SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INVASIVE SPECIES: CHALLENGES FOR AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Legislation · Forestry · Agriculture · Biodiversity · Control

5–6 November 2026, Belgrade, Hotel Royal Inn

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1 Thursday, 5 November 2026	
09:00–10:00	Registration of Participants
10:00–10:15	Opening Ceremony and Welcome Address
10:15–11:30	**Section 1 – Legislation and Current Status of Invasive Species in the EU, Russia and the Region – Importance of International Organizations and Cross-Border Cooperation**
11:30–11:50	Coffee Break
11:50–13:35	**Section 2 – Invasive Species in Forestry and Green Infrastructure**
13:35–14:30	Lunch
14:30–16:10	**Section 3 – Invasive Species in Agriculture: Entomology and Nematology**
16:30–18:00	Welcome Cocktail

DAY 2 Friday, 6 November 2026	
10:00–11:35	**Section 4 – Challenges for Agriculture and Biodiversity**
11:35–11:45	Coffee Break
11:45–13:45	**Poster S** **ession**
13:45–14:30	Lunch Break
14:30–15:35	**Section 5 – Control of Invasive Species: Challenges and Practice**
15:35–15:50	Closing of the Symposium: Summary and Conclusions

Oral sessions are numbered 1–36; poster presentations P1–P13. Each oral section closes with a moderated discussion.

DAY 1 — Thursday, 5 November 2026

09:00–10:00 Registration of Participants

10:00–10:15 **Opening Ceremony and Welcome Address**

SECTION 1 — 10:15–11:20
Legislation and Current Status of Invasive Species in the EU, Russia and the Region – Importance of International Organizations and Cross-Border Cooperation

Moderators: **Rob Tanner, Božena Mitić, Dragana Marisavljević**

1 **The Role of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in Ensuring Plant Health in the Region**
Rob Tanner, Camille Picard, Dmitrii Musolin
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

2 **Legislation and Current Status of Invasive Alien Plant Species in the EU**
Giuseppe Brundu
University of Sassari, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Sassari, Italy

3 **Russian Legislation on Invasive Plant Management: Current State and Perspectives**
Yuliana Kulkova
All-Russian Plant Quarantine Centre, Moscow, Russia

4 **Invasive Alien Plants in Croatia: Situation and Experiences So Far**
Božena Mitić, Dario Hruševar
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology, Zagreb, Croatia

5 **Status and Economic Impacts of Invasive Alien Species in Kenya: Strengthening Phytosanitary Risk Assessment, Surveillance and Early Warning**
Asenath A. Koech
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Directorate of Phytosanitary and Biosecurity, Nairobi, Kenya

11:05–11:20 **Discussion**

11:20–11:50 *Coffee Break*

SECTION 2 — 11:50–13:35
Invasive Species in Forestry and Green Infrastructure

Moderators: **Milka Glavendekić, Mustafa Yaman, Dmitrii Musolin**

6 **European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO): Recent Developments in Forest Quarantine**
Dmitrii Musolin
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

7 **Alien and Invasive Insects in Forestry and Ornamental Horticulture in Serbia**
Milka Glavendekić
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade, Serbia

8 **First Record of a Microsporidian Pathogen of the Pine Processionary Moth, *Thaumetopoea* sp. (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae)**
Mustafa Yaman, Tuğba Sağlam Güvendik
Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, Faculty of Arts and Science, Department of Biology, Bolu, Türkiye; Isparta University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Technology, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Isparta, Türkiye

9 **Invasive Fungi in Switzerland**
Ludwig Beenken
Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Forest Health and Biotic Interactions, Swiss Forest Protection, Birmensdorf, Switzerland

SECTION 2
11:50–13:35

Invasive Species in Forestry and Green Infrastructure

Moderators: **Milka Glavendekić, Mustafa Yaman, Dmitrii Musolin**

10 **Decline and Dieback of European Hornbeam in Serbia Associated with the Emerging Pathogen *Cryphonectria carpinicola***

Ivan Milenković, Dušan Jovanović, Zlatan Radulović, Dragan Karadžić

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade, Serbia; Phytophthora Research Centre, Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic; PE Srbijašume, Forest Enterprise "Rasina", Kruševac, Serbia; Institute of Forestry, Belgrade, Serbia

