



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

EU/CoE Joint Programme
Emerald Network Phase II

FIRST BIO-GEOGRAPHICAL SEMINAR FOR STEPPIC AND ALPINE CAUCASUS REGIONS: INTRODUCTION

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Kiev

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Conseil de l'Europe

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Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network



Seminar: aims

- Assess if the network of proposed ASCIs by Moldova, Russia and Ukraine are now sufficient for habitats listed in the Resolution 4 and for species listed in the Resolution 6 of the Berne Convention using agreed criteria;
- Consider opinions of different stakeholders: Governments, NGOs and scientific experts representing different institutions
- Conclude on sufficiency for each habitat and each species per country and bio-geographical region





Seminars: preparations

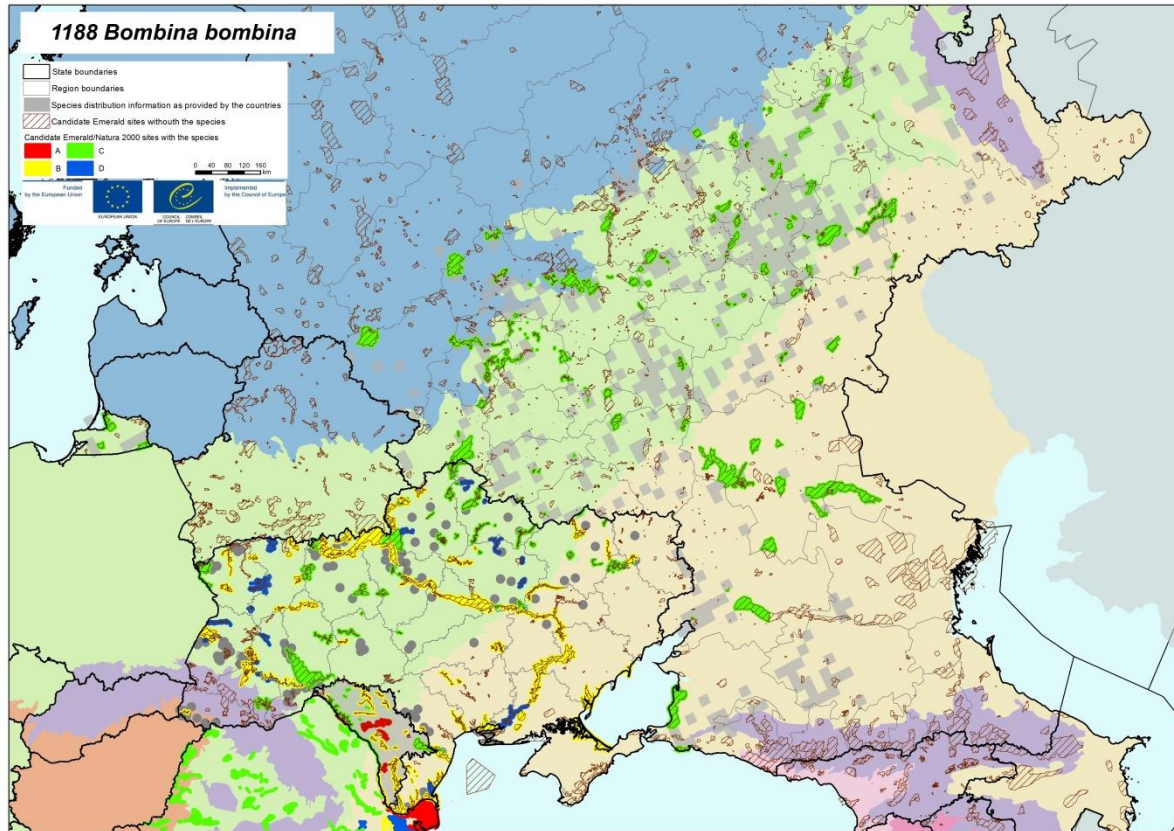
- Pre-assessment by the Council of Europe consultants resulting in 'draft conclusions'
- Key steps in the above work for all Res. 4 and 6 features:
 - Look at the SDFs submitted by countries
 - Search for the reference data
 - Compare SDFs with reference data
 - Propose a possible conclusion (if any)
- The aim of the above is to ask questions (if they appear) and to start discussion





