



RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
EUROPEAN WORKSHOP ON CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF
INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES

The participants of the European Workshop on Control and Eradication of Invasive Alien Plant Species held in Budapest, Hungary on 19th-21st April 2016 jointly compiled the following recommendations¹:

In relation to the 1143/2014 EU Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species:

- We recommend the European Commission and Member States the acceleration of compilation of regional and national lists according to the Articles 11 and 12 of the Regulation and we urge the European Commission and Member States to start implementing the legislation;
- We recommend the European Commission and Member States the expansion of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, according to the criteria set in the Regulation;
- We recommend promoting progress in the risk assessment of the most harmful species with a higher impact on biodiversity. The list should include as well those species that are in the early stages of invasion in the EU so that their pathways of unintentional introduction can be addressed;
- Related to the compilation of list of invasive alien species, we consider the creation of differentiated lists according to their use, risk and management in Member States important. We recommend listing separately those invasive species, which are significant economically or for other use (e.g. forestry, ornamental-plants, energy-plants, apiary, tree planting along roads, etc.). In case of such species, the minimum target to achieve is to prevent further spreading of these species on Natura 2000 areas;
- We strongly advise to Member States to use comprehensive risk assessment especially related to biocontrol and chemical use to exclude all threats to nature and health;
- We call the attention of Member States to set up an early warning system based on defined criteria. We recommend examining options based on already existing initiative, for instance, EEIKO;
- We call the attention of the European Commission and Member States to set up a mapping system on spreading and monitoring of invasive alien species and encourage Member States and Management Authorities to share their data and experience through EASIN;

In relation to financing combatting invasive alien species from EU and national sources:

- We call the attention of the European Commission to integrate the long term management of invasive species to EU funding mechanisms;
- We call the attention of the Member States to integrate the long term management of invasive species to their national Rural Development Plan and Regional Development Programmes with earmarked sources;

¹ Participants agreed that under invasive alien species they mean animals and plants that are introduced accidentally or deliberately into a natural environment where they are not normally found, with serious negative consequences for their new environment and posing threats to native plants and animals (European Commission).



- We recommend Member States working out agri-environmental measures that directly address and contribute to combat invasive alien species;
- We call the attention of the European Commission and Member States not to support activities from EU funding mechanisms that directly contribute to the spreading of invasive alien species;
- We recommend the European Commission developing a special LIFE fund for pilot projects against invasive species, which integrate the following aspects:
 - support for the technological development in the suppression of invasive species;
 - the examination of efficiency, cost, environmental impact and social acceptance of the different mechanical, biological and chemical methods;
 - having longer project period (at least 8-10 years) in order to increase the efficiency of methods using non-chemical technologies;
 - awareness raising and public information activities.
- We call the attention of the European Commission and Member States to the Polluters Pays Principle. We recommend that Member States set up an enabling legal framework for mechanisms, where those sectors and actors that cause the spreading of invasive species contribute to a specific fund, which is spent to manage these invasive species.

In relation to the need of adequate responses of inter-sectorial regulations against invasive alien species:

- We call for the extension of EU regulation on plant health and macro-organisms with regard of invasive alien species.
- We call the attention of the European Commission and Member States that the regulation of the following areas affect the spreading of invasive alien species, therefore:
 - We draw the attention that the invasive alien species often spread along linear establishments (e.g. road, railway, natural or artificial waterways, electricity network). Therefore, we propose to develop rules for the operation of linear establishments;
 - Spreading of certain invasive alien species – without economic or other benefits – is strongly correlated to the application of widely used agricultural and forestry methods (management systems). In such cases, we recommend to incorporate the suppression of invasive alien species into the regulation of the management systems as an obligation, or the modification of the management system;
 - We propose transformation of the agricultural and forestry measures in a way that the prevention of introducing and spreading of invasive alien species included in the regional and national lists and the suppression of its existing populations become an important interest of the farmers/forest owners.
- We recommend the careful analysis and strategy formulation in regard to potential climate change adaptation of introducing alien species.
- We propose to pay more attention in the Natura 2000 management plans to invasive alien species, e.g. dedicate a specific section to the issue.

We further recommend to the European Commission:

- To collect the experiences in the suppression of invasive alien species and present them to the public;
- To invest more in raising awareness and promote prevention actions;



- To enable and promote transboundary cooperation with non-EU countries especially in regard to prevention of invasive species introduction and spreading.

Participants of this conference express their intention to contribute to these tasks by sharing best practice and offer expertise through:

- Organizing, participating and contributing to an annual expert conference;
- Strengthening scientific cooperation through writing articles about experiences in suppressing and eradicating invasive alien species and placing materials on the already existing online platforms (Natura 2000 Platform, EASIN, etc.);
- Drawing attention to the fact that although invasive species do the greatest, sometimes irreversible harm in natural ecosystems, it is important to highlight that they can be harmful in forestry, agriculture, tourism and for health and they decrease the value of ecosystem services.



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