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# COST ACTION: YEAR 4 CA17122 MC MEETING



**COST**  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF ALIEN SPECIES THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE





Chair  
Helen Roy



Vice-chair  
Quentin Groom

# Management Committee Meeting



Welcome to participants

- Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum
- Adoption of agenda
- Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting



# Alien CSI Core group:

**Chair:** Helen Roy

**Vice-Chair:** Quentin Groom



**WG1** - Engaging people in CS: Elizabete Marchante, Peter Brown, Anna Gazda

**WG2** - Approaches to CS: Tim Adriaens, Elena Tricarico

**WG3** - Data management and standards: Jan Pergl, Lien Reyserhove, Toril Loennechen Moen

**WG4** - Analysis and visualisation: Michael Pocock, Franz Essl, Sven Jelaska.

**WG5** - Cross-cutting CS initiative(s) for IAS across Europe: Bernat Claramunt, Niki Chartosia

**STSM/Training School coordination/ITC Conference:** Frances Lucy, Lori Lawson Handley, Elena Tricarico, Laura Verbrugge

**Communication Manager:** Kelly Martinou

**Science Communication team:** Argyro Zenetos, Kath Turvey, Paraskevi Karachle, Maarten De Groot.

**JRC/ EASIN Liaison:** Ana Cristina Cardoso and Sven Schade (stakeholder engagement)

**Early Career Investigator Network Coordinator:** Rachel Farrow

**COST Science Officer of the Action:** Mafalda Quintas

**COST Administrative Officer of the Action:** Rose Cruz Santos/Tania Gonzalez Ovin



# CA17122 AlienCSI



Action CA17122

Start date: 03/07/2018

End date: 31/10/2022 (Extended from 02/07/2022)

Current grant year: 4



# Action MC Country Representation



## Confirmed MC Countries:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom





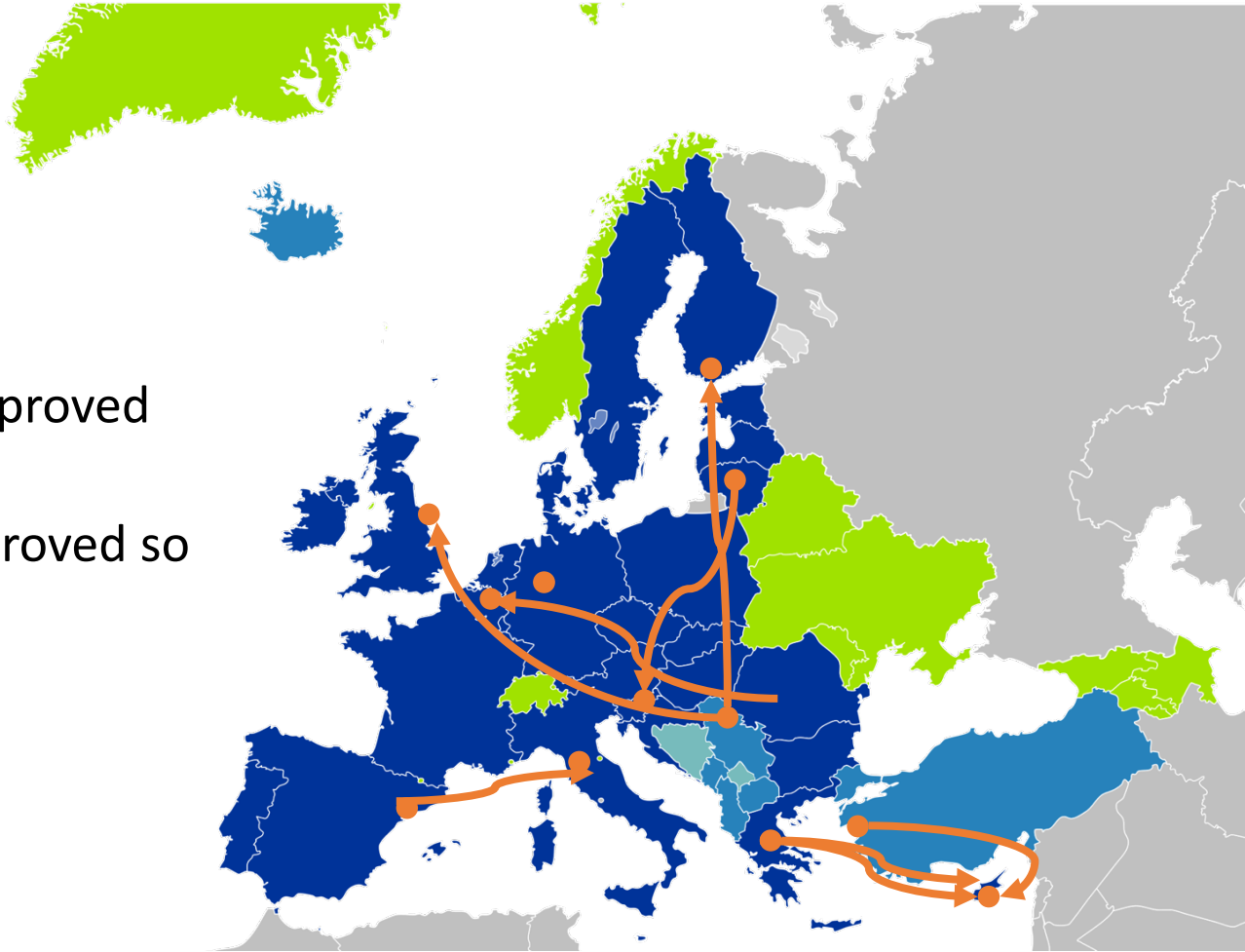
# Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and Training Schools

