



ABLE Newsletter 2020

Welcome to the second newsletter of the [ABLE project \(Assessing Butterflies in Europe\)](#). This newsletter aims to give updates on the project to ABLE partners and to anyone interested in butterfly monitoring.

Despite the Covid19 crisis, the project team is still continuing to liaise with Butterfly Monitoring Schemes across Europe and make progress against all the targets. We describe some of the most recent developments below. Restrictions on conducting monitoring vary from country to country but we urge all schemes to start monitoring as soon as it is permitted. Data for even part of a year will still be useful. Please follow your country guidelines and pick up the work when it is safe and permitted to do so

Please forward the newsletter to friends and colleagues interested in butterfly monitoring



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Butterfly Monitoring Meeting, Laufen December 2019

The first meeting of the partners in the Assessing Butterflies in Europe (ABLE) project was held at the beautiful conference centre in Laufen (Germany). During those days, between 2nd and 4th of December, **54 delegates from 28 countries** participated in a successful meeting with interesting discussions about butterfly monitoring.

[Read more...](#)

BMS Volunteers' Interviews

European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme ([eBMS](#)) is a reality thanks to the [dedicated volunteers](#) counting butterflies every year, investing their time and effort helping us to understand more the butterflies. We want to recognise their precious job presenting 4 BMS volunteer stories from the thousands that are in Europe.



Zerynthia rumina

Picture from Carmen Luna, a BMS volunteer who does the Transect Las Torcas in Vélez de Benaudalla, Granada (Spain)

You can read why counting butterflies is fascinating and how BMS volunteers get involved in this awesome community: a [Spanish volunteer](#) doing a transect in the middle of the mountains, [a student from Hungary](#) fascinated by insects, [one volunteer in Luxembourg](#) enjoying butterflies and [a Portuguese newcomer](#) starting last year a transect.

[Read more...](#)



Transect Serra da Carregueira (Portugal)

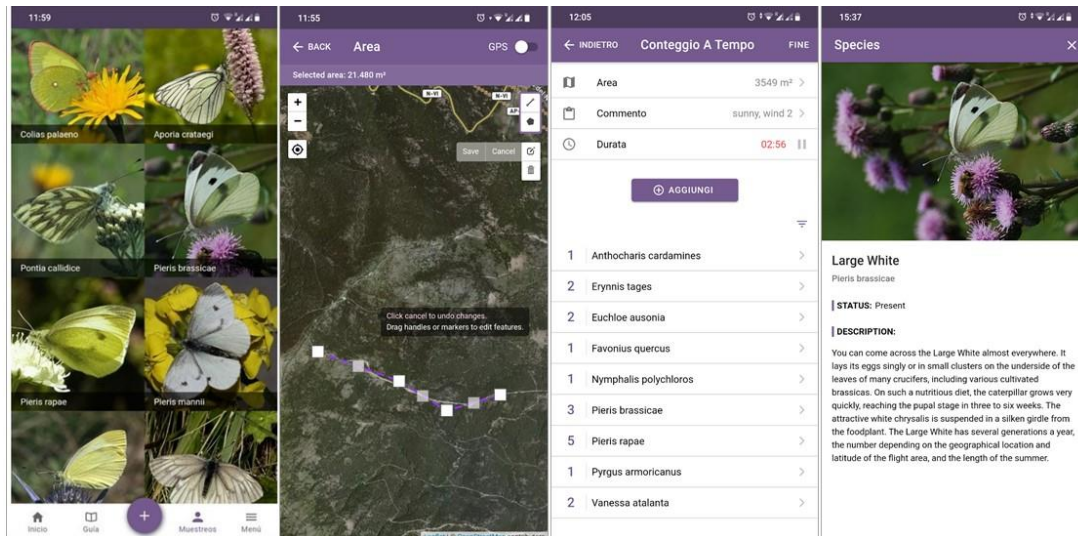
Picture from Eva Monteiro



Brenthis ino
@Chris van Swaay

Take a picture of your transect, we want to show the variety of volunteers that help counting butterflies in Europe!

