

ANNOUNCEMENT



Open Calls for 5th meeting of the IOBC-WPRS Working group “Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents” combined with the IOBC-Global working group

From 11-14 September 2023, the University of Aveiro will host the 5th meeting of the Working group “Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents” combined with the IOBC-Global working group.

The 2023 meeting will be the fifth main meeting of the IOBC-WPRS working group. The previous meetings took place in: Engelberg, Switzerland (2009), Hluboká, Czech Republic (2011), Bornholm, Denmark (2015), and São Miguel, Azores, Portugal (2018). This year the group also organized a symposium at the XXVI International Congress of Entomology (ICE2022) in Helsinki, Finland. Although the group is primarily based in Europe, the meetings attract delegates from all over the world.

This meeting is targeted at scientists and professionals working with Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents, and addresses the following areas:

- Benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents in forest production systems
- Benefits and risks of biological control of invasive exotic plants
- Interactions between exotic biological control agents and native species
- Benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents of emerging pests and pathogens
- Novel tools to access the benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents
- Synergies between organizations and networks dealing with exotic biological control agents

For more details on how to register and submit an abstract please see: <https://brebca2023.web.ua.pt>

This meeting will also host a one-day satellite kick-off meeting of the newly created Working Group “Biological Control” within the **European Weed Research Society** (EWRS; <https://www.ewrs.org/>) on Friday 15 September at the same location.

EWRS-WG on “Biological Control” meeting will have in the morning, invited overview talks will be given to lay out the scope of this new WG on the status of biological weed control in Europe as compared to world-wide efforts, including classical, inundative/augmentative and conservation approaches, as well as botanicals and plant-based products, mycoherbicides and mycotoxins. The afternoon will then be dedicated to administrative and organizational matters, as well as on next steps to be taken by this newly formed EWRS WG “Biological Control”. The kickoff meeting is open to all interested persons; for further contact: heinz.mueller@unifr.ch