EPPO Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) training Workshop: Training in essential elements of pest prioritization and PRA

Belgrade, Serbia 2026-11-02/04







Table of Contents

Organising Committee....3
Meeting agenda....4
Information on the workshop....7
Prioritised pests for PRA....9
Facilitators biography's....10
Useful information....13
Information about EPPO....16



Organising Committee

Nuria Avendano Garcia (Tragsa, ES)

Giuseppe Brundu (University of Sassari, IT)

Claire Gent (Defra, UK)

Milka Glavendekic (University of Belgrade, RS)

Dragana Marisavljevic (Institute for Plant Protection & Environment, RS)

Camille Picard (EPPO)

Rob Tanner (EPPO)

Meeting agenda

Monday 2nd November

08:00	Registration
08:45	Opening and welcome
	Setting the scene - presentations
08:45-09:00	Plant Health & Plant Quarantine activities in Serbia (Slađana Lukić NPPO Serbia)
09:00-09:10	Work on invasive plants in Serbia (Dragana Marisavljevic, Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, RS)
09:10-09:25	Pest Risk Analysis in an international plant health context (Yosra Ahmed, FAO)
09:25-09:40	EPPO activities on Pest Risk Analysis (Camille Picard, EPPO)
09:40-09:55	Re-cap - Priority pests & introduction to training workshop (Rob Tanner, EPPO)
	Stage 1: Initiation
10:00-10:10	Participants in each group introduce themselves to each other
10:10-10:25	Presentation: Reasons for doing PRA including PRA area (Camille Picard, EPPO)
10:25-11:10	Group exercise: discuss salient details of their pest - complete PowerPoint slide
11:10-11:40	Coffee
	Stage 2. Pest risk assessment
11:40-12:00	Presentation: Risk assessment (taxonomy/pest overview/vector/reg status) (Rob Tanner, EPPO)
12:00-13:00	Group exercise: gather key information on the pest- complete PowerPoint slide
13:00-14:00	Lunch
	Pest distribution
14:00-14:10	Presentation: Critical considerations for pest distribution (Claire Gent, Defra, UK)
14:10-15:15	Group exercise: assess distribution data on EPPO Global Database. Cross check with other databases. Discuss country status: transient/established, etc.
15:15-15:45	Coffee
	Host plants/Habitats
15:45-16:00	Presentation: Host plants/habitats and their distribution in the PRA area (Nuria Avendano Garcia, TRAGSATEC, ES)
16:00-17:30	Group exercise: assess host data in EPPO GD, consider priority hosts and assess distribution in EPPO region. Consider uncertain hosts and/or experimental hosts. For IAP assess known habitats and potential habitats using EUNIS system.
	Wrap-up of day
17:30-17:45	Recap: Where are we and what have we learnt (Rob Tanner, EPPO)

Meeting agenda
Tuesday 3rd November

	Themed Presentation
08:30-08:50	**Presentation: Scoring and uncertainty in PRAs** (Jose Maria Castrillon, TRAGSATEC, ES)
	Pathway for entry
09:00-09:15	**Presentation: Pathway analysis in PRA** (Camille Picard, EPPO)
09:15-11:00	**Group exercise**: prioritise pathways and complete pathway table for pest. Rate likelihood and uncertainty.
11:00-11:30	**Coffee**
11:30-12:45	Group exercise continued with scoring of detailed pathway
12:45-13:00	Catch up (Check all groups at same place) (Camille Picard, EPPO)
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**
	Themed Presentation
14:00-14:20	**Presentation: Introduction to tools for mapping and modelling** (Giuseppe Brundu, University of Sassari, IT)
	Establishment
14:20-14:35	**Presentation: Likelihood of establishment in the PRA area** (Claire Gent, Defra, UK)
14:35-16:00	**Group exercise**: use Köppen–Geiger climate classification (https://koppen.earth/) to estimate potential establishment of pest in the EPPO region based on current and future climate scenarios.
During session	**Working coffee break**
	Spread
16:00-16:15	**Presentation: Assessment of spread in the PRA area** (Milka Glavendekic, Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade, RS)
16:15-17:30	**Group exercise**: prioritise and list spread pathways including natural and human assisted. rating the magnitude of spread and uncertainty
	Wrap-up of day
17:30-17:45	**Where are we and what have we learnt** (Camille Picard, EPPO)







