

### 3<sup>rd</sup> FreshProject



### EUROPONDS

The EUROPONDS project was awarded as the third fresh-project by the EFFS (European Federation for Freshwater Sciences), a joint initiative with EFYR (European Fresh and Young Researchers) and FBFW (Fresh Blood for Freshwater).

Within this framework, we are working with over 80 ECRs, organized in 30 teams from 19 different European countries. The main goal is to better understand the ecological role of ponds especially with the focus on the emerging insects coming from these small water bodies.

The insects export lipids and essential fatty acids to the terrestrial environment - this vector of energy is crucial for many consumers. Thus, the ponds play an important role for local and regional biodiversity. Whilst larger freshwater systems like rivers or lakes historically were studied more, the relevance of small water bodies in the landscape becomes increasingly obvious and some larger research collectives focus on these systems, amongst them the EUROPONDS project.

Since the project started in July 2020, a few articles were published about the project; so far, the project has also been presented at several national and international conferences; the PIs co-hosted a special session at SEFS12 and initiated that each team conducts outreach activities such as presentations at schools, for interested general and more specific audience and at public and/or research institutions. Currently our focus is on finalizing the necessary lab work and analyzing the sampling protocols to establish the database for our future publications and presentations at different scientific conferences.

Web page: <https://europonds.jimdofree.com/>