



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University



Dr. Eithne Davis

Two-way engagement with stakeholders to improve
biosecurity around invasive alien species in the
workplace

Drivers of this project...

Invasive alien species (IAS)

- One of the greatest threats to global biodiversity
- Negative ecological, environmental and health/social impacts



Drivers of this project...

Ecological impacts

One of biggest threats to biodiversity globally



Drivers of this project...

Economic impacts

Infrastructure

Damage to buildings, roads, reservoirs

- zebra mussels
- japanese knotweed



Agriculture

Up to 17% of production lost because of invasive species

Cause damage worth billions of Euros to the European economy every year.



Drivers of this project...

Health and social impacts

Health

- giant hogweed – skin irritation

Increase risk of flooding

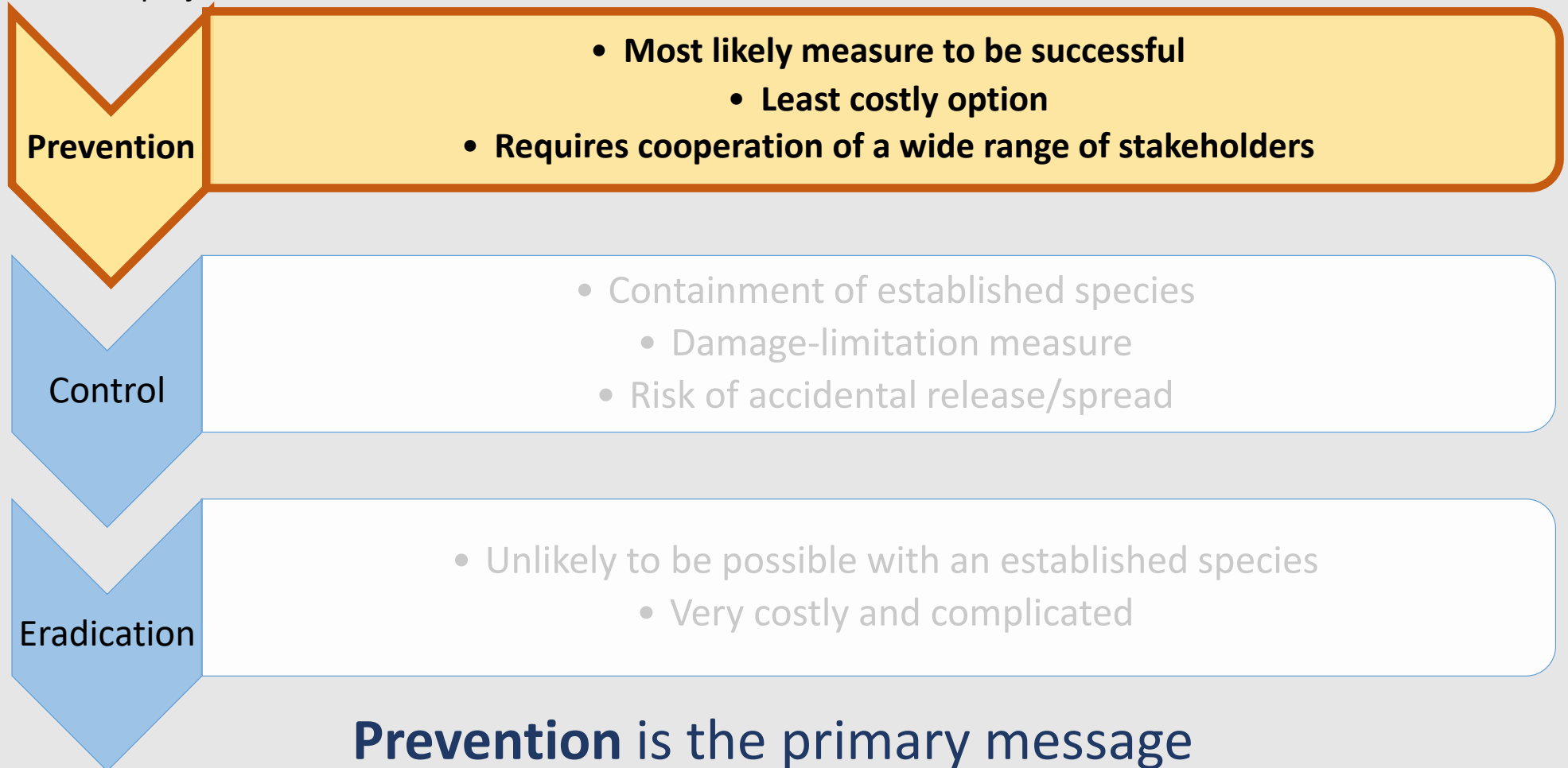
- Signal crayfish undermining riverbanks
- Aquatic plants choking waterways

Decline in particular species or habitats

- red squirrel



Drivers of this project...



Prevention is the primary message

Education and Awareness are critical to prevention

Drivers of this work...

- Practitioners wanted more info on IAS
- Academics wanted to understand what was stopping good biosecurity practice at ground level
- Opportunity to collaborate with other scientists met at workshops, conferences
 - - 3 PhD Students, 1 international specialist
- Availability of Grassroots Scheme



WORKSHOP SUPPORT SCHEME
for Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Researchers

Are you interested in **hosting a workshop** with fellow early stage researchers?
Do you want to **share your research** with your local community?
Is there an environmental issue you want to **highlight to the public**?

