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Inaugural meeting in Budapest

The inaugural meeting of the REUFIS network was held in Budapest, Hungary on 17-19 October 2017 with over 40 participants from 22 countries. The objective of the meeting was to establish the structural setup of the REUFIS network, facilitate information sharing at regional level and build technical capacities for the benefit of the network members.

The agenda of the meeting reflected these objectives. The REUFIS network covers four aspects of the forest invasive species. The capacity building aspect focused on the invertebrates, particularly on bark and ambrosia beetles. The Hungarian Natural History Museum provided excellent venue for the training. The information-sharing component covered a wide range of aspects, but the plants, pathogens and vertebrates received most of the attention including the possible effect of climate change on various invasive organisms in forests. The networking day included the elections, website development and discussions about the 2018 work plan. The field trip demonstrated the practical forest management aspects of some invasive tree species near Budapest (Pilisi Parkerdő). The three days meeting were structured as follows:

October 17, Tuesday:	Bark and ambrosia beetles training
October 18, Wednesday:	Country experiences and working groups
October 19, Thursday:	Networking day and field trip

Credit: Hubert Inhaizer





Credit: Giorgi Mamadashvili



Credit: Jozef Vakula

REUFIS Website

The network's website is online, where you can find the recent meeting proceedings, publications and other useful links. There's also an '**Expert**' page, which will support information exchange and foster research collaboration between experts on the field of forest invasive species in Europe and Central Asia. The database is now open for registration, please register and feel free to circulate it among your colleagues. Please note, that if you're member of the network as a focal point or you participated in one of the REUFIS workshops you're not registered automatically in this database! The experts can submit online their registration request according to their specialization. In order to assure the high professional expertise and avoid misuse of the system, the Executive Committee will review and accept the applications together with the REUFIS Secretariat. The first approval session is expected around March 2018. We work continuously to update the website as needed. Please let us know, if you have any comments to the website.

www.reufis.org

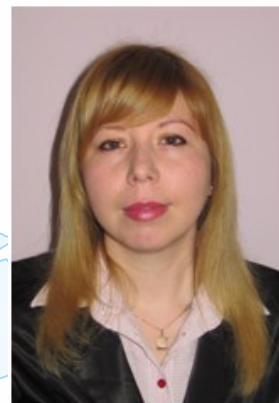
Executive Committee and Secretariat

The participants of the inaugural meeting elected the REUFIS Secretary and the members of the Executive Committee. With this strong team we're looking very much forward for the joint work in the upcoming years. In case you don't know them already, please find here a short introduction:

Executive Committee members:

Victoria Covali (Moldova)

Victoria Covali, born on 30 March 1980, Orhei, Republic of Moldova. Graduate of the State University of Moldova, licensed in forestry and public gardens, 2002. In 2009 she held the doctoral thesis in biology at the botanical specialty at the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. Since 2002 she has been working in the forestry field. Currently, Head of the Guard Service, Forest Protection and Game Management of the Agency Moldsilva. Associate Professor at the Department of Forestry and Public Gardens of the Free International



University of Moldova from 2015. Fields of interest: Forestry, Protected areas, Biodiversity. She has participated in over 30 national and international scientific symposiums. Author of 45 scientific articles. National expert in the project: Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area System GEF / UNDP; Member of the National Coordination Committee of the project: "National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 in the Republic of Moldova". She is a member of the Forestry Association of the Republic of Moldova.

Samidin Dusmanov (Uzbekistan)

Mr Dusmanov is the Deputy Director for Science in the Scientific Research Institute for Forestry under the State Committee on Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Yuri Ivanovich Gninenko (Russia)

Yuri Ivanovich Gninenko is the Head of the Laboratory of forest protection from invasive and quarantine organisms of the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Forestry and Forestry Mechanization, Candidate of Biological Sciences. His scientific interests are forest invasive organisms and biological forest protection. He worked earlier as the Head of the Chelyabinsk Forest Protection Station (Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk region, Russia), and as the Head of the Forest protection laboratory, and the Deputy Director for science of the Kazakh Institute of Forestry and Agroforestry (Shchuchinsk, Akmola region, Kazakhstan).