Documents: draft conclusions

Code	Species Name	iso	biogeo	pASCI	pop. assessment	pop. permanent	Draft Conclusion Comments	Draft Conclusion
Invertebrates								
1013	Vertigo geyeri	UA	CON	0			Present according to Балашев (2012)?	IN MAJOR?
1014	Vertigo angustior	BY	CON	0			Some Polish sites just at Belarus border. Present? More research needed?	SR?
1014	Vertigo angustior	MD	CON	1 (1C)		p(0-0i)	It is OK, if this the only known site, but why population is 'C'? More research is needed?	SR?
1014	Vertigo angustior	RU	CON	4 (4C)			Sites very sporadic, but probable actual distribution is wider (i.e AnimalBase suggests distribution till South Urals)? Bulavkina & Stoiko (2007) suggest presence in Penza oblast, information given by RU authorities - also in Samara oblast (see map). May be more specific research necessary on this species? [Previous conclusion in RU_BOR:IN MOD]	IN MOD/IN MIN?
1014	Vertigo angustior	UA	ALP-Car	0			Present according to Balashov & Gural-Sverlova (2012)?	IN MAJOR?
1014	Vertigo angustior	UA	CON	2 (2D)			Apparently present, but why both sites have 'D' (insignificant) populations? If all are really 'D' then it should be excluded from the Reference List.	?
1016	Vertigo moulinsiana	BY	CON	0			One Polish site just at Belarus border and one Lithuanian site quite close to it. Present? More research needed?	SR?
1016	Vertigo moulinsiana	MD	CON	1 (1C)		p(0-0i)	The same note as with 1014: it is OK, if this the only known site (MD0000004) but why population is 'C'? More research is needed? Check out more similar habitats?	SR?
1016	Vertigo moulinsiana	RU	CON	0			Present according to Стойко & Булавкина (2010) in the central part (Penza), and according to the Red Book of Moscow oblast. Or more research needed; unclear taxonomy?	IN MAJOR? SR?
1016	Vertigo moulinsiana	UA	PAN	0			One HU site with this species just at the border. Present?	?



Documents: maps

Population/
relative cover
categories:

- D: insignificant
- C: 0-2%
- B: 2-15%
- A: 15-100%



Coding of conclusions

Coding	Meaning	Action required
SUF	Sufficient	No further sites needed
IN MIN	Insufficient – minor	More sites required but habitat/species is present on sites already proposed for other habitats/species
IN MOD	Insufficient - moderate	One or a few additional sites (or maybe extension to sites) required.
IN MAJOR	Insufficient- major	No sites proposed at present and a significant effort required
SCI RES	Scientific Reserve	Further study required
CD	Correction of data	Data needs to be corrected / completed





How much is enough?

- No strict numeric mechanism for decision-making
- Decisions made as a result of discussion and exchange of opinions
- Case-to-case approach
- More sites needed for rare and threatened species
- Less sites for common and widespread species
- The '20-60%' principle not always relevant



Criteria

To reach the aims of Convention, the selection of sites for each species and habitat must:

- represent sites from the entire **distribution range** at a national level and bio-geographical level;
- it should reflect the **ecological variation** of the habitat and of the species (genetic) within the bio-geographical region;
- it should be well-adapted to the specific conservation needs, in particular to those related to the **distribution patterns** of the considered species or habitat type;
- if the first 3 conditions are met, it will be expected that site proposals will include **significant proportions** of habitat area and species populations within the Emerald network versus the overall national resource.

Participants of the seminar



- Country delegation
- Council of Europe
- Evaluators
- NGOs
- Independent experts
- Observers



Seminars: order of opinions

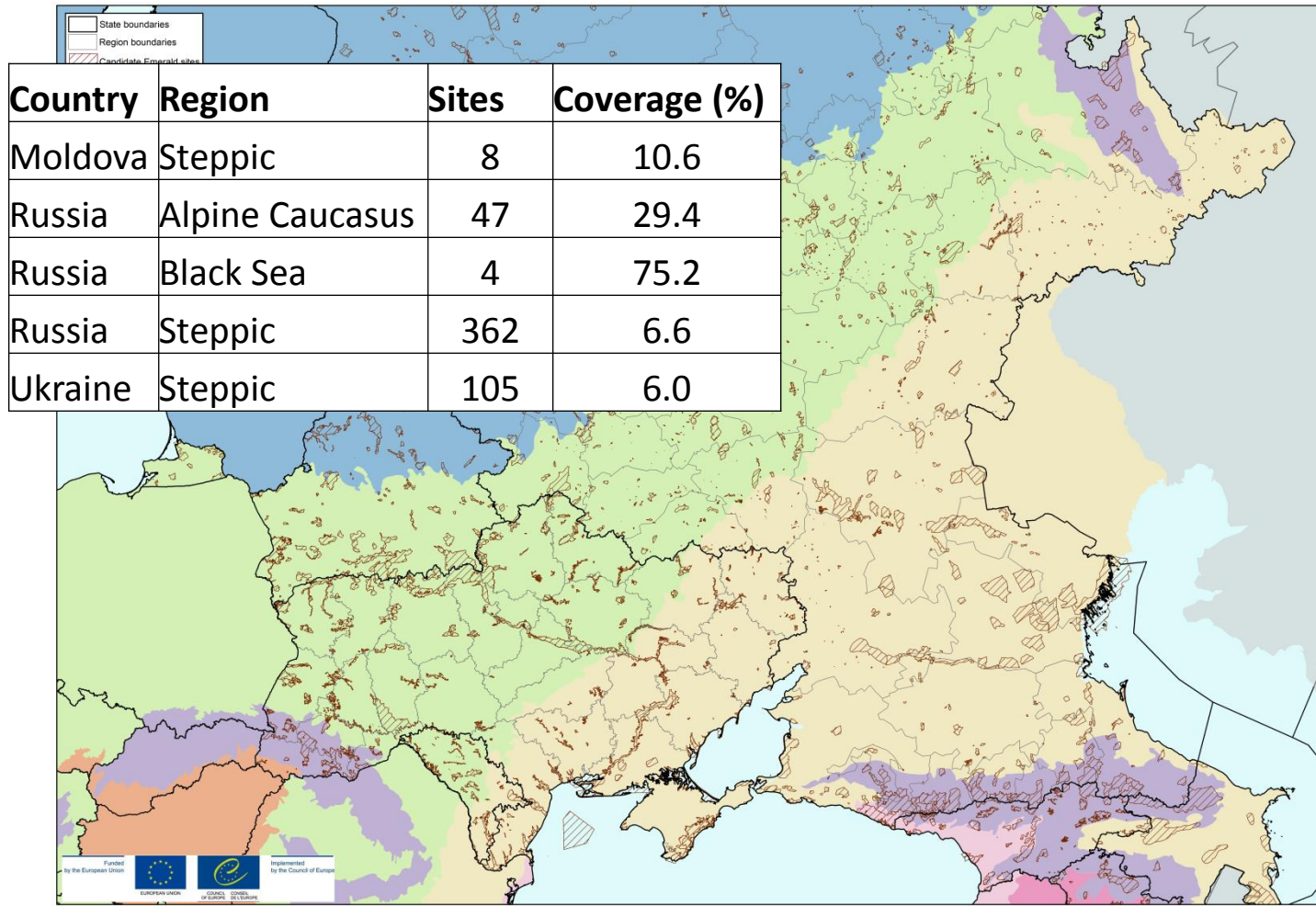
Chair: **Bern Convention Bureau/Secretariat**

1. **Experts/evaluators:** main facts about species/habitat and a proposed conclusion
2. **Government** (country delegation)
3. **NGOs**
4. **Independent experts** (if appropriate)
5. **Bern Convention Bureau/Secretariat:** conclusion





