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fakulteta



## **DinaRis: A Project in Support of Transboundary Cooperation in Lynx Conservation**

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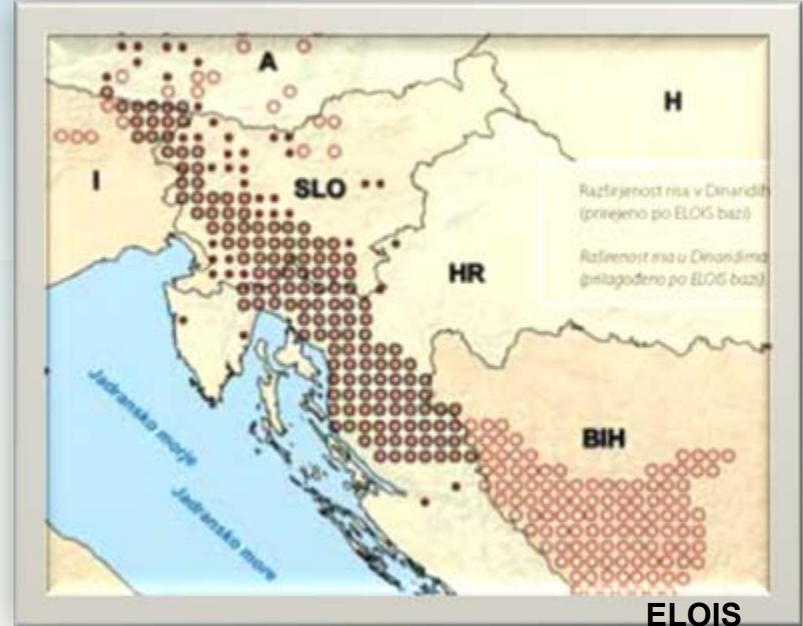


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# Background information

- Dinaric population.
- Established from 6 individuals reintroduced in 1973 in Slovenia.
- Often mentioned as one of the most successful reintroductions in Europe.
- Currently numbers seem to be decreasing:
  - Slovenia ~ 20 individuals,
  - Croatia 40-60 individuals,
  - Bosnia ??

Going into another extinction?!



**2005 – initiative to start transboundary cooperation**

**INTERREG IIIA**



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**Name of the project:**

**Transboundary Cooperation in Management,  
Conservation and Research of the Dinaric Lynx  
Population (acronym: DinaRis)**

**Timeframe: 18 months.**

**Joint value of the project: 370 000 EUR.**

**Problem:** Joint project but different rules – delay in start  
of the project in Croatia for 6 months.

# **General goal of the project**

**...to establish a network of partnerships in the northern Dinarics, which will contribute towards promotion and long-term conservation of natural values of the area.**





# Objectives:



# Partners

- **Slovenian:**
  - **Dinaricum Society,**
  - **University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty,**
  - **Slovenia Forest Service,**
  - **Symbiosis Institute,**
  - **Hunters Association of Slovenia,**
  - **Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation**
- **Croatian:**
  - **University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,**
  - **State Institute for Nature Protection,**
  - **Croatian Forests,**
  - **NP Risnjak**





# **Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation**

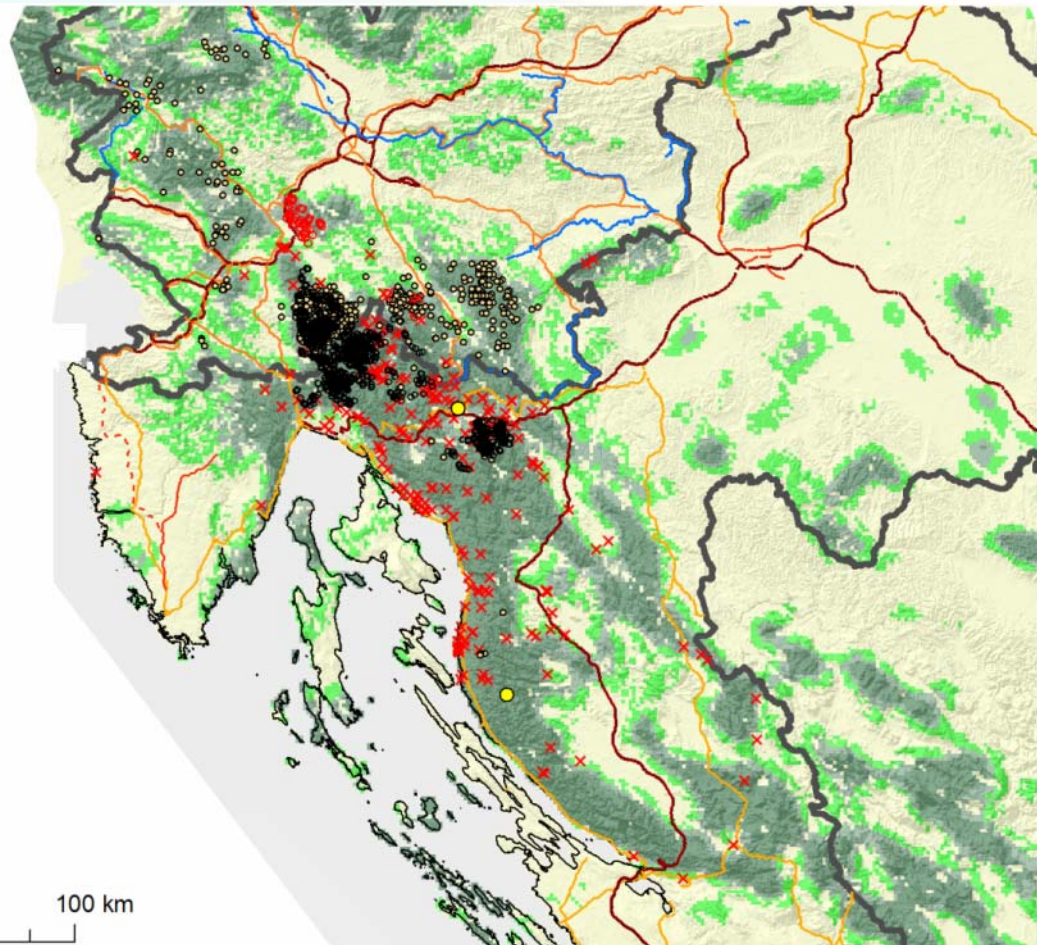
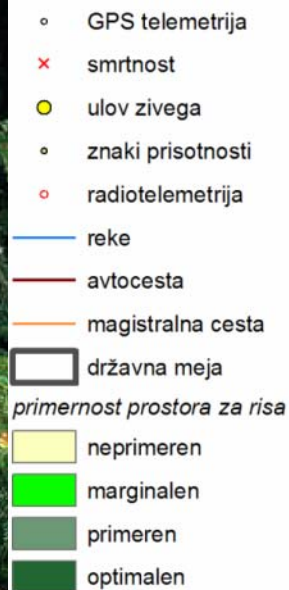
- 1. What is causing the decrease in lynx numbers?**
- 2. What are the species requirements?**
- 3. Is public supportive of lynx conservation?**



# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

## 1. What is causing the decrease in lynx numbers?

- Habitat.