Send it to cris@vvlinderstichting.nl



eBMS mobile app: ButterflyCount

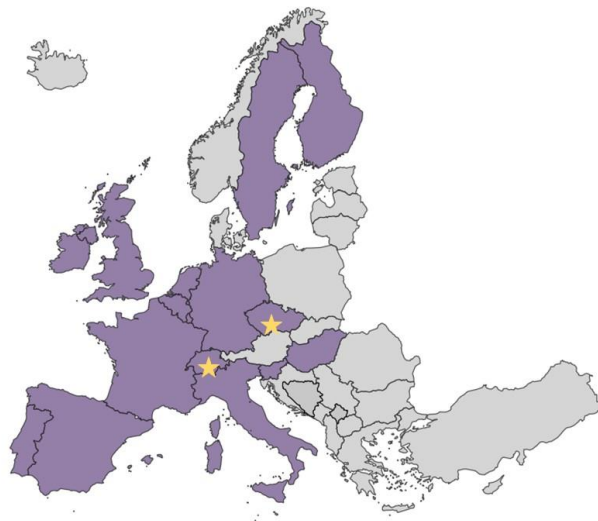
Now you can record butterflies wherever you want!

Just download the new multilingual eBMS app called "[ButterflyCount](#)" from your app store (available either as iOS or Android). This app allows you to do **15-min Counts**, counting butterfly for that period of time anywhere in Europe and download it. The results will help us obtain quantitative data from more parts of Europe, especially remote areas where standard weekly transects are difficult. You can either let your GPS track your route, or you can draw a search area, or conduct a point count. The ButterflyCount app includes Picture Guides to help identify butterflies offline. **The app is translated into more than 10 languages** and has the latest full list of the different butterfly species found across Europe – around 500 in total. You can see the [step-by-step guideline on the ebms website](#).

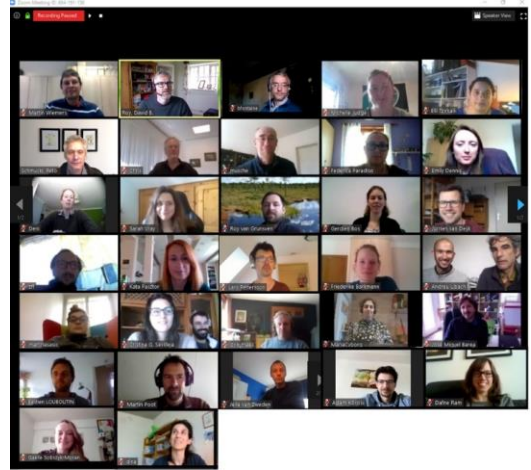
[Read more...](#)

Results of eBMS

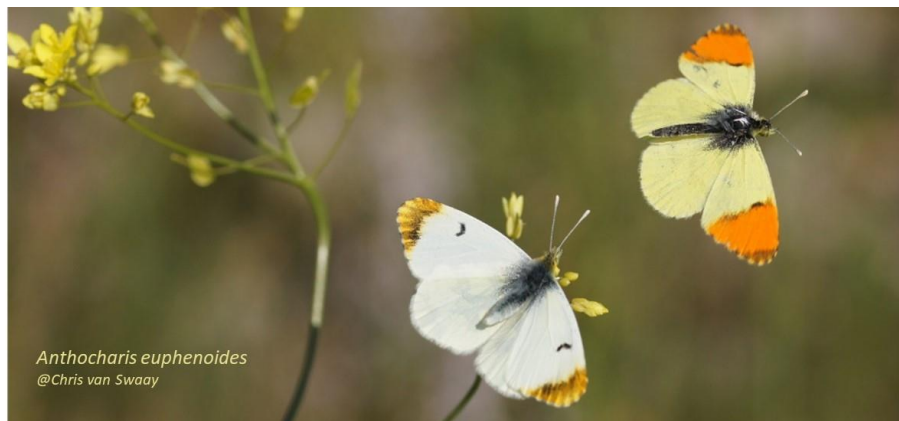
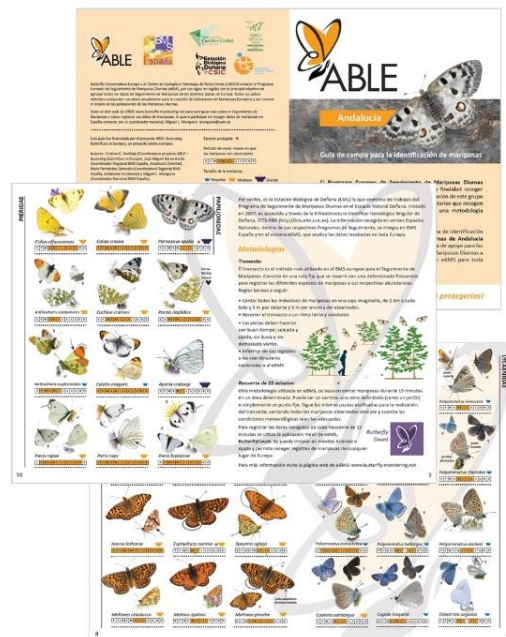
Since the last Newsletter, the network of eBMS has expanded and produced new results. The **Czech Republic** and **Switzerland** joined the network of eBMS, bringing in more valuable data and improving coverage.



