The European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN),
supporting EU policy on biodiversity

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Short bio

- Agronomist, plant health specialist;
- 15 years work at Lombardy Plant Protection Service, responsible for diagnostic labs, import controls, biologic control programmes in greenhouses open environment and forests (e.g. vs. Metcalfa pruinosa, Cryphonectria parasitica, ...);
- 7 years at the Plant Health Group – Food & Veterinary Office DG SANTE, Ireland;
- Since 2014 working at EASIN: scientific contribution, Editorial Board coordinator, Citizen Science initiatives, science communication also via Social Media.
Informed decision requires data of good quality and updated...
European Alien Species Information Network-EASIN

Facilitates access to updated scientific information on alien species occurring in Europe from a network of data partners and sources:

- Catalogue, Geodatabase, Editorial Board
- Online services and tools to search, map and retrieve tailored information
14,165 Alien Species in Europe’s terrestrial, marine and freshwaters

Source: EASIN
Catalogue version 8.2

12 billion €/year the cost to EU Member States economy
53 million records at grid 10 x 10 km level
Species Search and Mapping

Environment
- Terrestrial
- Freshwater
- Marine
- Oligohaline

Impact
- High
- Low/Unknown
- All

Species Status
- Alien
- Cryptogenic
- Questionable

Species List
- Union Concern
- MS Concern

Species List
Partly Native

Taxonomy
- Animalia
- Bacteria
- Chromista
- Fungi
- Plantae
- Protozoa
- Unresolved
- Viruses

Pathways: Some terrestrial groups are not yet assessed.
Citizen Science: "Invasive Alien Species Europe" App

- allows reporting 66 IAS of Union concern
- provides guidance to identify information on listed IAS
- foster citizens’ awareness about the problems caused by IAS in Europe and stimulates engagement in the management of IAS
Question 1): How to increase regional and global collaboration to reduce the introduction and establishment of forest invasive species?

Data harmonization and data sharing,
Adoption of protocols and standards, terminology,
Updated forest inventories and land use maps,
Early warning system (e.g. NOTSYS),
Regional pest risk analysis,
Horizon scanning & Alert lists,
Regional board on forests (REUFIS),
Sharing of technologies, experiences/guidelines,
Establishing networks of landowners to monitor interfaces of land use as corridors for IAS, and for long term monitoring,
Consistent regulatory approach for forests/common forest policy and policy coherence,
Legislation, e.g. Art. 22 EU Reg. 1143/2014 on IAS.
Question 2): What are the challenges (and opportunities) in increasing public awareness of FIS

Perception on biodiversity and IAS, linked to culture
People's perception of their role as stakeholders
Language barriers
Personal motivation
Knowledge
Training, workshops
Resources/funds
Scientific support, taxonomic expertise
Landowners/forest owners engagement
Opportunities in increasing public awareness on FIS (A)

• AS widespread and affecting all kind of environments and human activities, close to cities, inhabited areas, touristic areas;

• People actors in spreading IAS (purchasing, releasing, feeding, moving, carrying);

• Increase awareness & knowledge on IAS helps prevention, stimulating participation in monitoring and aiming at behavioural change;

• Contribute to science, policy uptake, easier acceptance of science results and management measures;

• Building communities of interest and networks on biodiversity protection and IAS;

• More accountable, informed, open society, empowering citizens;
Opportunities in increasing public awareness on FIS (B)

• Traditional data are not sufficient for measuring changing biological phenoma;

• Real-time data for early warning, changes in population and distribution, extensive spatial and temporal coverage, relatively low cost;

EU Action:

• Commission's action plan top streamline environmental reporting, (COM(2017)312) – Action 8: Promote the wider use of Citizen Science to complement environmental reporting;

• Guidelines on Citizen Science for streamlining of Environmental Monitoring under preparation by EU Commission services.
Recommendations

**Question 1)** Collection and swift sharing of data following international standards, allowing data interoperability. Making concerted action visible and recognizable across regions (ref. EPPO campaign Don't risk it); networking amongst national/regional parks and protected areas (Natura 2000)

**Question 2)** Education, training, tailored communication at regional/local level using also Social Media, Citizen Science initiatives and engagement in management of FIS/IAS, sociodemographic profiling of target citizens, engagement of groups of interest/stakeholders (anglers, hunters, hikers, lumberers) and industry (timber and wood pulp organisations)
Thank you for your attention!

Season's suggestion: do not move firewood around to prevent spreading invasive species IAS
bit.ly/2j6xgZD

https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu