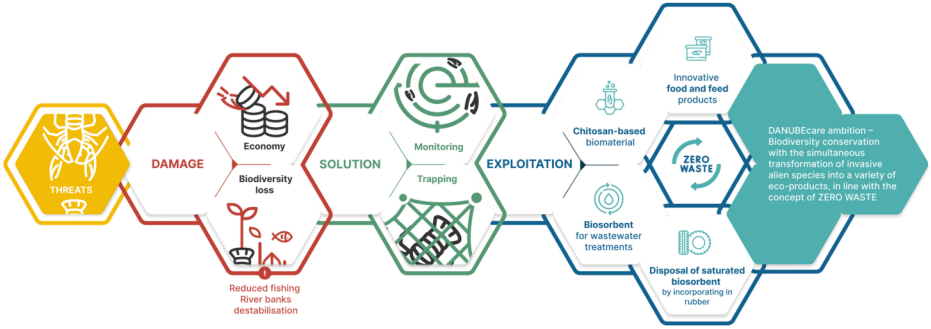
REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF INVASIVE CRAYFISH *FAXONIUS LIMOSUS* IN THE DANUBE BY SMART EXPLOITATION OF THEIR MEAT AND SHELLS

The **DANUBEcare** project addresses a current problem – the presence of the invasive crayfish species *Faxonius limosus* in the Danube River, and its detrimental impact on native crayfish species and biodiversity, for which there is still no systemic solution.

Project ambition is to help solve the problem caused by *Faxonius limosus* in the simplest and most environmentally friendly manner, by creating novel food and feed products with commercial potential and utilizing shells in line with the concept of ZERO WASTE.



PROBLEM = *Faxonius limosus*

- One of the most widespread non-indigenous crayfish species in Europe, included on a list of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
- It feeds on aquatic vegetation, fish eggs and invertebrates, affecting in that way on biodiversity
- Fast dispersal rate, rapid maturation, short lifespan, high fecundity, capability of moving across land
- Carrier of crayfish plague which is lethal for the European native crayfish
- It can destabilize riverbanks and modify other habitats, due to its burrowing behavior

OUR OBJECTIVES

Monitoring of spiny-cheek crayfish distribution at selected sites

Development of food and feed products with spiny-cheek crayfish meat

Exploitation of shells as an adsorbent for heavy metal ions removal from wastewater

The removal of biosorbents saturated with pollutants by incorporation rubber products

Development of active chitosan-based biomaterial made from shell powder

Stepping up citizen science to generate valuable scientific data

Discover new scientific horisons wih DANUBEcare!

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DANUBEcare project

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