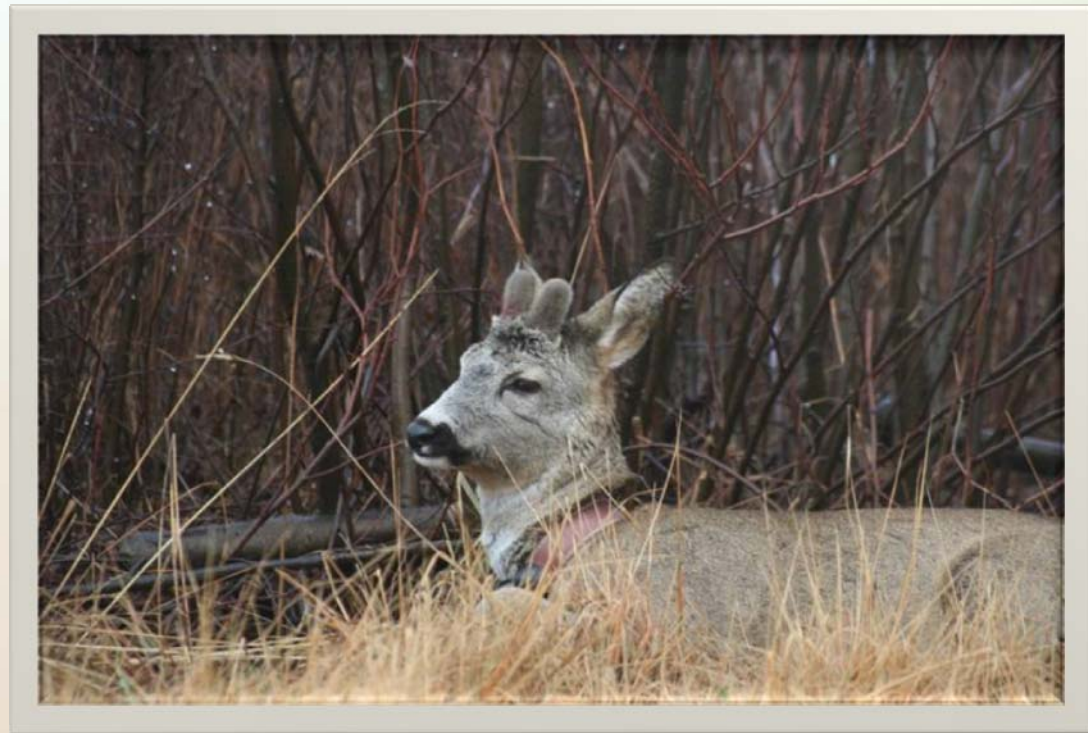




# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

## 1. What is causing the decrease in lynx numbers?

- Habitat.
- Prey availability.
  - 11 individuals marked with radio collars,
  - analysis of bone marrow.







# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

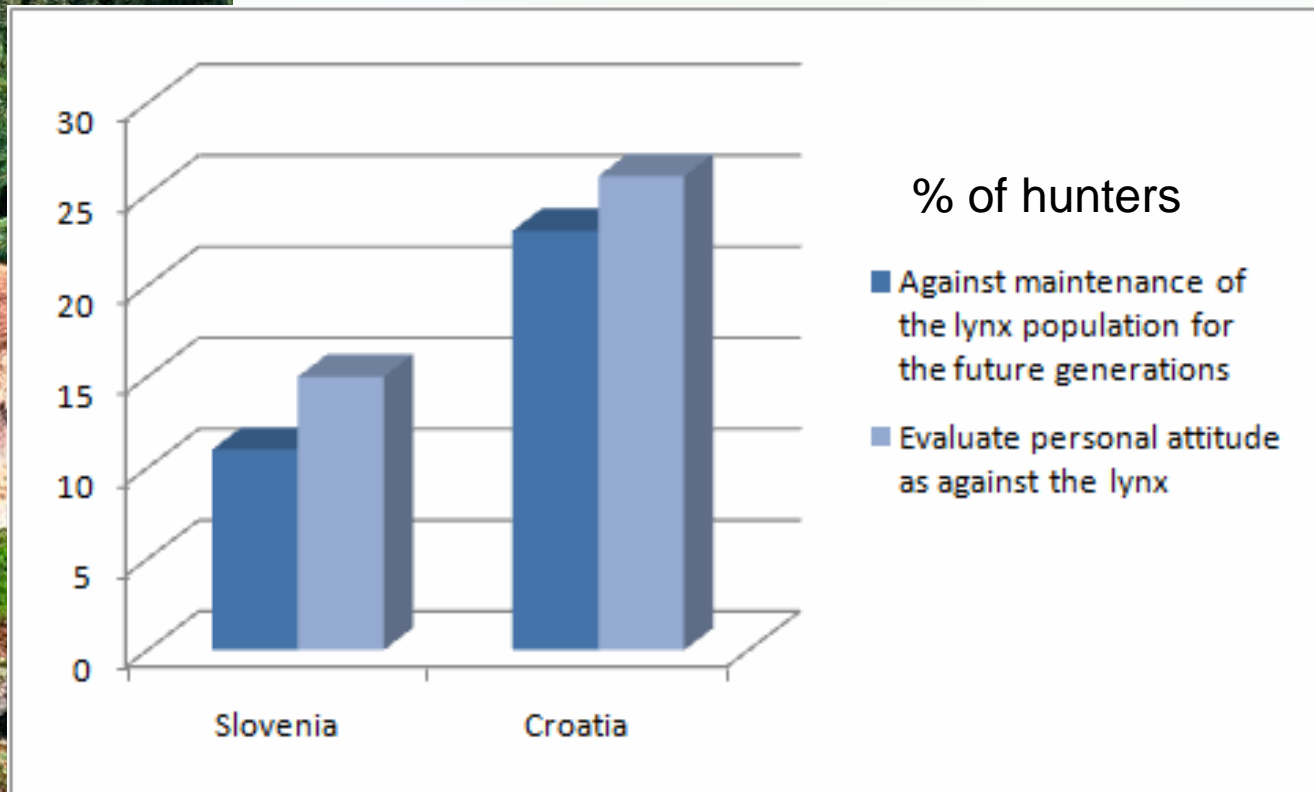
## 1. What is causing the decrease in lynx numbers?