Giorgi Mamadashvili (Georgia)

Giorgi Mamadashvili was born on 15th of October, 1985 in Tbilisi, Georgia. He's got his MSc Degree in Ecology and Conservation Biology from the Ilia State University. At the moment his educational aspirations consist of acquiring a PhD Degree in Environmental Science that would assist him in pursuing a Researcher career. Nowadays, he works at the Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia for the National Forestry Agency's Forest Maintenance and Reforestation Division as a Chief specialist (Forest Entomologist). He has an extensive



experience in working with numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of environmental protection, education and awareness raising. In addition, he has many hobbies and interests such as exploring forest biodiversity, photographing, music etc. Finally, as a Georgian member of the executive committee he is determined to make his own contribution to the REUFIS network development and to contribute to the new discoveries in forest invasive species management and control.

Bjørn Økland (Norway)

Bjørn Økland is research professor at Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research. His main research interests are invasive forest insects, population dynamics of bark beetles, climate change and insects, and determinants of insect diversity in forests. He has in total 125 scientific publications and more than 100 popular scientific publications and media presentations. He has been in the Panel on Plant Health in the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM) for ten years, and in EPPO he has been member of the Panel on Quarantine Pests for Forestry since 2000.



REUFIS Secretary:

Ferenc Lakatos (Hungary)

Ferenc Lakatos is a professor of forest entomology at the Institute of Silviculture and Forest Protection, University of Sopron, Hungary. His main research interests are bark beetles (population genetics, biology), invasive forest insects (population genetics, eradication & control), saproxylophagous insect diversity and the effect of climate change on insects. He is responsible among others for the courses forest entomology, forest protection, biological invasion thought both in Hungarian and English at the Faculty of Forestry. He is the head of the Institute of Silviculture and Forest Protection, and currently the dean of the Faculty of Forestry. He has several scientific and popular scientific publications, invited talks mainly on forest invasive species and bark beetles. He has been actively cooperating with various international institutions (e.g. FAO, EPPO), research and cooperation initiatives (e.g. COST actions, ERASMUS+) and development projects in various countries of Europe and Central Asia (e.g. Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan).



Recent publications of interest

Two special issues of the journal Biological Invasions are dealing with specific issues on

1) Forest ecosystems (<https://link.springer.com/journal/10530/19/11/page/1>) and

2) Non-native species in urban environments

(<https://link.springer.com/journal/10530/19/12/page/1>).

Both issues contain several interesting topics and methods linked to the major objectives of our network too.

An introductory paper for the first one:

Liebhold S. et al. (2017): Biological invasions in forest ecosystems: a global problem requiring international and multidisciplinary integration. Biological Invasions

DOI: 10.1007/s10530-017-1547-5

Link: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-017-1547-5>

Further papers on Forest Invasive Species

Rassati D. et al. (2016): Web-based automatic traps for early detection of alien wood-boring beetles. Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata 160: 91-95.

DOI: 10.1111/eea.12453

Link: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eea.12453/abstract>

Seddaiu S. et al. (2017): Gnomoniopsis castaneae associated with Dryocosmus kuriphilus galls in chestnut stands in Sardinia (Italy). iForest 10: 440-445.

DOI: 10.3832/for2064-009

Link: <http://www.sisef.it/forest/contents/?id=ifor2064-009>

Seebens H. et al. (2017): No saturation in the accumulation of alien species worldwide. Nature Communications.

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms14435

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms14435>

Vettraino A.M. et al. (2017): The sentinel tree nursery as an early warning system for pathway risk assessment: Fungal pathogens associated with Chinese woody plants commonly shipped to Europe. PLoS ONE

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0188800

Link: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/comments?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0188800>

We wish you all a pleasant festive season and a successful New Year!

REUFIS Secretariat