Meeting agenda
Wednesday 4th November

	Impacts
08:30-08:45	**Presentation: Assessment of impacts** (Dmitrii Musolin, EPPO)
08:45-10:30	**Group exercise**: assess current and potential impact at different levels. Conduct lit review for economic data. Discuss direct and indirect impacts. and score and uncertainty
10:30-11:00	**Coffee**
	Endangered area & Phytosanitary risk
11:00-12:00	**Interactive session**: define endangered area and rate phytosanitary risk (Rob Tanner, EPPO)
	Stage 3: Pest risk management
12:00-12:15	**Presentation: Phytosanitary measures** (Camille Picard & Nuria Avendano Garcia)
12:15-13:15	**Group exercise**: recommended measures for priority pathway
13:15-14:15	**Lunch**
	Group feedback
14:15-15:00	Groups work on presentations (coffee available)
15:00-17:00	**Group presentations** (Each group presents their results - 20 minutes each group)
During session	**Working coffee break**
17:00-17:15	Wrap-up and follow-up (EPPO)
17:15	**Close and Depart**



Information on the workshop

Participants

Forty-five participants will attend the workshop from more than 24 countries. Participants come from many different backgrounds including experts from NPPOs, plant health scientists, policy officials, risk managers, risk assessors, etc.

Purpose of the workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to provide participants experience in:

1) An understanding of how to prioritize a list of pests for PRA,
2) The EPPO Express PRA Scheme PM 5/5 to assess the risk of a plant pest,
3) Learning methodologies for collecting and interpretating information,
4) How to assess pathways of introduction,
5) How to assess establishment and spread potential,
6) How to predict economic impact,
7) Working as part of a team to assess the risk of a pest to an endangered area,
8) How to evaluate risk management options,
9) Presenting and defending your conclusions.

Format of the workshop

The three-day Workshop will combine lectures, group exercises and group discussions on essential elements for prioritization and PRA. During the workshop, participants will be divided into small groups where each group will work on one pest which was prioritized during the webinar.

Groups

Workshop participants have been divided into six groups. A facilitator is assigned to each group. The role of the facilitator is to guide each group during the process.

Each group is an Expert Working Group for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). It is the role of each group to complete a PRA for their assigned pest.

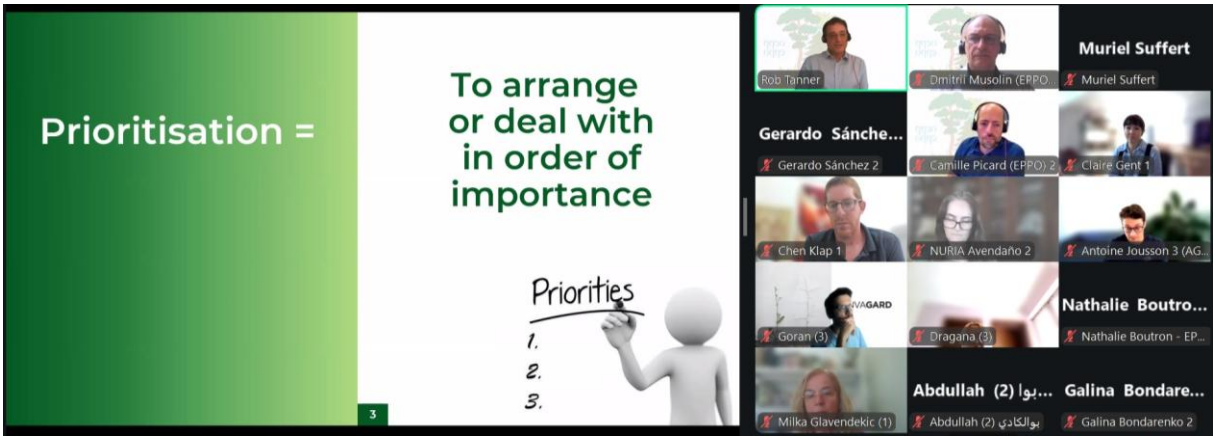
Each group will gather information, discuss and evaluate the phytosanitary risk of the pest for the EPPO region.