11 **Biological Control of *Corythucha arcuata*: From Hypothesis and Scientific Evaluation to Implementation Challenges and Regulatory Issues**

Milan Pernek

Croatian Forest Research Institute, Division for Forest Protection and Game Management, Jastrebarsko, Croatia

12 **Allien and Invasive Insect Species in Forest Ecosystems and Urban Greenery of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Distribution, Impacts and Management Challenges**

Mirza Dautbašić, Osman Mujezinović

University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Forestry, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

13 **Rapid Screening to Determine Potential Invasiveness of Commercial Ornamental Alien Plants**

Nejc Jogan, Božena Mitić

Parnassia – raziskave narave, Litija, Slovenia; University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology, Zagreb, Croatia

14 **EU-Funded Project FORSAID (Forest Surveillance with Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies)**

Dmitrii Musolin

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

13:20–13:35 **Discussion**

13:35–14:30 *Lunch*

SECTION 3
14:30–16:10

Invasive Species in Agriculture: Entomology and Nematology

Moderators: **Tatjana Cvrković, Ankica Sarajlić**

15 **From Native Habitat to Invasion: Interactions Between the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys* Stål), Its Main Parasitoids and Asian Woody Host Plants**

Milana Čović, Vojin Puzić, Miloš Nikolić, Aleksandra Konjević

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Novi Sad, Serbia

16 **Natural Populations of Egg Parasitoids Associated with the Invasive Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*, and Other Pentatomids in Eastern Croatia**

Ankica Sarajlić, Tihomir Validžić, Helena Ereš, Lara Kajan, Nina Cvenić, Francesco Tortorici

Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek, Osijek, Croatia; Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate for Professional Support to Agricultural Development, Đakovo, Croatia; Agricultural Institute Osijek, Osijek, Croatia; Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, Forestali e Alimentari (DISAFA), Entomologia Generale e Applicata, Turin, Italy

17 **Alien Auchenorrhyncha (Hemiptera) Species in Serbia: Vector Potential and Implications for Phytoplasma Epidemiology**

Tatjana Cvrković, Jelena Jović, Oliver Krstić, Miljana Jakovljević, Milana Mitrović, Slavica Marinković, Ivo Toševski

Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia

18 **Invasiveness of Leafhoppers *Erasmoneura vulnerata*, *Arboridia kakogawana* and *Tautoneura polymitusa* and Potential Risks for Viticulture in Serbia**

Milana Mitrović, Tatjana Cvrković, Miljana Jakovljević, Slavica Marinković, Oliver Krstić, Ivo Toševski, Jelena Jović

Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia

19 **Alien Species of Aphids: Challenges for Agriculture and Forestry in Serbia**

Olivera Petrović-Obradović, Anđa Radonjić, Ivana Jovičić, Teodora Aksić, Mihajlo Tomić

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade, Serbia

SECTION 3 14:30–16:10	**Invasive Species in Agriculture: Entomology and Nematology** Moderators: **Tatjana Cvrković, Ankica Sarajlić**
29	**The Khapra Beetle (*Trogoderma granarium* Everts): A Critical Review of Its Quarantine Status, Bio-ecology and Management in Europe and Serbia** Goran Andrić, Marijana Pražić Golić, Petar Kljajić *Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia*
21	**Tiny Worms, Big Problems: The Invasion of Tropical Root-Knot Nematodes** Barbara Gerič Stare *Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia*
22	**Survey and Occurrence of the Invasive Root-Knot Nematode *Meloidogyne luci* in Serbia** Jasmina Bačić, Ivana Lalićević, Saša Širca, Nik Susič, Barbara Gerič Stare *Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia; Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia*
15:50–16:10	**Discussion**
16:30–18:00	**Welcome Cocktail**

DAY 2 — Friday, 6 November 2026

SECTION 4 — Challenges for Agriculture and Biodiversity
10:00–11:35

Moderators: **Predrag Lazarević, Verica Stojanović, Nejc Jogan**

23 **Challenges in Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species in the Republic of Serbia**
Predrag Lazarević, Vera Stanković, Eva Kabaš, Verica Stojanović
Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, Serbia; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac", Belgrade, Serbia