- Habitat.
- Prey availability.
- Inbreeding.
  - Preliminary results,  $n = 23$  , 20 microsatellite loci;
  - Observed heterozygosity = 0.436
  - Expected heterozygosity = 0.457
  - Allelic diversity = 3

# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

## 1. What is causing the decrease in lynx numbers?

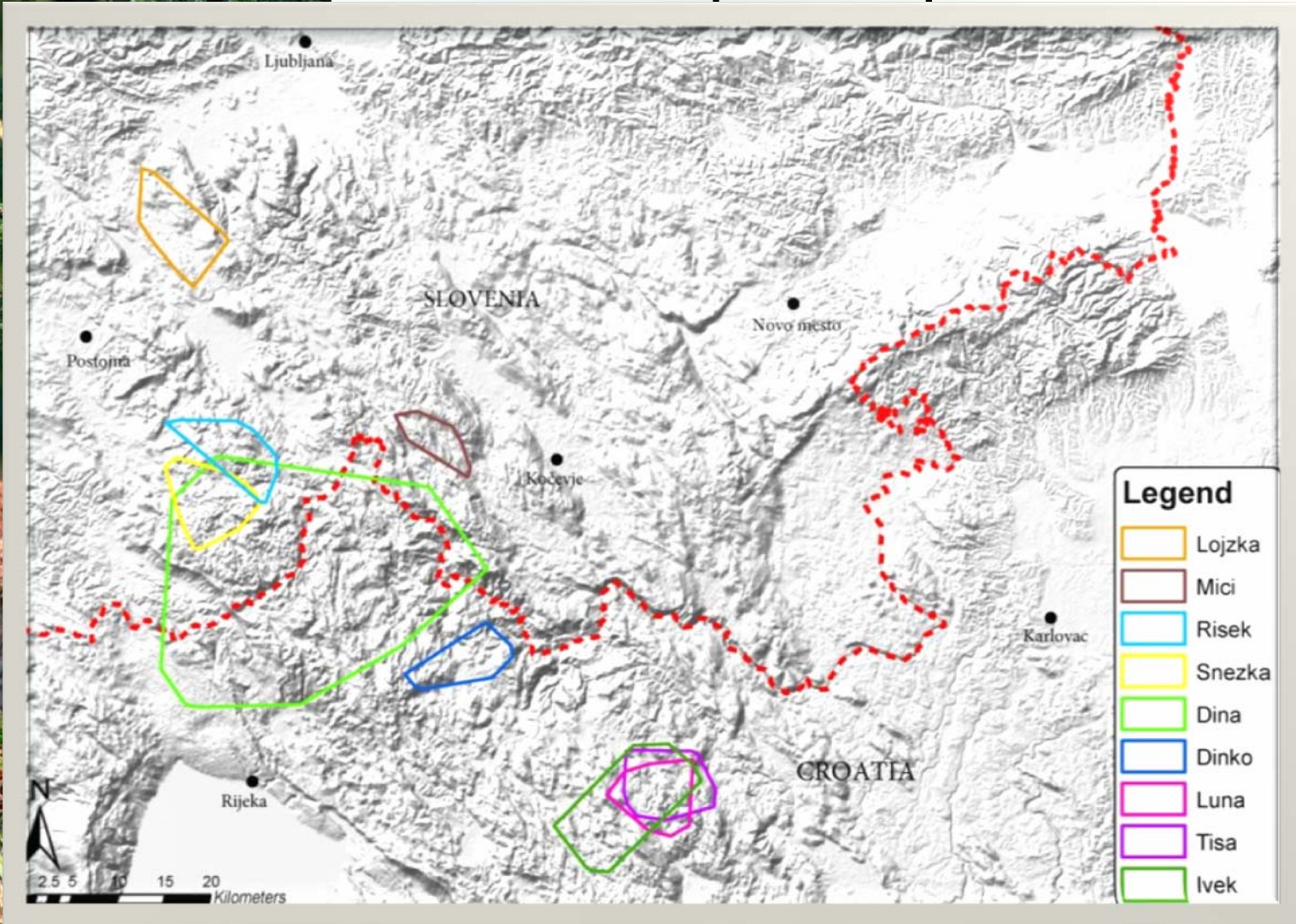
- Habitat.
- Prey availability.
- Inbreeding.
- Poaching.





# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

What are the species requirements?







# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

What are the species requirements?

- Telemetry.
- Tracking in snow.





# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation

## What are the species requirements?

- Telemetry.  
Tracking in snow.  
Monitoring of prey consumption.



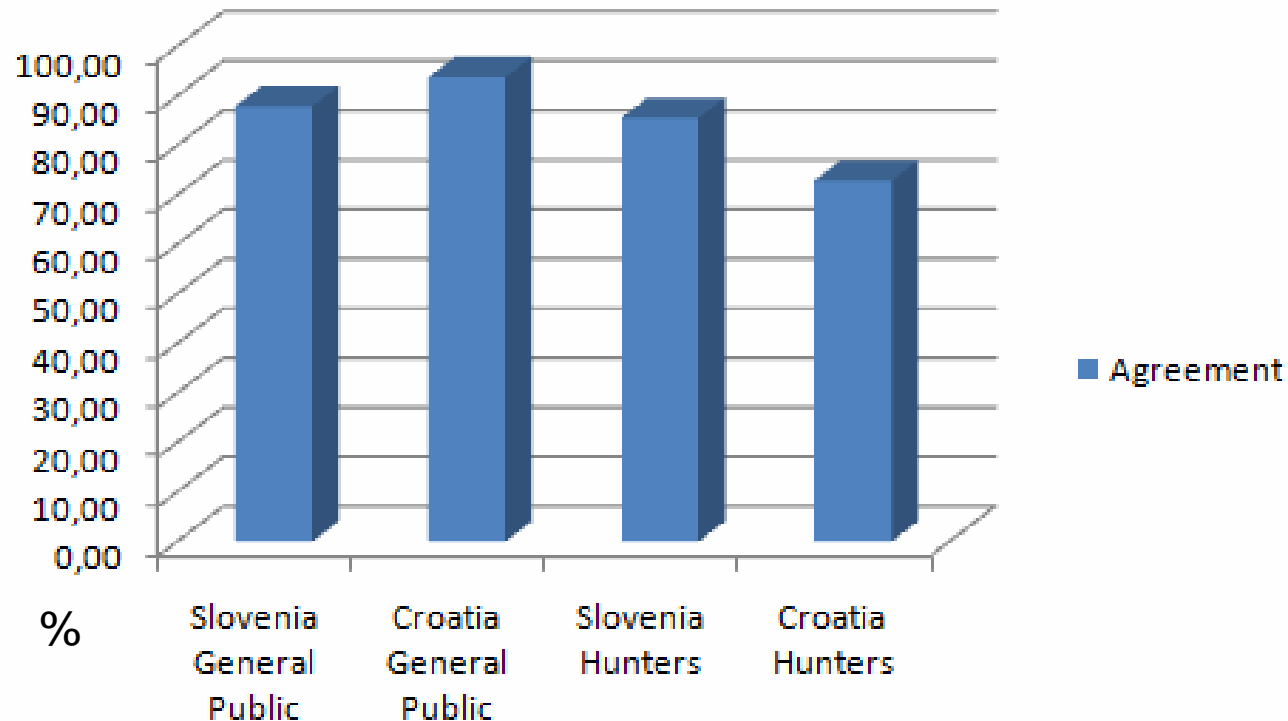




# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation?

## Is public supportive of lynx conservation?

- Support for conservation.
  - Agreement to *"We should maintain lynx population in Slovenia / Croatia for the future generations."*