On the last day, each group will present and discuss their results with the whole group.



Prioritised pests for PRA

As a first step in the PRA training, a **webinar** was organised on 3 September 2026 to introduce participants to the pest prioritisation processes regularly used by EPPO for PRAs. Based on suggestions provided in a pre-webinar questionnaire, participants then carried out their own prioritisation exercise to select pests to be used during the Workshop. Participants were divided into three breakout groups focusing respectively on insects, pathogens and plants.



The highest-priority insect identified was the polyphagous stink bug ***Erthesina fullo*** (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae). For pathogens, the priority was **vascular streak dieback** caused by *Ceratobasidium* spp., while for invasive alien plants, the perennial herb ***Reynoutria multiflora*** was selected.

These three priority pests will serve as case studies during the PRA training Workshop.

Facilitators biography's

Ms Dragana Marisavljević

I am a researcher at the Institute for Plant Protection, Department of Weed Science, for the past 22 years. With more than 30 years of experience in weed science, my work has focused on weeds in agricultural systems and the use of herbicides. A substantial part of her research has been dedicated to invasive alien plants, including their biology, spread, and management and I earned PhD from the University of Novi Sad with a dissertation on this topic. Since 2014, I am a member of the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants.

Ms Claire Gent

I have been a pest risk analyst for nine years and was previously a plant health inspector at the UK's busiest airport. I hold an MSc in entomology and a PhD on the life cycle of a bark beetle and its biocontrol agent. At Defra (the UK NPPO), I help manage the Plant Health Risk Register, write and review pest risk analyses, conduct horizon scanning, and provide advice to policy colleagues.

Ms Nuria Avendaño-García

Agricultural Engineer with more than 20 years of experience in plant health, specializing in Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and phytosanitary import requirements. Since 2000, I have been involved in the development of bilateral agreements for the importation of plants and plant products into Spain, as well as in the preparation of Pest Risk Analyses for the Spanish National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). I have authored numerous PRAs at both national and international levels, including within Expert Working Groups (EWGs) of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). Since 2016, I have served as a Core Member for the review of PRAs prepared by EPPO EWGs, contributing scientific and technical expertise to ensure the quality and consistency of pest risk assessments.

Facilitators biography's

Mr Giuseppe Brundu

Prof. Giuseppe Brundu, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Environmental and Applied Botany at the University of Sassari, Italy. His research focuses primarily on plant invasions in Mediterranean islands, pest risk analysis, ecological modelling, and legislation concerning invasive alien plants, with particular emphasis on the management of non-native trees. He has participated in invasive plant inventories and related research activities in several Mediterranean islands, Italy, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Chad, and Iran. Since 2007, he has been a member of the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants, representing the Italian National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO).

Ms Milka Glavendekic

My work at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry started in 1984. From 2010 I obtained the degree of full Professor. I have a M.Sc. in Forest Entomology from the Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade, Ph. D. in Biotechnology from Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade. In 1989-1990 I got scholarship from German Academic Exchange Service and worked on taxonomy of the family Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) at the Faculty of Science University of Wuertzburg. At the Faculty of Forestry LMU in Munich I worked on the ecology of forest pests. From 2005 my main areas of work include pest risk analysis, quarantine pests for Forestry, biological control agents and invasive non-native insects in Forests, Green Infrastructure and nurseries.

