

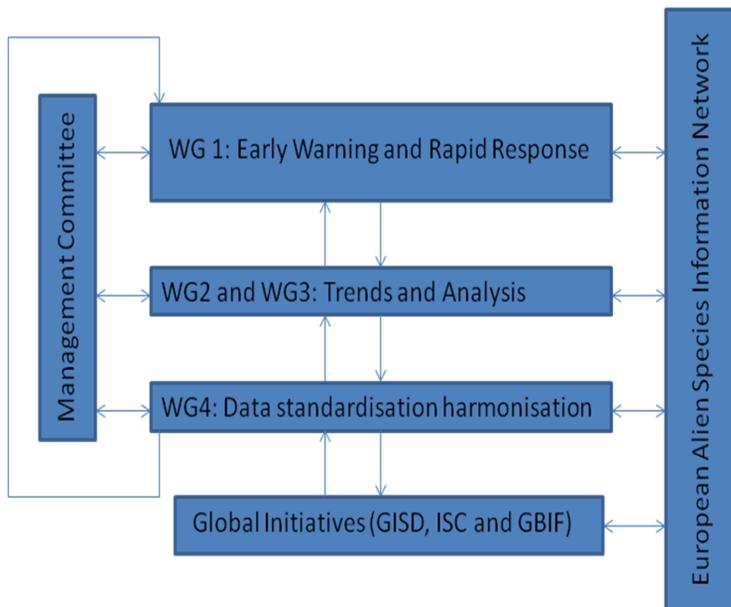
COST Action no. TD1209

European Information System for Alien Species (ALIEN Challenge)

2013 | 2017

Objectives

- Identify needs and formats for an Early Warning and Rapid Response System
- Review of pathways of introduction of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), analysis of priority species for rapid response, aligning with relevant legislation
- Review IAS impacts in Europe and impact assessment methods, propose standardized assessment methods and assess present and expected impacts of priority IAS species
- Explore existing data gaps in harmonisation and validation of information distributed in available sources in order to increase interoperability of data across the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Identify needs and formats for AS information by different user groups



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Food and Agriculture (FA)

Participating countries

AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IL, IS, IT, LT, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SI, SK, SE, TR, UK

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COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme



ESF provides the COST Office through a European Commission contract



Working Group activities

Scientific work plan

Working Group 1 Early Warning & Rapid Response

To review existing EWRR systems at different geographical scales, their application to different environments and organism groups, documenting the reasons for successes and failures. To identify the needs and requirements for a European Early Warning and Rapid Response system in collaboration with the European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN).

Working Group 2 Analysis of pathways

To analyse and review the implementation of pathways in relevant European IAS data repositories. The focus will be on evaluating key features such as terminology used, data availability and completeness of pathways assessed, relationship between pathways and socio-economic sectors, which taxonomic groups are covered, information on changing importance of pathways available, accuracy of the pathway assessment, and map them onto the pathway framework.

Working Group 3 Analysis of impacts

To develop and test impact assessment methods for prioritisation and black lists, as well as a review of field and laboratory methods to assess the impact of specific IAS.

Working Group 4 Harmonisation and integration

To document the characteristics of relevant IAS databases and the opportunities presented by each in fulfilling specific requirements. This work will build on the work carried out in the context of EASIN by providing additional details through a metadata approach. In the first year particular focus will be given to coupling the DAISIE database with EASIN network which will result in the documentation of the process and general principles which can be used for other databases and information sources.

Expected results

ALIEN Challenge will work in close contact with all main national and regional existing network, and will ensure a fair exchange of high quality and reliable data and information, through standards developed in DAISIE

ALIEN Challenge will ensure sustainable flow of high quality data to the newly established EASIN network, which otherwise would lack the required standard of quality in terms of reliability of data and information stored

With the support of the
**IUCN/SSC Invasive Species
Specialist Group**




ALIEN Challenge
European Information System for Alien Species

COST Action TD1209 (COST 6) supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme

First Training School
9-11 April 2014 - Rhodes (Greece)

The Training School will be hosted by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)

The training school will focus on **marine survey skills and Invasive Alien Species identification**.

Training Schools are aimed at providing dissemination of the COST Action activities and intensive training in a new emerging subject in one of the laboratories of the COST Action with unique equipment or know-how. Participants are typically but not exclusively young researchers from across Europe. These schools also cover appropriate re-training as part of "life-long learning". The training school is particularly tailored to researchers with a marine background and/or involved broadly on invasion biology monitoring and surveillance.

Application details

- Number of eligible participants: 15
- Grants: up to € 780 (including € 300 for travel costs)
- Deadline for sending expression of interest (cover letter and CV): 15 February 2014
- Selection of Participants: 28 February 2014

This COST Action will facilitate enhanced knowledge gathering and sharing through a network of experts providing support to a European information system which will enable effective and informed decision-making in relation to IAS. An overarching priority will be to identify the needs and formats for alien species (IAS) information by relevant user groups and specifically for implementation of EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. Coordinated early warning tools and rapid response protocols will be developed.

The flyer produced within the action for the First Training School of 9-11 April 2014 in Rhodes (Greece)



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