After the cancellation of the Future of Butterflies conference, it was decided to hold the workshop that was planned for 1st April, over the internet. '*Calculating butterfly trends, indexes and indicators*' was attended online by **35 researchers** from across Europe. The workshop included training on how to calculate butterfly trends with the **new R package: rbms**. The full workshop can still be viewed by visiting the **eBMS website**.



Andalusia Field Guide: One of the products from the ABE project that helps to identify butterflies in the field in an easy and simple way. A field guide to identify the **93 most common butterfly species in Andalusia** in just 12 pages. It is divided by families and presents symbols identification characteristics to identify butterfly species. You can download it in **Spanish** or **English**, to print or download it in your device.



Anthocharis euphenoides
@Chris van Swaay

Social Media Campaign

In February, we ran a very popular Twitter campaign via the [@europebutterfly](#) account using the hashtag [#FebruaryButterflyMonth](#). Each day we featured a species and a nice picture to be shared. Many people joined in and appreciated seeing some virtual butterflies during the winter months. Following the Covid restrictions imposed by most countries, we decided to run the campaign again during April as [#AprilButterflyMonth](#). Chris van Swaay often tweeted the latest trends coming from the eBMS to promote the work we are doing under ABLE. We have also promoted the [ButterflyCount app](#) via social media and hope that as many of you as possible can follow us either on Twitter ([@europebutterfly](#)) or on [Facebook](#). We will continue to promote ABLE during the summer

Top Tweet earned 6,580 impressions

Day 6 [#Anthocariseuphenoides](#)

The butterfly of today in [#AprilButterflyMonth](#). The delicate Provence Orange-tip is found only in south-west Europe. It lays its eggs singly on the flower-heads of crucifers. 🦋🦋 Did you see it? Others Orange-tips welcome! pic.twitter.com/fMhMyj2MX3



👁️ 10 🗨️ 17 ❤️ 102

Top mention earned 1,623 engagements



Kaisu Pyy

@xaya_pooh · Apr 9

I made a butterfly bar at my parents yard last year and among the 'Flybars regulars (Comma gang) two Peacock came about to have drink! 29.08.2019 Sotkamo, Finland [@europebutterfly](#) [#AprilButterflyMonth](#) pic.twitter.com/5ev3y9sWDu



👁️ 11 🗨️ 46 ❤️ 314



ABLE in 2020

We still aim to complete the project as planned by the end of 2020. The main tasks remaining are to produce a [suite of indicators](#) and provide briefing documents to relevant [EU stakeholders](#). The aim is to publish the indicators in a peer-reviewed journal before going public. The other main task was to help develop schemes in new countries and to support the existing eBMS network.

Many workshops and actions had been planned for volunteers to encourage butterfly monitoring in several countries during the Spring of 2020. However, due to Covid19, all these plans have been put on hold and we are trying to [reorganize the work to focus on producing online material, better translations, improvement of technological tools, and online workshops](#). We are also urging co-ordinators to continue to promote butterfly monitoring and recruit people willing to help walk transects or use the new ButterflyCount app.

Recently, the [EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#) was published bringing hope for recovery of Europe's insect pollinators, including our butterflies and moths. BCE welcomes commitments achieved in [a press release](#). Also, we are contributing to initiatives to support the **EU Pollinator Strategy**, and how the ABLE project can support pollinator monitoring. We will keep you updated of developments later in the year

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