



**Proposal for Europe-INBO 2018 workshop on
“Invasive Alien Species: how to develop solutions for preventing and managing their
introduction and spread?”**

What connections with WFD implementation and RBMP preparation? ”

Concept note

October 2018 – V3

Context and Objectives

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) represent a major threat to native plants and animals in Europe, causing damage worth billions of euros to the European economy every year.

The EU regulation (1143/2014) on invasive alien species entered into force on 1 January 2015. It provides for a set of measures to be taken across the EU in relation to invasive alien species included on a list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern.

Three distinct types of measures are envisaged, which follow an internationally agreed hierarchical approach to combatting IAS:

- **Prevention:** a number of robust measures aimed at preventing IAS of Union concern from entering the EU, either intentionally or unintentionally.
- **Early detection and rapid eradication:** Member States must put in place a surveillance system to detect the presence of IAS of Union concern as early as possible and take rapid eradication measures to prevent them from establishing.
- **Management:** some IAS of Union concern are already well-established in certain Member States and concerted management action is needed so that they do not spread any further and to minimize the harm they cause.

IAS are also concerned by Aichi Target n°9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity: *“By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”* .

Some Member States have already implemented measures to address this issue. Some of these measures even stand out by their innovative nature. But in the context of a recent regulation, there

is still much to do to achieve the goal of mitigating the adverse impact on biodiversity of the introduction and spread within the Union of IAS.

Among those IAS, several are related to aquatic environment and could cause stake and issues as regards the achievement of good ecological status of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, as required by the Water Framework Directive. In the frame of preparation of the two first generations of River Basin Management Plans, some efforts were made in some districts to tentatively link the two issues, be it in the pressures and impacts analysis, risk assessment, protected area register or even programme of measures. However, a lot of improvements are still needed in that regard.

In this context of fully starting the implementation of the IAS regulation and continuing the preparation of the third generation of RBMPs, it is proposed to organize a workshop on **“Invasive Alien Species: how to develop solutions for preventing and managing their introduction and spread?”** in the frame of the next conference of the Euro-INBO (October 2018, Spain).

The objective of this workshop is to compare practices and practical experiences of Member States and basin organizations on dealing with the IAS regarding water management, and promote the exchange of questions and solutions in this domain.

The workshop also addresses the need for explanatory elements and examples of strategies followed by Member States to fight against IAS and to comply with the EU regulation.

Contents

The workshop will offer a reflection and exchange of experiences on different themes with a view to expressing what is working and what is more difficult, based on these experiences.

After an introduction part that will set-up the scene on the EU and MS in dealing with invasive alien species, two themes will be investigated. For each, two types of exchanges will be proposed:

-in a first step, some MS will present their own experience and examples on the subject;

-in a second step, round tables will allow participants to exchange and share opinions and experiences on different questions.

The main themes and questions that are proposed to be investigated during the workshop would be, from a RBD authorities and managers point of view, as presented below.

- **Theme 1: Surveillance system**

Quickly identifying invaders and tracking introduced or invasive species populations are essential to make the good decisions (management, control, etc.). A surveillance system is an appropriate mean to achieve these goals.

This work session aims to exchange and compare practices and practical experiences of Member States and basin organizations, and raise strengths and weaknesses of actions – in relation to local contexts - implemented in European countries to address IAS in terms of surveillance, and especially of:

1. **Governance:** Who is involved in the strategy? What are the key roles, and their interaction?
2. **Detection:** What kind of surveillance is used for detection (active, passive, partnership...), and why? What methods or tools are used to detect IAS?
3. **Collection and transmission of data and information:** What tools are used to collect information (form, online interface...)? What is the information transmission circuit?

A particular attention will be paid to the necessary synergies, in terms of monitoring and surveillance systems, with the WFD requirements in terms of Biological Quality Element monitoring and status assessment...

- **Theme 2: Management of invasive alien species**

Some IAS of Union concern are already well-established in certain Member States. Effective and proportionate management measures should be implemented to avoid any adverse impact on the environment as well as on human health.

Participants of this work session will be invited to share their own experience on this topic and a discussion will be initiated on how they manage with the following questions

1. **Governance:** Who is involved in the management of IAS? What are the key roles, and their interaction?
2. **Management measures:** What kind of measures are implemented? What difficulties do you encounter? Do you carry out restoration measures?
3. **Financing measures:** Who participates in the financing of these measures? What kind of instruments are used for financing actions on IAS?

Posters

At the end of the morning session, posters will be presented, on different subjects related to IAS:

-IAS management measures (linked to the aquatic environment);

-Innovative detection methods for IAS;

-Communication tools.

Participants

The contents of the workshop will not be too scientific nor technically focused as the INBO's audience is made of a variety of profiles, such as river basin policy makers and managers.

Thus the suitable profiles for this workshop are those of "generalist field managers", belonging to WFD competent authorities or basin organizations and members of the Europe-INBO network, involved in water management planning or decision making process. No high level technical profile is required given that the exchanges are not sought to be at a too technical level. Participants of this workshop would be the usual participants of the Europe-INBO's conferences as this workshop would be fully part of the conference agenda.

For any further information or expression of interests, please send an email to:

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