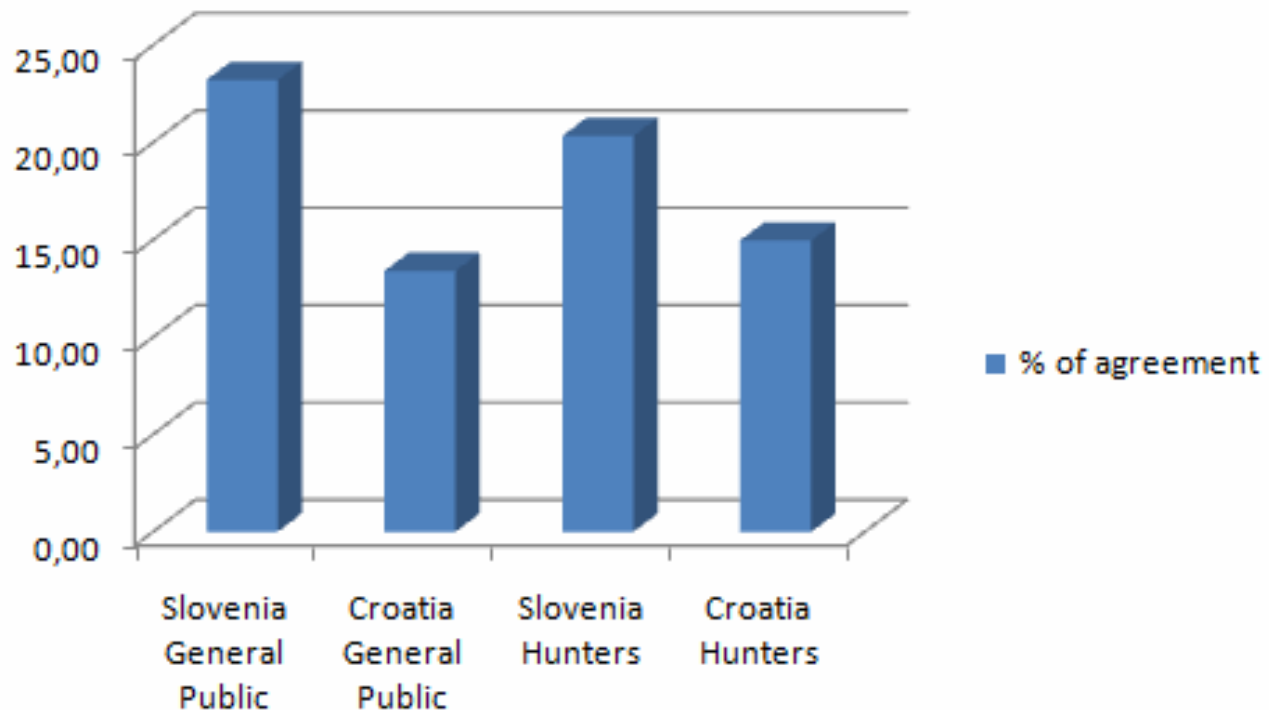




# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation?

## Is public supportive of lynx conservation?

- Support for conservation.
- Beliefs about lynx impacts to livestock husbandry.
  - Agreement to *“Lynx cause unacceptable damage to livestock”*.





# Acquisition of knowledge important for conservation?

## Is public supportive of lynx conservation?

- Support for conservation.
- Beliefs about lynx impacts to livestock husbandry.
- Beliefs about lynx impacts to game species.

*Close to 40% of hunters believe that lynx impacts to roe deer is unacceptable.*





# Objectives:



# Preparation of foundations for potential joint management

1. Proposal of a Joint Lynx Management Plan,
2. Joint monitoring of the population and bank of the population genetic material.



# Preparation of foundations for potential joint management

## Proposal of a Joint Lynx Management Plan

- Four bilateral workshops,
- 50 persons from 23 institutions participated,
- Proposal will be submitted to the Ministries over the following weeks.

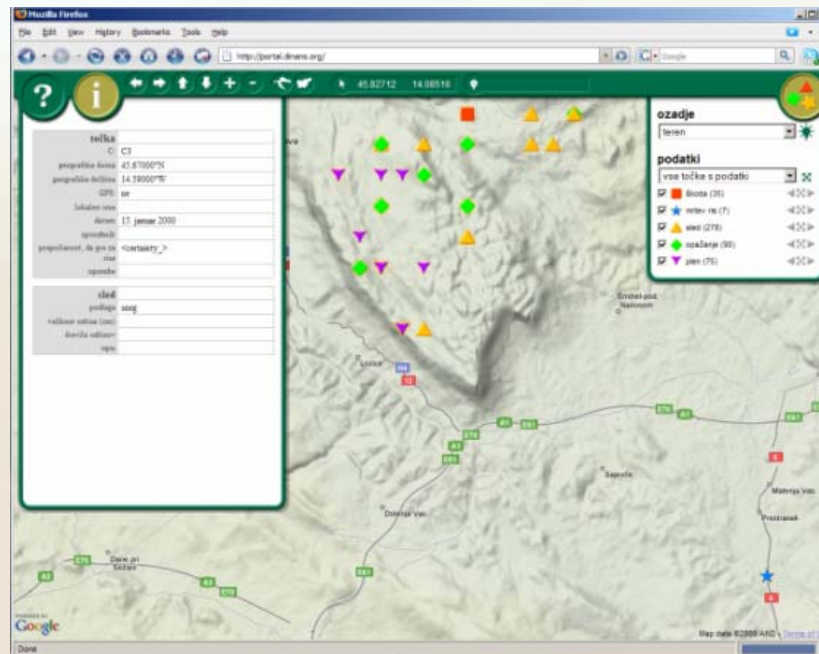




# Preparation of foundations for potential joint management

Joint monitoring of the population

- Joint online database with cartographic interface.
- Collection of lynx presence data and genetic material using hair traps.
- Systematic collection of all genetic material.



# Objectives:





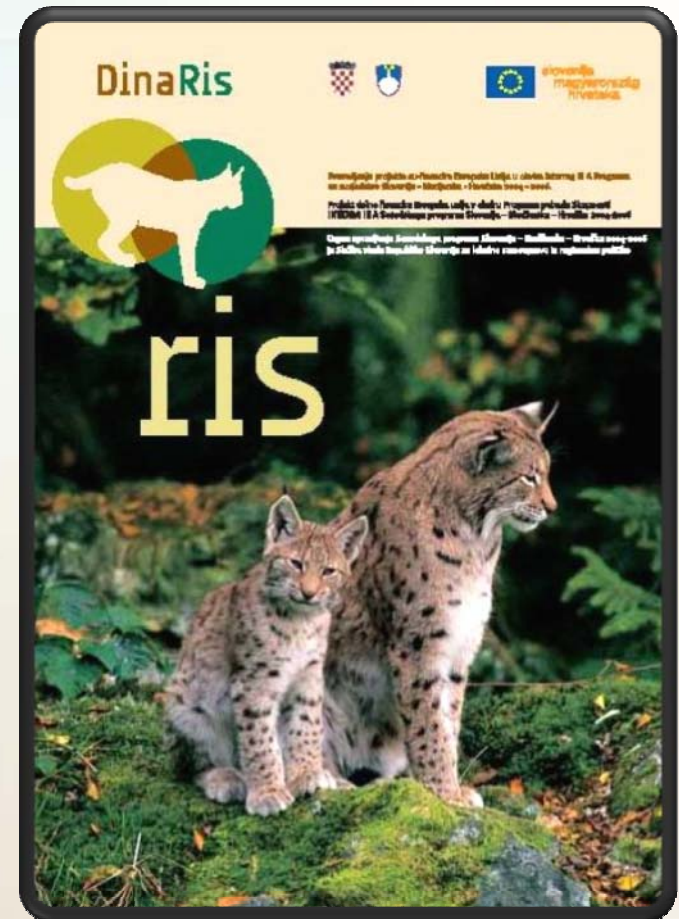
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- Web page ([www.dinaris.org](http://www.dinaris.org)),



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- Documentary film about the project,



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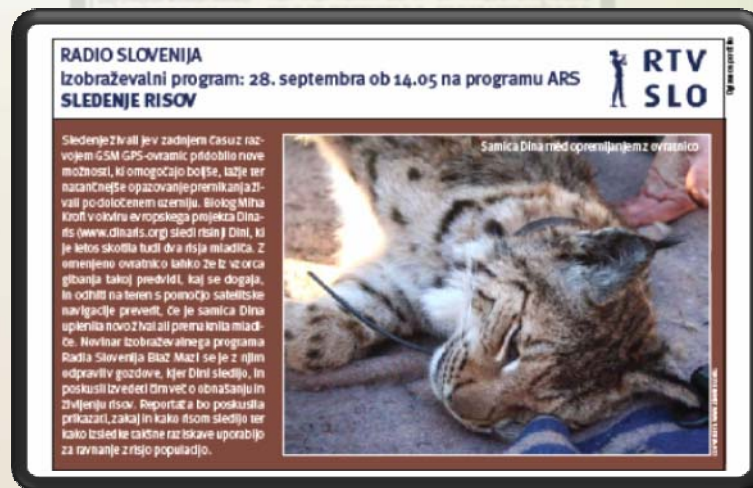
- Web page ([www.lynx-europe.org](http://www.lynx-europe.org))
- Brochure about lynx in the Dinarics,
- Interactive exhibit for elementary schools
- Info panels about lynx and existing educational trails,
- Documentary film project,
- Lectures about lynx for the general public,





