

NOBANIS

No. 2 June 2009



NEWS

New features on the portal

The NOBANIS portal has been updated with new features. Five new country databases have been added: Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands and Slovakia. Furthermore it is now possible to generate up-to-date charts on a range of data *e.g.* the number of alien species and trends in introduction of alien species. For each type of chart, you choose which country's data you want to view and at the same time you get a comparison with the rest of the NOBANIS region. In the second half of 2009 the portal will be further improved with more information.

The Czech Republic new member of NOBANIS

We are very happy to announce that the Czech Republic has become member of the NOBANIS network. National focal point for the Czech Republic will be Jan Sima (jan.sima@mzp.cz) from the Ministry of the Environment. We would like to warmly welcome Jan and the Czech Republic to NOBANIS. With the Czech Republic onboard NOBANIS now covers a great part of central Europe.



Hello and Goodbye

Both Latvia and Estonia have appointed new national focal points for NOBANIS. For Latvia the new focal point is Agnese Priede from Kemer National Park and for Estonia it is Merike Linnamägi at the Estonian Ministry of Environment. We would like to warmly welcome Agnese and Merike to the NOBANIS group and at the same time say goodbye and thank you to their predecessors Liga Kabaka (LV) and Christina Birnbaum (EE).

We would also like to welcome Colette O'Flynn from the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Ireland who has also become member of the NOBANIS group.

Frank Klingenstein from Germany has found new challenges and we would also like to thank Frank for your great contribution to NOBANIS. Hopefully we can soon welcome a new focal point for Germany.

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Austria: 2nd National Conference on Alien Species

On April 24 2009 the Austrian Environment Agency organized the 2nd National Conference on Alien Species in Vienna. The conference was dedicated to new results on “Aliens and Climate Change” and was attended by approximately 100 participants. The presentations (in German only) are available for download [here](#).

Danish action plan on invasive species

The Danish action plan on invasive species was published in February 2009. Prevention of introductions is in focus in the action plan as well as control of already established species. The action plan gives specific recommendations to initiatives that ought to be implemented to mitigate the effects of introduced and invasive species.

You can download the action plan (only in Danish) [here](#). If you would like to know more please contact Hans Erik Svart at hes@sns.dk



Botanic gardens IAS-activities

From June 8 to 12 the Fifth Botanic Gardens Congress was held in Helsinki, Finland. One of the themes was alien plants. Abstracts from the congress can be found at <http://www.luomus.fi/eurogardv/>

Further information on ongoing activities in botanic gardens related to invasive alien species can be found at

<http://www.plantnetwork.org/aliens/>

New report on Alien Species and Climate Change

In May 2009 the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research published a new report on alien species and climate change: Alien Species and Climate Change in Norway – An Assessment of the Risk of Spread due to Global Warming.

The report is available for download [here](#) (~ 8 mb).

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New publication on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*

In a new publication, Essl *et al.* (2009) demonstrated niche expansion during the invasion process of common ragweed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Asteraceae) in Austria. The authors also concluded that global warming will disproportionately enhance invasion success of this species with serious consequences for human health and agriculture.

Essl F., Dullinger S. & Kleinbauer I. (2009): Changes in the spatio-temporal patterns and habitat preferences of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* during its invasion of Austria. *Preslia* 81: 119–133.

New portal for registration of IAS in Denmark

On

www.skovognatur.dk/DyrOgPlanter/invasivearter/Indberetning/ you will find a portal where you can report observations of a number of invasive alien species in Denmark. The portal is intended to be a tool for all authorities, organisations and landowners eradicating or controlling invasive alien species. The portal is in Danish only.

Possible misidentification of *Mnemiopsis leidyi* in the Southern Baltic

New study on the ctenophoran species found in the Southern Baltic indicates that the species has been misidentified as *Mnemiopsis leidyi*. The study indicates that the species found originates from the North Atlantic, but not the American coast as *M. leidyi*. A publication with details of the study is in preparation.

New project on *Anoplophora glabripennis*

Eradication attempts of the Asian Longhorn Beetle *Anoplophora glabripennis* in Austria continue. This large beetle was introduced to Austria with infested wood in 2001. It was soon detected and eradication and monitoring was initiated by the Austrian Federal Forest Office.

A new project (2008-2011) is dedicated to increase eradication efforts, including surveillance and preventive clearing of potential host trees. Also, detailed cost records of measures are conducted so that monetary expenditure can be assessed.

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EU Council conclusions towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

On June 25th the EU Council of Ministers adopted conclusions on a mid-term assessment of implementing the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

(http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/108747.pdf).

The council calls for the development of a comprehensive IAS framework which includes new dedicated legislation and where necessary amending or incorporating existing provisions. It is also proposed that the Strategy should include establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive inventory of IAS which could be based on existing databases such as NOBANIS.

Swedish strategy and action plan on alien species

A proposal for a Swedish strategy and action plan for alien species was published in December 2008. The proposal focuses on prevention of introduction and spread of invasive alien species. It proposes the establishment of a national joint cooperative group to improve coordination between competent authorities in the work with invasive alien species. Other proposals are to improve environmental monitoring, development of a reporting system and contingency plans for invasive alien species as a basis for development of an early warning and rapid response system for invasive alien species. The Swedish strategy and action plan (in Swedish with English summary pp. 26-36) can be downloaded [here](#).

