

Prevention, Control and Eradication of Invasive Alien Species

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Two-way engagement with stakeholders to improve biosecurity around invasive alien species (IAS) in the workplace

Practical Biosecurity Grassroots Workshop

Part 1 : Delivering knowledge



Participants were given a morning of education and training around IAS and biosecurity which included explaining IAS, why they are a problem, how they are spread, and what our obligations are in regard to Irish and EU legislation. All participants completed an online training session on biosecurity, and received an accredited certificate at the end of the training session.

Part 2 : Eliciting knowledge



Drawing upon the participants' related experience in a wide variety of disciplines, this facilitated session worked to identify the obstacles to practicing good biosecurity that exist in the workplace. This led to identifying solutions to these obstacles to improve the capacity for practicing responsible biosecurity. The information was collated in a way that could be analysed and used to improve practical supports to good biosecurity in the workplace.

International collaboration



The workshop provided a forum for Irish researchers to collaborate with international experts and early-stage researchers in the UK. Focused meetings were held over a three-day period.

Collaboration continues between the scientists involved, and with the participants of the workshop, and plans are in place to build on the work done.

Objectives of this work

- To deliver certified biosecurity training to a diverse group of stakeholders, all directly involved in activities which create a risk for the spread of invasive alien species (IAS)
- To explore, in a facilitated elicitation session, the obstacles in place to practicing effective biosecurity in the workplace.
- To explore the establishment of an Irl/UK Biosecurity Network by engaging with colleagues from the UK.

Invasive Alien Species

IAS are one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity. All EU Member States are legally obliged to take specific action on the prevention, control and eradication of IAS (EU 1143/2014). Prevention of spread of IAS is the highest priority in IAS management, and requires good biosecurity in the field.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is a preventative measure in the control of IAS. There are two types of biosecurity recognised: *Primary Biosecurity* and *Secondary Biosecurity*. Primary biosecurity consists of measures taken to prevent the introduction of IAS into the jurisdiction, in this case, the island of Ireland. Secondary biosecurity consists of measures taken to prevent the further spread of IAS which have already been introduced, and may have established themselves in the wild.

Key Findings

We wanted to see if participants benefited from the training, what barriers they perceived in the workplace to practicing good biosecurity, and opportunities which exist to overcome these barriers.



Information gathered at the workshop highlighted the following:

- Participants found that their **risk of spreading IAS was lower** than they previously thought.
- There was a significant increase in confidence in;
 - identifying IAS
 - designing biosecurity plans
 - carrying out effective biosecurity
- 93.8% of participants said their behaviour towards **biosecurity will change after the workshop**.

There is an urgent need to educate stakeholders in effective biosecurity, and to eliminate barriers to carrying out good practice. This data will inform future Best Practice Guidelines.

This work took place in tandem with, but outside the scope of, a four-year research project (2016-2020) 2015-NC-MS-4 on the Prevention, control and eradication of IAS, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ESAI/EPA Grassroots Scheme

WORKSHOP SUPPORT SCHEME
for Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Researchers

Are you interested in **hosting a workshop** with fellow early stage researchers?

Do you want to **share your research** with your local community?

Is there an environmental issue you want to **highlight to the public**?

The EPA/ESAI Workshop Support Scheme provides **€600** funding to postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to organise a workshop in the broad environmental research area.

See www.esaiweb.org for further details and application form. Proposals will be assessed every two months. Upcoming deadlines; April 30th, June 30th 2019

What is the scheme about?

The EPA/ESAI Workshop Support Scheme provides funding to postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to organise a workshop in the broad environmental research area. The scheme is open to postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers who are members of the ESAI and who are conducting research relevant to the EPA remit.

The purpose of the EPA/ESAI Workshop Support Scheme is to assist early stage researchers with the delivery of workshops that fall within the remit of the ESAI and EPA. The event should be a stand-alone event, and not part of an international conference.

Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme

ESAI and the EPA are delighted to announce the continuation of the Workshop Support Scheme with awards to assist early stage researchers with the delivery of stand alone workshops.

Open to postgraduate & postdoctoral researchers.
Awards of up to €600 per event.
Offered on a rolling call basis.

The application process is not complicated. It is quick to complete, and aimed at early-stage researchers who have very little experience in completing grant applications.

Applications should include a one-page summary CV of the main applicant. The theme of the workshop must fit within the remits of the EPA and ESAI, who must be acknowledged in conference publicity materials.

Contact us: Eithne.Davis@mail.itsligo.ie

References

- EU Regulation on Invasive Species (EU1143/2014).