EPIC-Butterfly

Detailed information of training courses

Information material requested by Member States

- Time, location, length and expected costs (travel and hotel)

We are collecting this information at the moment with butterfly trainers. We could provide most complete information at the end of February. Attached is the timeline of the EPIC-butterfly courses (fourth page) to be held during the project length, with more details on duration of the courses, different levels, type of course and range on the year.

Based on the location, the travel costs can be calculated. As participants can come from diverse locations, provide the travel costs can be complicated.

Country	Level	Date	Venue	Length (days)	Number of participants
Slovenia	1	May-June 2025	Grad	2	15
Romania	1	19-21 June 2025	Angofa, near Sighisoara	2	10
Romania	2	17-19 July 2025	Angofa, near Sighisoara	2	10
Czechia/Slovakia	1	May 2025	Prague	2	10-15
Czechia/Slovakia	2	July 2025	Brno	2	10-15
Czechia/Slovakia	lab	Winter 2025	Prague	2	10-15
Greece	2	June 2026	Ano Pedina	2	10-15
Hungary	1	May 2025	Budapest	2	10-15
Hungary	2			2	10-15
Latvia	1	Spring 2025		2	10-15
Latvia	2			2	10-15
Bulgaria	1	Spring 2025		2	10-15
Bulgaria	2			2	10-15
Croatia	1	Spring 2025		2	10-15
Croatia	2			2	10-15

Croatia	lab			2	10-15
Poland	1	Spring 2025		2	10-15
Poland	2			2	10-15
Lithuania	1	Spring 2025		2	10-15
Lithuania	2			2	10-15

- How many people per MS can be nominated?

5-10 people (still not able to mention as the number of sites are not published)

Surveys for the future pollinator monitoring scheme are likely to require full time employment (at least during the field season). Preference will be given for applicants that have an employment situation allowing them to undertake future surveys of the pollinator monitoring scheme (or that could become trainers for other surveyors). Applicants should explain how they intend to carry out the surveys.

- What are the selection criteria and how are they weighted (for example, priorities for previous research or monitoring experience, publications or training)

We want people with certain experience to get to the first field course (level 1), some knowledge about the field and entomology and likelihood to perform EUPoMS in the future.

The type of information EPIC-Butterfly needs to know to admit someone is based on the information provided on the self-assessment when participants do the registration, where entomology knowledge, experience on the field will be assessed.

- What type of certificate will be issued?

To be discussed with the EPIC consortium. The certification will be informal, not comparable to a university diploma, and more indicative of the skills required to carry out butterfly monitoring. For butterflies we will use the experience of OPIE in running courses and certification in France.

- Which deadlines apply; can nominations be made at later stages?

By the end of March for 2025, and another option for next year, end of January 2026.

One contact address: epic-butterfly@bc-europe.eu

Information to be provided by MS that want to nominate someone: fill the form to register to the course
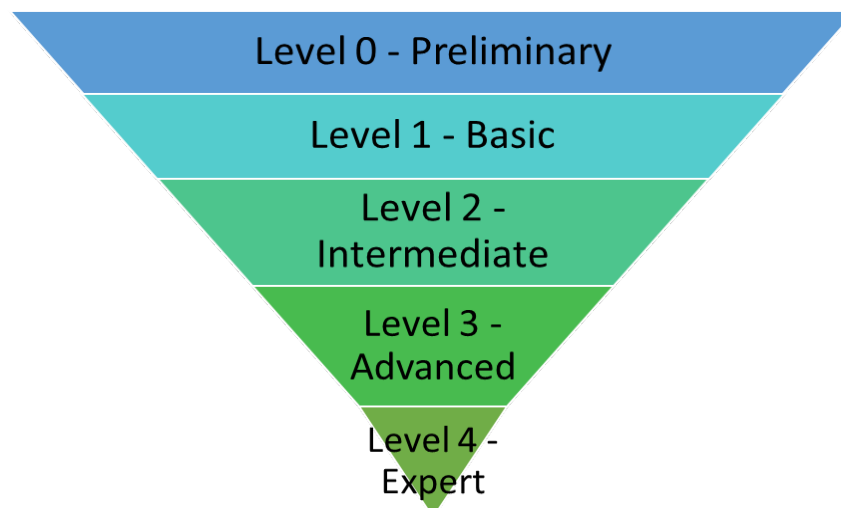
Applicable deadlines: by the end of March

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Explanation training courses EPIC-Butterfly

EPIC-Butterfly has prioritised countries according to their current level of capacity to deliver butterfly monitoring based on experience within the SPRING project. The training programme for butterflies will be focused on High Priority (target) countries, mainly in Eastern Europe, where there are currently few para-taxonomists with the necessary expertise to contribute to the EUPoMS (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece).

For the rest of the EU countries, material will be made available to perform the courses on their own region and current coordinators and butterfly expert of those countries will be informed to use the material and information to perform the courses.

The training programme is structured in five stages adapted to different levels of knowledge for participants. It is expected that the first stages of the training courses will be delivered to a larger number of participants and as the courses progress, the number of participants will decrease as the level of difficulty increases (Figure 1). The five stages are as follows:

- Level 0 - preliminary: self-study preparation
- Level 1 - basic: online workshop and field excursion for target countries
- Level 2 - intermediate (standard): online workshop and field excursion for target countries, resources to identify 70% of national fauna
- Level 3 - advanced: difficult group species, international master classes held online and in English (for all the countries).
- Level 4 - expert: genitalia laboratory course, in Croatia and Czechia for several countries.

Figure 1. Five stages of training courses under EPIC-Butterfly. Inverse pyramid reflects the number of participants.

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Timeline of the EPIC-butterfly courses

Range of time when the different training courses of EPIC-Butterfly will be held along the two years of the project, based on the flight period of butterflies to perform properly the field excursions. Each level course is compounded by different type and format of training. Estimation of time is mentioned in each of the formats.

Courses Level	Year 1: 2025												Year 2: 2026												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Level 0			Self-study *(online 25min)*												Self-study *(online 25min)*									
Level 1			Self-study *(online 40min)*												Self-study *(online 40min)*									
				Webinar - basic *(2 hours)*												Webinar Level 1 *(2 hours)*								
					Field Excursion *(2-3days)*												Field Excursion *(2-3days)*						
Level 2				Self-study *(online 30min)*											Self-study *(online 30min)*									
					Webinar - Interm. *2x 2hours*											Webinar - Interm. *2x 2hours*								
						Field excursion *(2-3days)*											Field excursion *(2-3days)*						
Level 3									International Master Class *(difficult sp 90min)*											International Master Class *(difficult sp 90min)*				
Level 4										Lab course *(Czechia & Croatia)*											Lab course *(Czechia & Croatia)*			
		Provision training material												Provision training material									
Not all countries in 2025		Recruitment of participants						Recruitment					Recruitment						Recruitment				

**National courses will focus on level 0, 1 and 2; level 3 and 4 taught in English and for several countries

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