



5TH DANUBE REGION INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES NETWORK (DIAS) MEETING

**12 – 13 DECEMBER 2018
SOFIA, BULGARIA**

**WORKSHOP VENUE:
Best Western Plus City Hotel, 6 Stara Planina Street, Sofia
www.sofiacityhotel.com/en/**

ORGANISED BY:

Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS)
Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER-BAS)
Priority Area 06 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Bavarian State Ministry
of Environment and Consumer Protection

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

ORGANISING AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE:

Ms Teodora Trichkova, IBER-BAS, DIAS, IAD (Chair)
Mr Florian Ballnus, Priority Area 06 coordinator – EUSDR, Bavarian State Ministry of the
Environment and Consumer Protection
Ms Violeta Tyufekchieva, IBER-BAS
Ms Hristina Kalcheva, IBER-BAS



Background

The introduction and expansion of species with alien origin within the Danube Region have been increased recently due to human activities and global change. Many of those species have negative impact on biodiversity and related ecosystem services, as well as on human health, safety, and the economy. Networking and cooperation on invasive alien species (IAS) in different scales is crucial for the prevention and management of IAS and can facilitate the implementation of existing IAS instruments. The main aims of the **Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS)** are to facilitate the transnational and international communication and cooperation on IAS, and to formulate a strategy and work plan to efficiently tackle the issue of IAS in the Danube Region. DIAS is one of currently seven Task Forces of Priority Area 06 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The chair of DIAS is an official observer of the PA 06 Steering Group.

Recently, several IAS projects with participation of DIAS (Danube-IASapp, ESENIAS-TOOLS, IBBIS) have been completed. DIAS co-organised two big conferences: the 7th ESENIAS Workshop with Scientific Conference ‘Networking and regional cooperation towards Invasive Alien Species Prevention and Management in Europe’ (March 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria) and the Joint ESENIAS and DIAS Scientific Conference ‘Management and sharing of IAS data to support knowledge-based decision making at regional level’ (September 2018, Bucharest, Romania). The scientific results were published in conference proceedings, numerous papers in scientific journals and several books. At the same time, there are some ongoing projects, such as the Danube – IAS Corridor coordinated by IBER-BAS, and newly launched initiatives in the Danube Region. The Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature started a new project: ‘Establishment of the National Monitoring System for Invasive Alien Species in Croatia’ funded by the EU Cohesion Fund in the framework of Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014–2020. A new individual programme for monitoring of IAS will be included in the Joint Danube Survey 4 organised by the ICPDR and the Danube countries in 2019.

During the previous DIAS meetings (Sofia 2014, 2016, Budapest 2015, 2016), the first draft of the DIAS strategy and work plan has been initiated and developed. The strategy provides the goals and objectives, possible measures and recommendations, and defines relevant actors on seven key IAS topics. The strategy shall be finalised and updated considering the new IAS policy developments at national, regional and European level, related to the Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of IAS, the ICDPR guidance document on IAS within the Danube River Basin, etc., as well as considering the recent DIAS scientific results.

Task Force Meeting objectives:

- Follow up on the initiative to develop and finalise the DIAS strategy and work plan
- Share information on DIAS activities in the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube River and adjacent Black Sea Region
- Present IAS monitoring initiative as part of the Joint Danube Survey 4 (2019)
- Plan future work and organisation of this work for the development of DIAS network, including formation of working groups, and development of black and alert lists for the Danube Region, preparation of common papers, DIAS website, etc., to enable sharing of data and other information on IAS in the region
- Discuss possibilities for funding
- Seek further improvement of cooperation and networking on IAS in the Danube Region and collaboration with ESENIAS and other European and global IAS networks and initiatives.

AGENDA

12 December 2018

11.30 Registration

12.00 Welcome lunch

13:00 **Opening and introduction of participants** (T. Trichkova)
Prof. Dr. Snejana Grozeva, IBER-BAS, Scientific Secretary
Mr Florian Ballnus, EUSDR Priority Area 06 Coordinator

13.30 **Update on IAS activities in the Danube Region** (R. Tomov)
DIAS status report, activities in the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube Region with adjacent Black Sea Region (T. Trichkova)
New project 'Establishment of the National Monitoring System for Invasive Alien Species in Croatia', EU Cohesion Fund in the framework of Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014–2020 (T. Mihinjač)
Joint Danube Survey 4 (2019) – IAS monitoring programme (K. Zorić)

Discussion

14:30 **DIAS strategy paper update and finalisation – discussion and inputs**
(40 min for each topic)

Strategy general structure and content (T. Trichkova)

Key topic 1: IAS - Species and interactions/ impact in the DRB (T. Trichkova)

15.30 Coffee break

16:00 **DIAS strategy paper update and finalisation – discussion and inputs (Cont.)**

Key topic 2. Pathways of introduction in the DRB (Cont.) (V. Vladimirov)

Key topic 3. Information system and knowledge dissemination (A Ješovnik, T. Mihinjač)

Key topic 4. Risk assessment and prioritisation (R. Tomov)

18:00 End of Day one

19:00 Joint Dinner

13 December 2018

09:00 **DIAS strategy paper upade and finalisation – discussion and inputs (Cont.)**
(40 min for each topic)

Key topic 5. Early detection and rapid eradication (D. Cogălniceanu)

Key topic 6. Management and restoration (F. Stanescu)

Key topic 7. Awareness raising, communication and policy (B. Stammel)

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **DIAS strategy paper upade and finalisation – discussion and inputs (Cont.)**

Key topic 7. Awareness raising, communication and policy (Cont.) (B. Stammel)

11:30 **DIAS developing and cooperation in the frame of EUSDR**

Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan and DIAS (F. Ballnus, T. Trichkova)

Danube Transnational Programme 3rd call (F. Ballnus)

DIAS development and joint activities: Creating working groups, IAS lists in the Danube Region, joint publications, etc.

DIAS cooperation: Exploring options for cooperation and funding in collaboration with ESENIAS, IAD and other organisations

DIAS work plan and time schedule - defining next steps.

12:40 **Wrap up and closure of DIAS5 workshop**

13.00 Farewell lunch