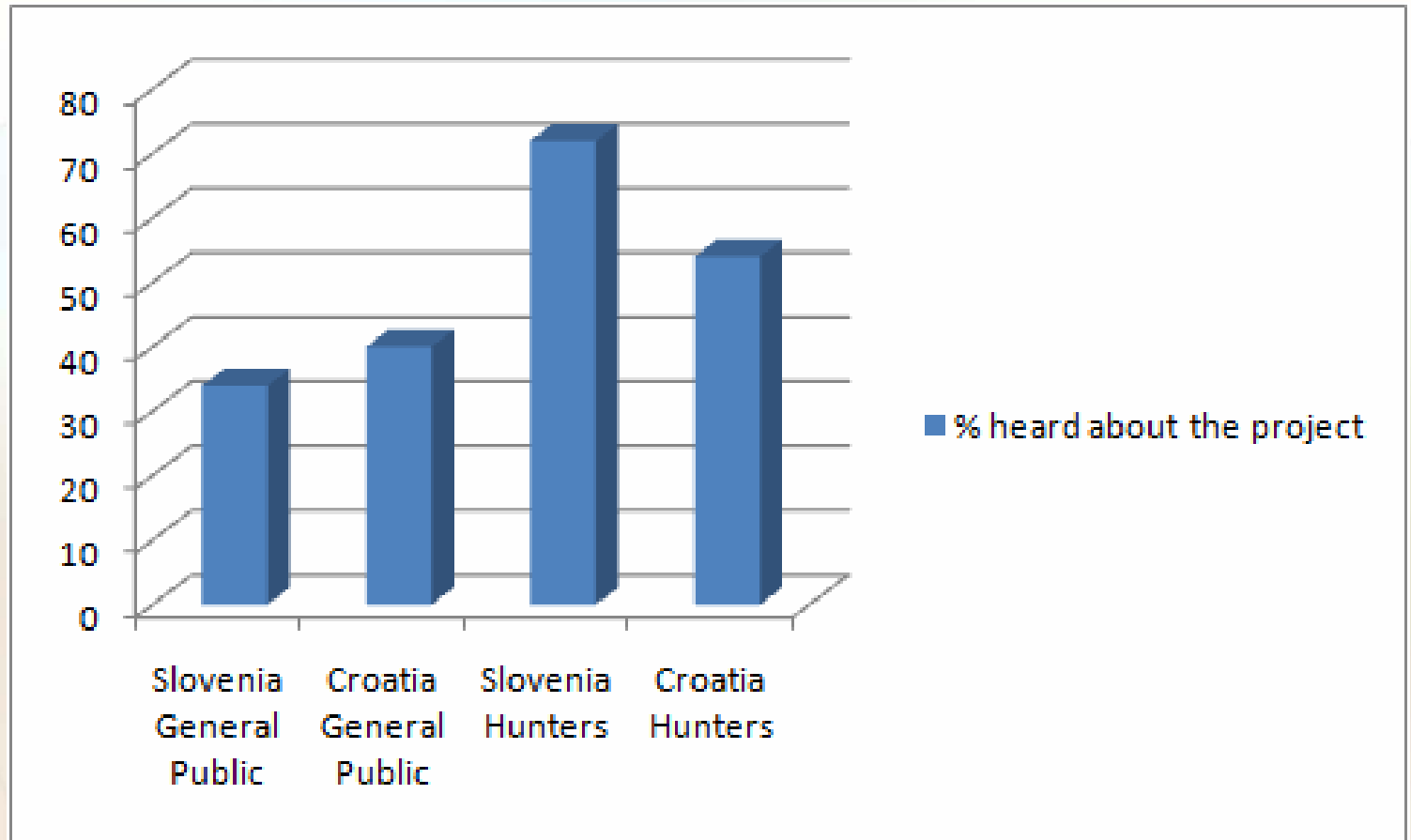
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- Interactive exhibition for elementary school children,
- Info panels about lynx for the existing educational forest trails,
- Documentary film about the project,
- Lectures about lynx for the general public,
- Communication with media.



# Dissemination and awareness raising

- Visibility of the project in the project area.







**Thank you!**