24 **Invasive Alien Plants and Their Impacts on Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region**
Giuseppe Brundu
University of Sassari, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Sassari, Italy

25 **Invasive Weeds in Serbian Agroecosystems: Diversity, Distribution and Management Challenges**
Dragana Božić, Sava Vrbničanin
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade-Zemun, Serbia

26 **Cattle grazing as a NbS for Management of Invasive Plant Species in Obedska bara Special** Marko Marković, Ivana Vasić, Aleksandra Nikolić, Bojan Tubić
Vojvodinašume, Novi Sad, Serbia

27 **Supercell Storm Aftermath and Invasive Plant Invasion in Begečka Jama Nature Park**
Goran Tmušić, Slobodan Bojičić
Invagard – Environmental Consulting and Services, Subotica, Serbia; Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Republic of Serbia

28 **Rhizome-Based Indicators for Optimising Multi-Stress Management Strategies in the *Reynoutria japonica* Complex (Polygonaceae)**
A. Jousson, G. Maspoli, M. Conedera, R. Morisoli, I. Sasu, S. Peduzzi, G. B. Pezzatti
Agroscope, Neobiota Research Group, Cadenazzo, Switzerland; Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Insubric Ecosystems Research Group, Cadenazzo, Switzerland; Dipartimento del Territorio, Ufficio della Natura e del Paesaggio del Canton Ticino, Bellinzona, Switzerland; Consultati SA, Taverne, Switzerland

29 **Weighing the Usefulness of Black Locust: Habitat Disturbance Matters**
Vera Stanković, Predrag Lazarević, Ivana Stevanoski, Eva Kabaš
Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, Serbia; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac", Belgrade, Serbia

30 **From Field Surveys to Citizen Science: Advancing Invasive Alien Plants Research at the Department of Weed Research (IPPE) in Belgrade, Serbia**
Ana Anđelković, Danijela Šikuljak, Dragana Marisavljević
Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia

11:10–11:35 **Discussion**

11:35–11:45 *Coffee Break*

POSTERS — Poster Presentations
11:45–13:45

Moderators: **Dragana Božić, Vera Stanković, Ana Anđelković**

P1 **Variation in Seed Germination and Early Seedling Development in *Cuscuta campestris* Yunck.: Effects of Environmental, Host and Seed Traits**
Marija Sarić-Krsmanović, Lyuben Zagorchev, Jelena Gajić Umiljendić, Ljiljana Radivojević, Dragana Božić, Sava Vrbničanin
Institute of Pesticides and Environmental Protection, Belgrade, Serbia; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Biology, Sofia, Bulgaria; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade-Zemun, Serbia

POSTERS
11:45–13:45

Poster Presentations

Moderators: **Dragana Božić, Vera Stanković, Ana Anđelković**

P2 **Plant Invasions Along Roads: Disentangling Spread Across Environmental Gradients in Mediterranean Ecosystems**

Pablo González-Moreno, Sara Navarro López, Jessica Bernal Borrego, Claudio A. Bracho-Estévanez, Ricardo Hernández-Lambraño

University of Córdoba, Department of Forest Engineering, IISTA, Córdoba, Spain

P3 **Effect of Different Hydrolates on Germination and Early Growth of Johnsongrass**

Bojan Konstantinović, Milena Popov, Nataša Mandić, Tijana Stojanović, Milica Aćimović

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Environmental and Plant Protection, Novi Sad, Serbia

P4 **Sensitivity of *Xanthium orientale* subsp. *italicum* (Moretti) Greuter to Herbicides**

Biljana Kelečević, Siniša Mitrić, Zlatan Kovačević, Sava Vrbničanin

University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Agriculture, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade-Zemun, Serbia

P5 **Effect of Changes in *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* and *Ambrosia trifida* Mixture Composition on Weed Community Development**

Aleksandra Savić

Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia

P6 **Germination Dynamics and Chemical Control of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca* L.)**

Jelena Gajić Umiljendić, Marija Sarić-Krsmanović, Ljiljana Šantrić, Ljiljana Radivojević

Institute of Pesticides and Environmental Protection, Belgrade, Serbia

P7 **From Root Ecology to Control Strategies: Improving Management of *Asclepias syriaca* (Apocynaceae) Through Belowground Assessments**