ASCIs in Steppic, Alpine Caucasian and Black Sea (RU) regions





Main problems during evaluation

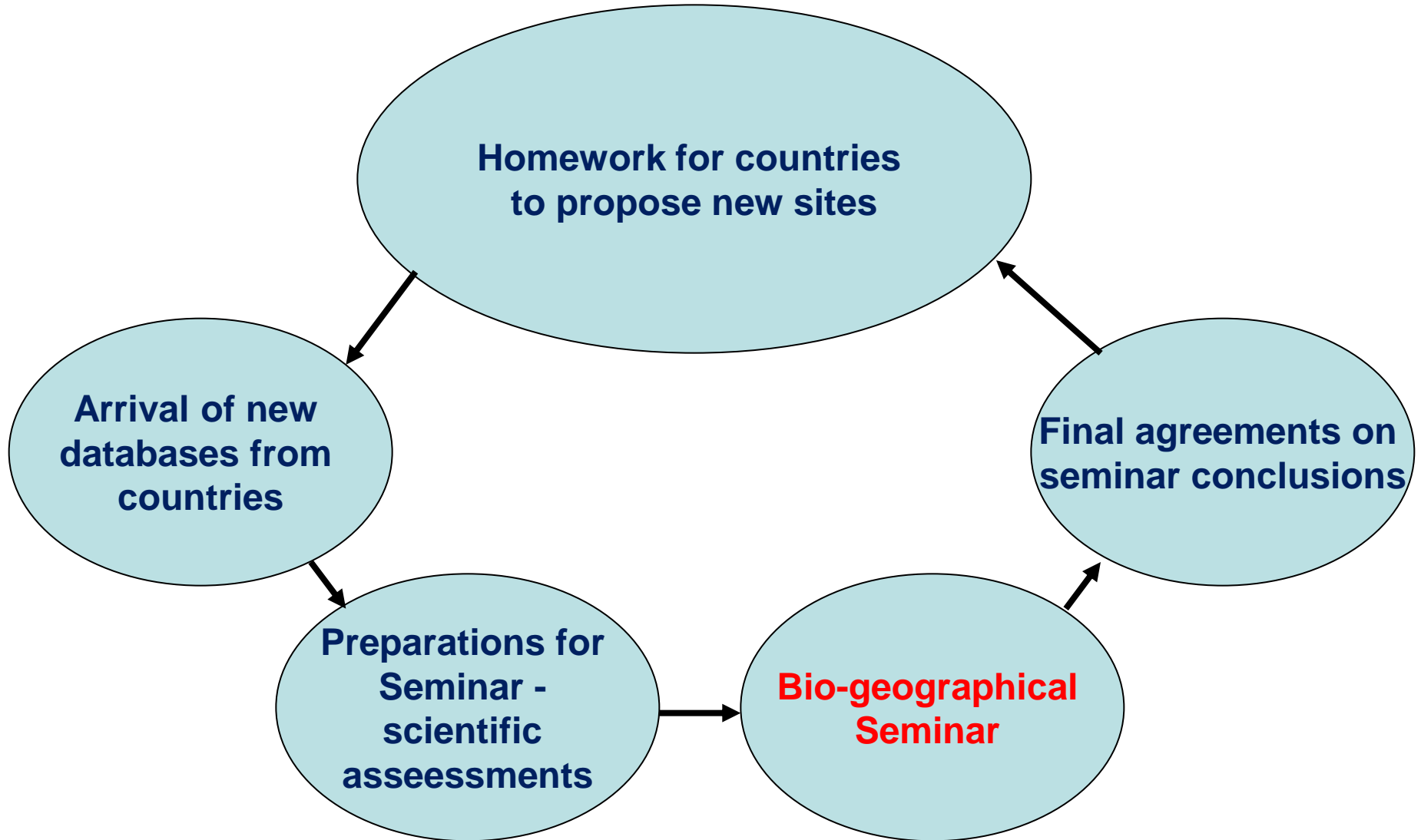
- Quite many new species/region added during the preliminary evaluation (i.e. Not reported in SDFs so far)
- Almost no numeric data on species populations in ASCIs
- Apparently inappropriate use of 'D' and 'C' categories for population/relative cover
- Contradictions inbetween references and between references and Emerald proposals (thus we rely on discussions at the seminar)
- Changes in taxonomy and double names (old and new)
- Other errors (corrected by Marc): duplicated records, missing or wrong codes
- **The problem of scale in assessments (RU)**



Agenda

- We have approximately **650** conclusions to make during approximately **1100** work-minutes;
- Therefore ... we should not waste time where conclusion is obvious and there are no objections from either side;
- ...please speak strictly on the subject – make your point clear and what conclusion you propose!
- ... collaborative attitude needed
- Agenda can be slightly adapted to meet some specific needs

Sufficiency evaluation cycle





Thank you for attention!

