**Tuesday the 7th of March at 4-5.15 pm (GMT) / 5-6.15 pm (CET)**

**TITLE:**

Saving the lynx from extinction - actively involving hunters in the LIFE Lynx project's conservation activities

**SUMMARY:**

Protection activities that do not involve public participation are usually doomed to failure from the outset. In particular, activities to reintroduce species that are already extinct in an area must be based on the participation of key stakeholders and the general public. The Eurasian lynx was once extinct in Slovenia, and hunters have been the main catalysts for its reintroduction. As the population is highly inbred due to the introduction of six animals, the introduction of new genes was urgently needed. In the framework of the LIFE Lynx project, unrelated individuals have been translocated to Slovenia and Croatia and their inclusion in the population will prevent the species from becoming extinct again. The reintroduction of lynx would not have been positively received without the active involvement of hunters in releases communication and, above all, field monitoring activities.

**PRESENTER NAME and SHORT BIO:**

**Rok Černe – LIFE Lynx project coordinator at Lead Beneficiary Slovenia Forest Service**

Rok is a forester by profession and has been working for more than ten years as a project manager for wildlife at the Slovenian Forest Service. He is currently the coordinator of the LIFE Lynx project, having previously coordinated the LIFE DINALP BEAR project, and has worked on a number of other projects dealing with large carnivore issues. He is also the chair of the WISO platform of the Alpine Convention and a member of the LIFE WolfAlps EU project team.

**Tilen Hvala - Hunters Association of Slovenia**

Tilen is an MsC forestry student. He has always been interested in wildlife and its relation to ecology and management and is happy to be involved in such an important lynx conservation project. At Hunters Association of Slovenia, he carries out communication and educational activities for hunters, as well as organizes educational seminars for police officers and field personnel for prevention of illegal killing of wildlife.

**RELATED RESOURCES:**

LIFE Lynx webpage: <https://www.lifelynx.eu/>

LIFE Lynx promo film: (trailer): <https://vimeo.com/264196027>

Hunter stories:

Lynx the hunter - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2beAyDgtB0>

Legendary Maks - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpBcFFzpzs0>

The Lynx catchers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJfR8_GtcNc>

Lynx through history - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntclqzPeYUY>

Alojzije Frković (hunter) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iRx0aYhplU>

Short presentations about the conservation activities of the project – lynx translocations, trapping and monitoring: <https://www.lifelynx.eu/category/activities/action-c/>

Reports on lynx monitoring and management:

[Surveillance of the reinforcement process of the Dinaric -SE Alpine lynx population in the lynx-monitoring year 2020-2021 (EN, pdf)](https://www.lifelynx.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/LIFE-Lynx-C5-annual-report-2020-21_FINAL.pdf)

[Monitoring of the Eurasian lynx in the Eastern Romanian Carpathians from 2017 to 2021 (EN, pdf)](https://www.lifelynx.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2021-Report-A2_LifeLynx_monitoring_Romania_new.pdf)

[First report about the success of the lynx releases and genetic reinforcement of the Dinaric population – 2021 (EN, pdf)](https://www.lifelynx.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-First-report-C.3_final2.pdf)

[Baseline (pre-reinforcement) genetic status of SE Alpine and Dinaric Lynx population (EN, pdf)](https://www.lifelynx.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Annex-12-Deliverable_A3-Pre-Reintroduction-Genetic-Status-Report.pdf)