A. Jousson, V. Fehr, R. Maggini, L. Bernasconi, M. Durini, S. Peduzzi, G. B. Pezzatti

Agroscope, Neobiota Research Group, Cadenazzo, Switzerland; Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Insubric Ecosystems Research Group, Cadenazzo, Switzerland

P8 **From Biology to Management: An Integrated Workflow for Invasive Plant Research at the Cadenazzo Neobiota Research Campus (Switzerland)**

A. Jousson, G. B. Pezzatti, R. Maggini, M. Durini, P. F. Alberto, A. Rizzoli, S. Peduzzi, D. Mazzi

Agroscope, Neobiota Research Group, Cadenazzo, Switzerland; Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Insubric Ecosystems Research Group, Cadenazzo, Switzerland

P9 **Efficiency of Removal of the Invasive Species *Asclepias syriaca* L. on the Valjevac Pasture within SNR Zasavica by the Flail Mowing Method**

Mihajlo Stanković, Vera Stanković

Organisation of Sremska Mitrovica Highlanders, Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia; Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, Serbia

P10 **Plant Diversity and Invasive Alien Plants in City Parks: A Case Study of Maksimir Park (City of Zagreb)**

Dario Hruševar, Suzana Buzjak, Renata Šoštarić, Mirjana Vrbek, Biljana Janev, Irina Zupan, Sven Jelaska, Sarah Legvard, Božena Mitić

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology, Zagreb, Croatia; Croatian Natural History Museum, Zagreb, Croatia; Javna ustanova za upravljanje prirodnim vrijednostima Grada Zagreba „Priroda grada Zagreba“, Zagreb, Croatia

P11 **Mapping the Invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) in Fruška Gora National Park: A Distribution Survey**

Goran Tmušić, Slobodan Bojičić

Invagard – Environmental Consulting and Services, Subotica, Serbia; Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Republic of Serbia

P12 **Managing the Invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) in the “Titelski Breg” Special Nature Reserve: Control and Eradication Measures**

Goran Tmušić, Slobodan Bojičić

Invagard – Environmental Consulting and Services, Subotica, Serbia; Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Republic of Serbia

POSTERS
11:45–13:45

Poster Presentations

Moderators: **Dragana Božić, Vera Stanković, Ana Anđelković**

P13 **From EU Regulation to National Implementation: Integrating Legal and Scientific Evidence in Serbia's Invasive Alien Species Framework**

Zorana Miletić, Natalija Radulović, Anita Simonović, Snežana Jarić, Dimitrije Sekulić, Olga Kostić, Ksenija Jakovljević

Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" – National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, Department of Ecology, Belgrade, Serbia; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade, Serbia

13:45–14:30 *Lunch Break*

SECTION 5
14:30–15:35

Control of Invasive Species: Challenges and Practice

Moderators: **Dragana Marisavljević, Sava Vrbničanin, Mihaela Kavran**

31 **Current Status of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L. in Serbia**

Sava Vrbničanin

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade-Zemun, Serbia

32 ***Heracleum sosnowskyi* Manden. In Pančevački rit – can its spread be prevented?**

Dragana Marisavljević, Ivana Jelić, Milena Tabašević, Nikola Mandić, Borislav Savovski, Vera Stanković, Verica Stojanović

Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia; Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia, Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, Serbia, Natural History Museum, Belgrade, Serbia

33 **Weed Control on Non-Agricultural Areas in Light of Invasive Weeds**

Nebojša Dević

Visan DDD Services, Serbia

34 ***Aedes albopictus* in Serbia: An Old Threat with Emerging Public Health Implications and Innovative Tools for Its Sustainable Control**

Mihaela Kavran, Nađa Kukić, Sara Šiljegović, Aleksandar Jurišić, Aleksandra Ignjatović Ćupina

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Environmental and Plant Protection; Centre of Excellence – One Health, Novi Sad, Serbia

35 **Mosquito Control in Urban Areas in Light of Invasive Species**

Ekosan DDD Services, Serbia

15:20–15:35 **Discussion**

15:35–15:50 **Closing of the Symposium: Summary and Conclusions**