Mr Jose Maria Guitian Castrillon

Head of the Plant Health and Integrating Farming Department in TRAGSATEC. Agricultural Engineer with more than 30 years of experience in plant health, specializing in Pest Risk Analysis (PRA), contingency planning, simulation exercises, market access and training. EPPO Core Member for reviewing PRAs prepared in EWG by EPPO. Member of the EPPO Panel on PRA development. Member of the IPPC Technical Panel on commodity standards (TPCS).Certified Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitator by the IPPC Secretariat. Member of the EPPO Panel on Global Phytosanitary Affairs. I have authored numerous PRAs at both national and international levels, including within EPPO Expert Working Groups.

Facilitators biography's

Mr Camille Picard

Mr. Camille Picard is Senior Scientific Officer at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), specialised in risk assessment and risk management. Since 2016, he has contributed to the development of regional and international phytosanitary standards, pest risk analyses, and international projects. He currently chairs the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures and coordinates pest risk analysis (PRA) activities within EPPO. He previously worked at the French Ministry of Agriculture, where he was responsible for the fruit tree sector, the European plant passport system, and official controls, contributing to national phytosanitary policies, outbreak management, and European and international negotiations. He graduated as an agronomist with a specialization in plant and environmental protection from Montpellier SupAgro.

Mr Rob Tanner

Mr Rob Tanner is a Senior Scientific officer at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). He has 23 years' experience working in international, inter-governmental organisations. He gained his Ph.D. in ecology and biological control of invasive alien plants from University of London (United Kingdom). At EPPO, his main areas of work include invasive alien plants, biological control agents, phytosanitary inspections, pest risk analysis and simulation exercise for contingency planning.

Mr Dmitrii Musolin

My work as a Scientific Officer at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) started in 2022. I have a M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Central European University (Budapest, Hungary), Ph.D. in Entomology from Saint Petersburg State University (Russia), and Dr. Sc. (Dr. Habil) in Entomology from Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1999-2009, I did several post-doc projects in Japan in insect ecophysiology and response to climate change. At EPPO, my main areas of work include pest risk analysis, quarantine pests for Forestry, and support of Russian speaking experts.

Useful information

Location

The EPPO Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) training Workshop will be held in the Royal Inn Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia www.royalinn.rs.

Royal Inn Hotel was built in 1883 and it is the oldest hotel in Belgrade. It is located at Kralja Petra Street, one of the oldest streets in Belgrade which is under State protection and the street itself serves as a unique exhibition of different architectural styles represented in Belgrade such as the Baroque, Secession, Art Deco, Modernism, Oriental style, etc.

The hotel is located in the heart of the old part of Belgrade, close to the main pedestrian and shopping street Knez Mihailova, as well as The Republic Square and Kalemegdan fortress, which is a cultural and historical complex overlooking the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers.

Exploring Belgrade

The Belgrade official website of the tourist organisation gives details on attractions in the city: https://www.tob.rs/en

Useful information

EPPO Extranet

All participants have access to the EPPO Extranet page where all workshop and group documents are stored: https://extranet.eppo.int/team000142/hometeam.php

Wifi

Wifi will be available in the hotel. Please ask for the passcode.

Coffee breaks and lunches

Coffee breaks and lunches for the workshop (2nd, 3rd and 4th November) are included in the workshop registration fee. All coffee breaks and lunches will be served in the hotel, and further information will be provided.

Name tags

Nametags will be provided to all participants for the duration of the workshop. Please wear your nametag during the meeting.

Currency

Please note the local currency is the Serbian Dinar (RSD).

Language

The PRA training workshop will be conducted in English.

Useful information

Health And travel insurance

Participants are responsible for arranging their own insurance, covering accidents/health problems during the trip and stay. All insurance and visa fees must be covered by the participants.