Frances Lucy, Elena Tricarico, Laura Verbrugge and Lori Lawson Handley

MC Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

# Mobility so far

- Year 1 – 12 STSMs
- Year 2 – 9 STSMs
- Year 3 – 8 STSMs approved so far
- Year 4 -6 STSMs approved so far- 5 pending



Common names for a common ground on alien insects of Greece and Cyprus (VM)

Citizen Science for the Purpose of Collecting Biodiversity Data on Several Invasive Alien Species in Turkey (VM)

Understanding the perceptions of local stakeholders on the impacts of invasive alien plants on ecosystems and their services

Implementation of innovative tools and technologies in citizen science for invasive alien species in the Mediterranean region



**AlienCSI**

STSMs 2021

Pairing community and citizen science with scenario stories development

Trophic interactions of birds in Greece and Cyprus through citizen science image-based approaches (iNaturalist and Google Images) and social media.

A global overview of mosquito related citizen-science programmes dedicated to children

Limitations and opportunities of citizen science for alien species in freshwater ecosystems

# Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM): review of completed reports. Year 1:

## Completed reports:

1. **Dr Noé Ferreira Rodríguez** - Towards the empowerment of artisanal fishers in invasive alien species management.
2. **Ms Rachel Farrow** - Development of a database on alien species related citizen science activities.
3. **Ms Vanessa Lozano** - Using Wikidata for Invasive Alien Species communication and research.
4. **Dr Florina Stanescu** - Invasive alien species of Romania - enhancing data collection through citizen science.
5. **Dr Cristina Preda** - Improving data flows for alien birds in Belgium and drafting a roadmap for alien species citizen science in Romania.
6. **Ms Lien Reyserhove** - Publishing alien species checklist data for Europe through repeatable, open workflows.
7. **Dr Vasiliki Kousteni** - Contribution of Citizen Science Towards Invasive Alien Fish Monitoring in Europe.
8. **Mr Stuart Roberts** - Bee understanding & communicating.
9. **Dr Maria Galanidi Bingkiol** - Developing a protocol for marine IAS impacts reporting by citizen scientists.
10. **Ms Kardelen Yetişmiş** - Mosquitoes without borders - Going Island wide in Cyprus
11. **Mr Milan Gazdić** - Photographs from citizen scientists as a tool for assessing dynamics of the invasive plant species.

# Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM): review of completed reports and new applications. Year 2

## Completed reports:

1. **Dr Tom August** - Sharing knowledge of computer vision to support citizen science across Europe
2. **Ms Ioanna Angelidou** - Impacts of non-native and native plants on communities of beneficial insects- A citizen science approach
3. **Ms Sophie Kamenou** - Increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science
4. **Ms Kyriakoula Michail** - Increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science
5. **Mr Ioannis Giovos** - Increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science
6. **Dr Raluca Bancila** - Invasive alien species threatening the biodiversity of subterranean ecosystems in Europe
7. **Dr Ana Sofia Vaz** - Improving the surveillance of alien plants through social participation: a model-based comparison of distinct citizen science-generated data
8. **Dr Gabor Vetek** - Increasing public awareness about the invasive brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) in Cyprus
9. **Ms Iolanda Silva Rocha** - The Bioblitz as a tool for engaging scientists and the public in invasive species monitoring

## Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) and Virtual Mobility Grants (VM): review of completed reports and new applications. Year 3

### Completed reports:

1. **Dr Ana Anđelković** - Current knowledge and best practices for measuring motivations of citizen scientists in IAS projects
2. **Mr Jakovos Demetriou** - Updating the Cyprus Database for Alien Species “CyDAS” and making it user and citizen friendly
3. **Dr Cristina Preda** - Using citizen-science data to explore invasive species interactions – *Vespa velutina* case study
4. **Dr Paraskevi Karachle** - CyDAS as a portal for raising awareness and information for Citizen Scientists
5. **Ms Rūta Juozaitienė** - Analysing spread dynamics of invasive species with relational event models

# Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM): review of completed reports and new applications. Year 4

## Completed and in progress STSMs:

- **Alkyoni Sfendouraki-Basakarou** STSM - Implementation of innovative tools and technologies in citizen science for invasive alien species in the Mediterranean region
- **Esra Per** VM - Science for the Purpose of Collecting Biodiversity Data on Several Invasive Alien Species in Turkey
- **Evangelos Koutsoukos** STSM - The presence of leaf pests in fig trees of Cyprus: Raising awareness and monitoring their presence and impacts with the help of
- **Ioanna Angelidou** STSM - Study of the trophic interactions of birds in Greece and Cyprus through citizen science image-based approaches and social media.
- **Jakovos Demetriou** VM - Common names for a common ground on alien insects of Greece and Cyprus
- **MARIA CHRISTOU** STSM - Exploring the distribution of parasites associated with *Harmonia axyridis* in Europe using citizen science data

5 further STSM submitted and pending review. We will open call again.

# Past Activities

- **Ispra, Italy** - JRC IAS-EU Proof of Concept Project and COST Alien-CSI Action Workshop
- **Zagreb, Croatia** - COST Alien-CSI Action Working Group meeting
- **Akrotiri, Cyprus** - COST Alien-CSI Action Management Committee meeting and Working Group activities
- **Ljubljana, Slovenia** - COST Alien-CSI Action Management Committee meeting and Working Group activities
- **Krakow, Poland** - COST Alien-CSI Wiki-athon
- **Pruhonice, Czech Republic** - COST Alien-CSI increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science
- **Meise** - Bioblitz: A method for gathering biodiversity data and engaging the public
- **Vodice** - Hybrid MC and WG 1-5 Update Meetings
- **Constanta** - Alien CSI Data Hackathon
- **Pruhonice** - Using culturomics to gather information on the social dimensions of plant invasions

# Akrotiri, Cyprus



# Ljubljana, Slovenia



# Budget Update

## 3. Update from the Grant Holder: Action budget status



# Year 1 Budget

Financial period: **AGA-CA17122-1**  
From **01/08/2018** to **30/04/2019**

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

**Total Actual  
Networking  
Expenditure**

**156,610.21 EUR**

**Total Actual Costs  
(including FSAC)**

**180,101.74**

Top-up was given  
from the COST  
Office meaning  
we spent more  
than original  
grant but less  
than top up.

