

Objectives:

- 1 promote sharing of information and experience on FIS;
- 2 coordinate activities in relation to FIS;
- 3 raise awareness in management of FIS;
- 4 encourage publication and sharing of research results;
- 5 support early detection and monitoring strategies;
- 6 provide taxonomic support;
- 7 provide a communication link for all levels within and between member countries;
- 8 collaborate and cooperate with existing international and regional organizations, such as the FAO, EPPO, CBD etc.
- 9 to advocate compliance with phytosanitary regulations and provide policy advice on transboundary movement of forest invasive species.



Budapest 2017



Zdanovicy 2018



For general enquiries contact us:
info@reufis.org or visit our website

www.reufis.org

FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (REUFIS)



The goal of REUFIS network is to support member states in sharing information, raise awareness and coordinate activities on forest invasive species.

In recent decades intensification of global trade and globalisation, as well as the impact of climate change has meant many invasive species have moved into areas where they have never existed before. Lack of limiting factors in these new areas such as no natural enemies, can cause rapid population growth that creates considerable economic, ecologic, and social impact.

Natural ecosystems, like forests, are especially exposed to the invasion of exotic plants (e.g. *Ailanthus altissima*, *Fallopia japonica*), animals (e.g. *Anoplophora* spp., *Ondatra zibethicus*) and microorganisms (e.g. *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*, *Phytophthora* spp.).

Damages usually start at local scale, but can easily grow and spread to large forested areas. However, consequences might go beyond and affect forests and trees in urban and protected areas, including virgin forests.

Natural conditions and forest management practices in Europe and Central Asia are diverse; some countries currently face various problems caused by invasive organisms.

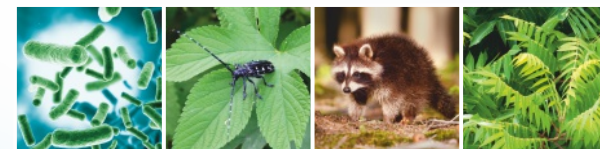
A network on invasive species in forestry can provide the right platform for information exchange and thus effective control.

Towards a Pan-European network

A workshop was held in Hungary in June 2015 to promote the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry and other forest health activities in Europe and Central Asia. Participants agreed that combatting Forest Invasive Species (FIS) in the region is hampered by lack of information and its dissemination. Also, a need for a network was identified, where stakeholders can share information, experiences, and coordinate their activities and programs around forest invasive species. Following up, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia organized the inauguration meeting of the REUFIS network in Belarus in September 2016. Representatives from 23 countries came together to tackle the common

problem of forest invasive species. This meeting launched a functional network to foster integrated and dynamic forest pest management in the region.

Since 2016 the network was continuously extended and annual meetings were held in Budapest, Hungary (2017) and in Zdanovicy, Belarus (2018). Please visit our website (www.reufis.org) for additional information about the network.



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- Austria ■
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- Belarus ■
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- Croatia ■
- Czech Republic ■
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- Georgia ■
- Germany ■
- Hungary ■
- Italy ■
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