trip to Kerkini Lake

(only for those who have booked for this in advance)

ITINERARY

Friday 8 February - Leave Hotel Metropolitan at about 18:00 for 1.5 hour drive by bus to Lake Kerkini. Dinner and accommodation will be provided at a hotel/taverna right by the lake. We have booked accommodation at this hotel on your behalf (in shared rooms with people of the same sex).

Saturday 9 February - After breakfast there will be an organised birdwatching trip to the lake, including a boat trip, followed by lunch at 1pm.

For those who have flights from Thessaloniki on Saturday evening, or earlier than 11:00 on Sunday morning, or if you have asked to get back to Thessaloniki on Saturday after the field trip (most participants), transport (jeeps) will leave the taverna at Lake Kerkini by 14:30 at the latest to return to the airport. This should allow those who have booked the earliest flights (17:30) to get these flights (we should allow a minimum of 3 hours between leaving Lake Kerkini and flight times, preferably a bit longer). **If you need to stay in Thessaloniki on Saturday evening you should book direct with the Hotel Metropolitan** (details as provided previously).

For those fewer people who have flights after 11:00 on Sunday, we have booked you to stay at the lakeside taverna at Kerkini (dinner, bed and breakfast on Saturday night; cheaper and nicer than being in Thessaloniki) unless you have arranged differently with us. Transport (jeeps) will be arranged to travel to the airport in time for flights on Sunday (leaving around 07:30 in the morning).

COSTS

Please remember that field trip costs cannot be claimed back from COST and you can only claim accommodation and meal costs for the number of days indicated on your original invitation (4 nights if you attend only one workshop; 6 nights if you have an invitation for both workshops).

All participants

Travel to and from Thessaloniki to Lake Kerkini - 20€ each way = 40€

Dinner on Friday/bed and breakfast at the hotel-taverna/boat trip/lunch on Saturday - 65€+VAT for the package

Additional costs for those staying at Lake Kerkini until Sunday morning

Dinner on Saturday, bed and breakfast on Sunday- 37€+VAT



You will be able to pay for accommodation and food at the Lake Kerkini hotel by credit card when you arrive but please bring cash to cover the costs of transport.

More information: <http://www.greece-is.com/birdwatching-in-greece-love-stories-on-lake-kerkini/>

Contacts

For further questions related to local arrangements or the programme, please contact Dr Anastasios Saratsis (T.Saratsis@gmx.de).