Networking Expenditure	Grant budget ( a )	Expenditure			Delta ( g=d-a )
		Actuals ( b )	Accruals ( c )	Total ( d=b+c )	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Total Meetings	139 423.82	114 945.03	0.00	114 945.03	-24 478.79
Total Training Schools	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total STSM	28 320.00	25 030.00	0.00	25 030.00	-3 290.00
Total ITC Conference Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Action Dissemination	26 300.00	16 635.18	0.00	16 635.18	-9 664.82
Total OERSA	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-800.00
<b>Total Networking expenditure</b>	<b>194 843.82</b>	<b>156 610.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>156 610.21</b>	<b>-38 233.61</b>

Eligible Networking Expenditure	Grant budget ( a )	Expenditure			Delta ( g=d-a )
		Actuals ( b )	Accruals ( c )	Total ( d=b+c )	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Eligible Networking expenditure	194 843.82	156 610.21	0.00	156 610.21	-38 233.61
FSAC (max 15%)	29 226.57	23 491.53	0.00	23 491.53	-5 735.04
<b>Total eligible expenditure</b>	<b>224 070.39</b>	<b>180 101.74</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>180 101.74</b>	<b>-43 968.65</b>

# Year 2 Budget

Financial period: **AGA-CA17122-2**  
From **01/05/2019** to **30/04/2020**

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Networking Expenditure	Grant budget ( a )	Expenditure			Delta ( g=d-a )
		Actuals ( b )	Accruals ( c )	Total ( d=b+c )	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Total Meetings	116 660.00	95 052.90	0.00	95 052.90	-21 607.10
Total Training Schools	17 760.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-17 760.00
Total STSM	19 232.00	22 620.00	0.00	22 620.00	3 388.00
Total ITC Conference Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Action Dissemination	2 000.00	6 765.61	0.00	6 765.61	4 765.61
Total OERSA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Networking expenditure</b>	<b>155 652.00</b>	<b>124 438.51</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>124 438.51</b>	<b>-31 213.49</b>

**Total Actual  
Networking  
Expenditure**

**124,438.51 EUR**

**Total Actual Costs  
including FSAC**

**143,104.29 EUR**

Underspend due to the cancellation of training school as a result of COVID-19 and meeting underspend.

Eligible Networking Expenditure	Grant budget ( a )	Expenditure			Delta ( g=d-a )
		Actuals ( b )	Accruals ( c )	Total ( d=b+c )	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Eligible Networking expenditure	155 652.00	124 438.51	0.00	124 438.51	-31 213.49
FSAC (max 15%)	23 347.80	18 665.78	0.00	18 665.78	-4 682.02
<b>Total eligible expenditure</b>	<b>178 999.80</b>	<b>143 104.29</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>143 104.29</b>	<b>-35 895.51</b>

# Year 3 Budget

Financial period: **AGA-CA17122-3**  
From **01/05/2020** to **31/10/2021**



## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

**Total Actual  
Networking  
Expenditure  
70,316.52 EUR**

**Total Actual  
Costs including  
FSAC 80,864.00  
EUR**

Underspend due to the majority of meetings being virtual during the pandemic but significant spending on dissemination this year.

Networking Expenditure	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure			Delta (g=d-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Total Meetings	45 575.00	4 119.07	0.00	4 119.07	-41 455.93
Total Schools	36 295.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-36 295.00
Total STSM	49 500.00	11 000.00	0.00	11 000.00	-38 500.00
Total ITC Conference Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Virtual Networking Tool	0.00	13 000.00	0.00	13 000.00	13 000.00
Total Action Dissemination	3 397.00	42 197.45	0.00	42 197.45	38 800.45
Total OERSA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Networking expenditure</b>	<b>134 767.00</b>	<b>70 316.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>70 316.52</b>	<b>-64 450.48</b>

Eligible Networking Expenditure	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure			Delta (g=d-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
<b>Eligible Networking expenditure</b>	<b>134 767.00</b>	<b>70 316.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>70 316.52</b>	<b>-64 450.48</b>
FSAC (max 15%)	20 215.05	10 547.48	0.00	10 547.48	-9 667.57
<b>Total eligible expenditure</b>	<b>154 982.05</b>	<b>80 864.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>80 864.00</b>	<b>-74 118.05</b>