Things to bring

Your laptop

A plug adaptor if you need one (See below)

A notepad and pen

Power plugs

Serbia



230 V
50 Hz

In Serbia, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type F are used. The standard voltage is 230 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.

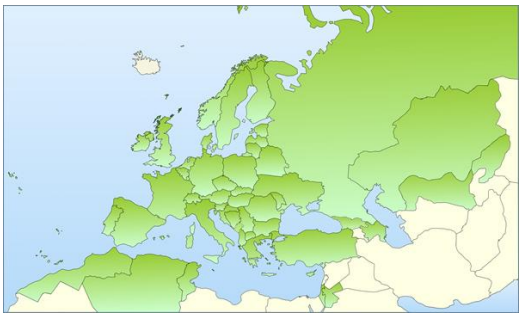
For more information, select the country you live in at the top of this page.

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

What is EPPO?

EPPO is an intergovernmental organization responsible for international cooperation in plant protection in the European and Mediterranean region. In the sense of the article IX of the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), it is the Regional Plant Protection Organization for Europe.

Founded in 1951 with 15 member governments, it now has 52 member governments including nearly every country of Western and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region (in green on the map).



Aims of EPPO

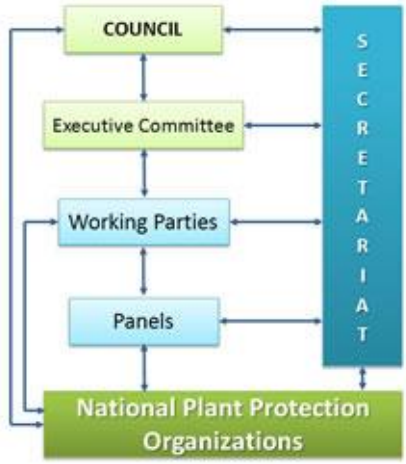
EPPO has two main areas of activity: plant quarantine and pest control. Its main aims are:

- To protect plant health in agriculture, forestry and the uncultivated environment.
- To develop an international strategy against the introduction and spread of pests (including invasive alien plants) that damage cultivated and wild plants, in natural and agricultural ecosystems.
- To encourage harmonization of phytosanitary regulations and all other areas of official plant protection action.
- To promote the use of modern, safe, and effective pest control methods.
- To provide a documentation service on plant protection.

EPPO Structure

The Organization is administered by its Council (representatives of all member governments) and Executive Committee (7 governments elected on a rotational basis). A Secretariat of 14 persons is based in Paris. EPPO is financed directly by annual contributions from its member governments. Its official languages are English, French and for certain purposes Russian. The technical work is overseen by the Working Parties and Panels (experts are nominated by their National Plant Protection Organization).





EPPO Standards

As a result of the work being done within the different technical bodies, EPPO makes recommendations to the National Plant Protection Organizations of its member governments. These recommendations are considered as Regional Standards in the sense of the IPPC.

Standards on plant protection products:

- Efficacy evaluation of plant protection products
- Good plant protection practice
- Environmental risk assessment of plant protection products

Standards on phytosanitary measures:

- General phytosanitary measures
- Phytosanitary procedures
- Production of healthy plants for planting
- Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)
- Safe use of biological control
- Diagnostic protocols
- Commodity-specific phytosanitary measures
- National regulatory control systems
- Phytosanitary treatments

EPPO Information Services

EPPO provides many information services to its members, most of them are freely available from the EPPO website:

www.eppo.int

Examples of EPPO publications and databases:

- EPPO Bulletin (official journal of the Organization)
- EPPO Global Database
- Pest Risk Analyses
- EPPO database on diagnostic expertise
- EPPO Reporting Service (monthly newsletter)
- Datasheets on quarantine pests and pictures
- EPPO Alert List ...

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION
21 Bd Richard Lenoir, 75011 Paris - www.eppo.int
Muriel Suffert (EPPO Information Officer, ms@eppo.int)