# Year 4 Budget: Current Year

Financial period: **AGA-CA17122-4**  
From **01/11/2021** to **31/10/2022**

**Funds available to spend globally: EUR 55 511.40**

**Total Eligible  
Networking  
Expenditure**  
**121,790.00 EUR**

**Total Eligible Costs  
including FSAC**  
**140,058.50**

COST granted us an  
extension from July  
2022 to **October  
2022!**

**MC meeting being  
funded centrally by  
the COST  
Association**



Total	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure					Delta (g=f-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	Forecast (e)	Total (f=d+e)	
Meeting	91 830.00	0.00	28 178.60	28 178.60	12 280.00	40 458.60	-51 371.40
Training School	10 040.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11 700.00	11 700.00	1 660.00
Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant	7 500.00	0.00	4 600.00	4 600.00	3 900.00	8 500.00	1 000.00
Virtual Mobility Grant	0.00	0.00	1 300.00	1 300.00	1 500.00	2 800.00	2 800.00
Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dissemination Conference Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dissemination and Communication Products	12 420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2 820.00	2 820.00	-9 600.00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Virtual Networking Support Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Networking expenditure	121 790.00	0.00	34 078.60	34 078.60	32 200.00	66 278.60	-55 511.40
Eligible Networking expenditure	121 790.00	0.00	34 078.60	34 078.60	32 200.00	66 278.60	-55 511.40
FSAC 15% of Eligible Networking expenditure	18 268.50	0.00	5 111.79	5 111.79	4 830.00	9 941.79	-8 326.71
Eligible Costs	140 058.50	0.00	39 190.39	39 190.39	37 030.00	76 220.39	-63 838.11

# Update from the COST Association



**Dr Mafalda Quintas** | Science Officer  
COST Association



# Monitoring of the Action



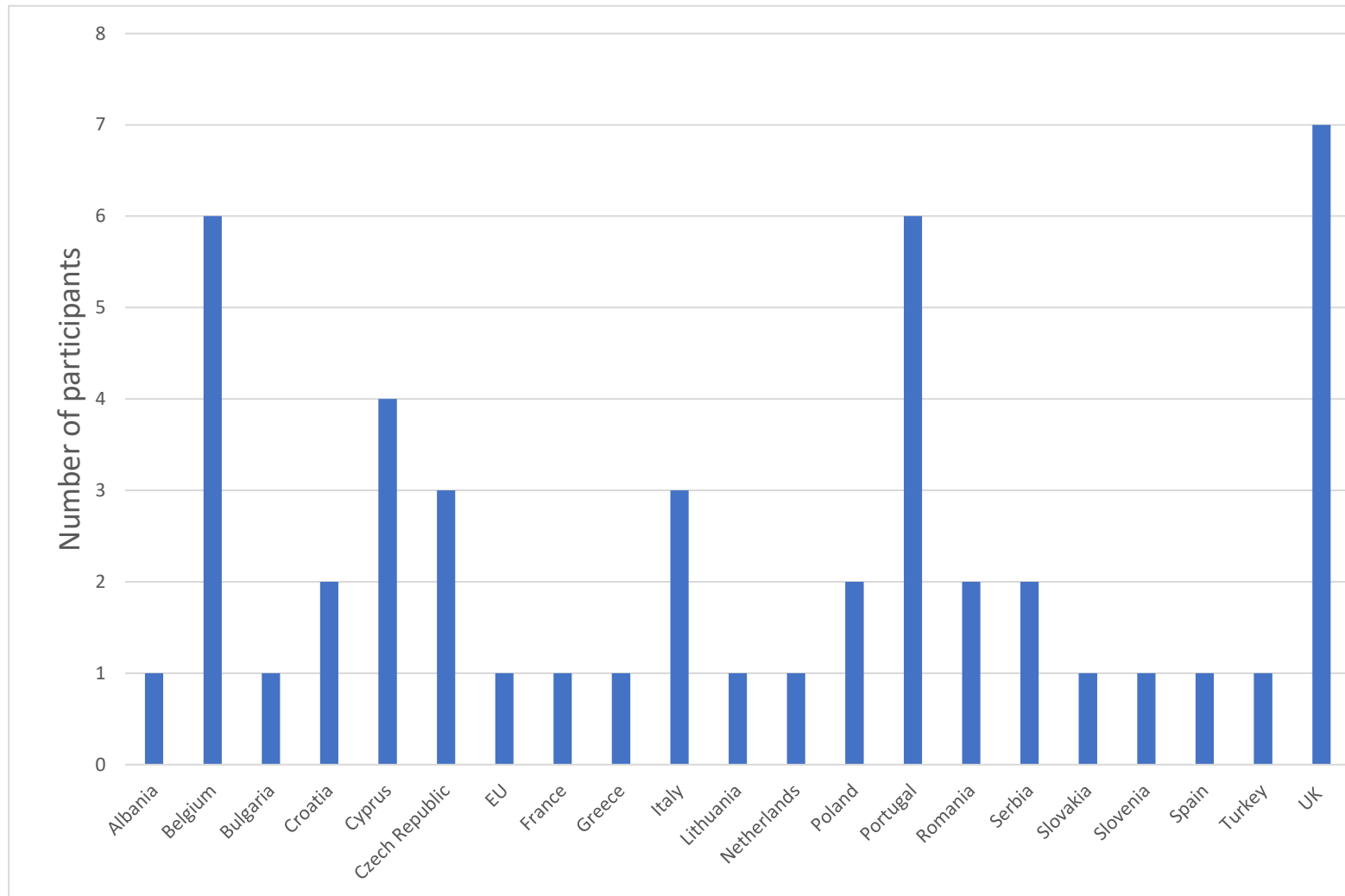
# Implementation of COST policies on:



- Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI)
  - 60% Female and 40% Male.
  - 21 Countries Represented
- Inclusiveness and Excellence (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
  - ITC: Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Turkey.



# Countries Represented



# Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)



## 22 Countries:

**Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.**



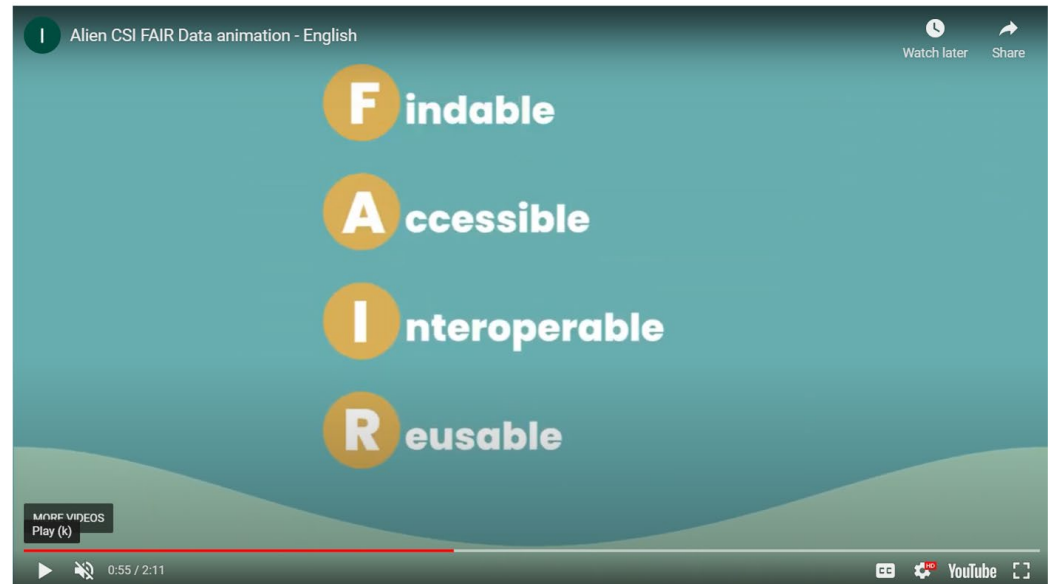


# Working Group Leaders presentations



## WG3 - update

- Animation series for citizen scientist on FAIR data
  - <https://alien-csi.eu/animations>
  - Available in English, Polish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Dutch



## WG3 - update

- Biohackathon Romania, Constanta
  - What can citizen science, IAS and species interactions
  - coding, networking and having fun!
- Coding clubs
  - Coding, networking and having fun!



# Scientific planning

- a) Scientific strategy (MoU objectives, GP Goals, WG tasks, and deliverables)
- b) Action Budget Planning
- c) Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)
- d) Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

## Workshops and Meetings:

- Further STSMs
- Possibility of small workshops focussing on outcomes from this meeting
- Dissemination conferences
  - There is Symposium in Cyprus 6-8 June (organised by Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute, called Thalassa 2022, <https://cyprusconferences.org/thalassa2022/>) - Paraskevi Karachle
  - Conference in Finland International Congress of Entomology - Peter Brown
- Open Access funds
- We will send out an e-vote to the entire MC for any voting after this meeting.

We would like to invite you to apply for the **COST Action CA17122 Alien CSI training school organised by CIBIO-InBIO**. The training school will be looking at models in invasion ecology: challenges and applications.

Dates: From May 30, until June 02, 2022

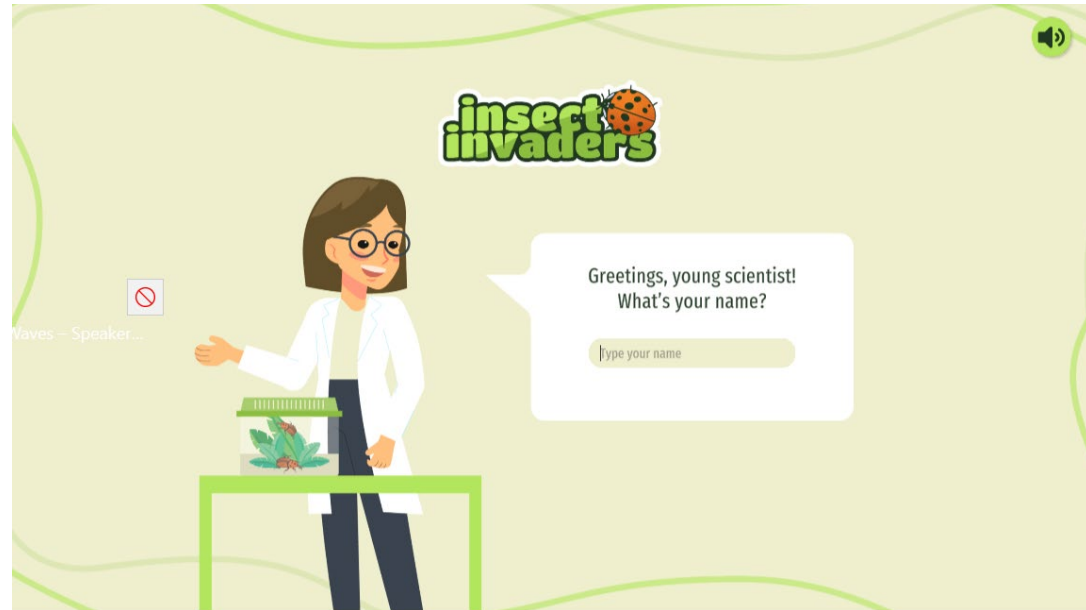
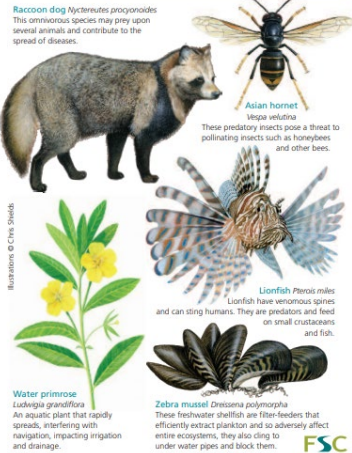
Location: CIBIO-InBIO, Vairão, Portugal (The course will take place in a classroom context)

Closing date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Final agenda linked: <https://www.biodiv.pt/en/events/models-in-invasion-ecology-challenges-and-applications/>

# Dissemination Materials

## Mini guide to invasive alien species



# Requests to join the Action from:

COST countries

Institutions in Near Neighbour Countries,  
International Partner Countries and/or Specific  
Organisations: EU agencies, European RTD  
Organisations, International Organisation



AOB

Location and date of next meeting:

Summary of MC decisions

Closing



Thank you!