The EPA/ESAI Workshop Support Scheme provides **€600** funding to postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to organise a workshop in the broad environmental research area.

See www.esaiweb.org for further details and application form. Proposals will be assessed every two months. Upcoming deadlines; April 30th, June 30th 2019



The recruitment process...

Invited expressions of interest.

IT Sligo
CERIS
Centre for Environmental Research
Innovation and Sustainability

Practical Biosecurity Grassroots Workshop

Preventing the Spread of Invasive Alien Species

Wednesday, 4th of April 2018
9am – 5pm
Institute of Technology, Sligo

- Clarify the issues around Invasive Alien Species
- Understand your responsibilities in preventing their spread
- Examine practical barriers to good biosecurity, and how to overcome them
- Leave with a certificate of training in good biosecurity

There is **no charge** for this event, thanks to the kind support of the EPA and the ESAI.

Numbers are strictly limited, and expressions of interest should be sent to:

Eithne.Davis@mail.itsligo.ie



- Poster emailed out
- 16 places available
- Expressions of interest invited
- 42 expressions of interest received
- 36 participants

Target Audience.....

Public Organisations

- Office of Public Works
- County Councils
- Heritage Officers
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Waters and Communities Office
- Teagasc
- Coillte
- Leave No Trace



Target Audience.....

Community/ recreational Organisations

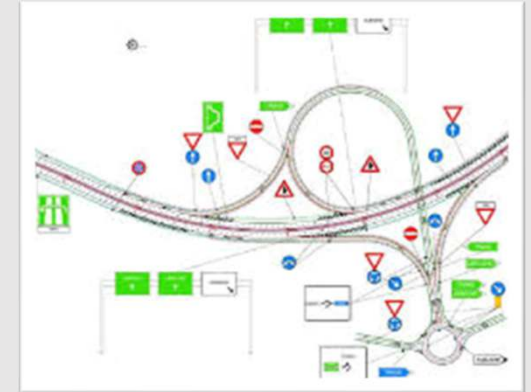


- Angling Association
- Adventure Sports
- Canoeing Ireland
- Tidy Towns
- Community Gardens
- Pollinator Conservation Group

Target Audience.....

Private Organisations

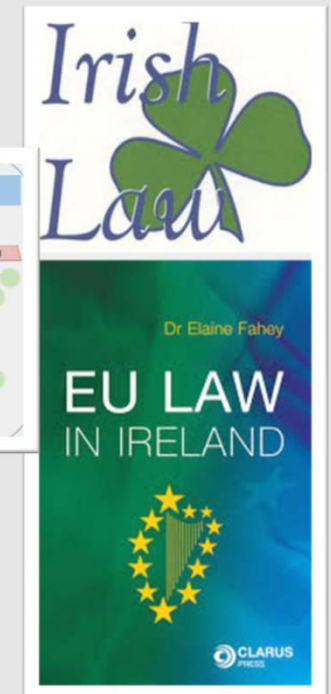
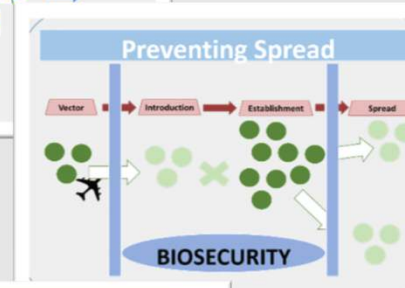
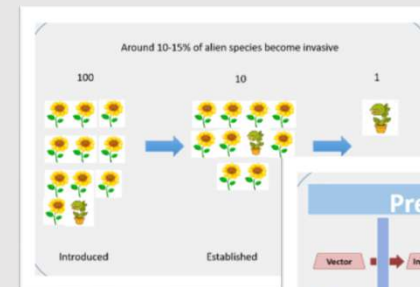
- Organic Farmers
- Engineering Consultants
- Environmental Consultants
- Archaeologists
- Environmental Science Students
- Tourism Students
- Environmental Educators



Practical Biosecurity Grassroots Workshop

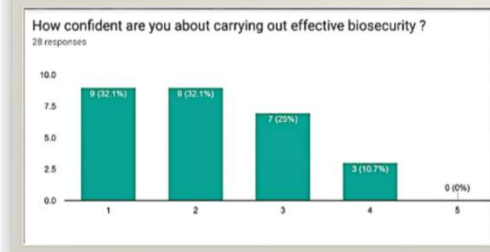
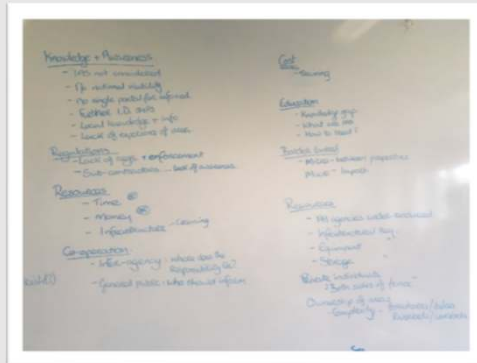
Part 1 : Delivering knowledge

Presentations and training

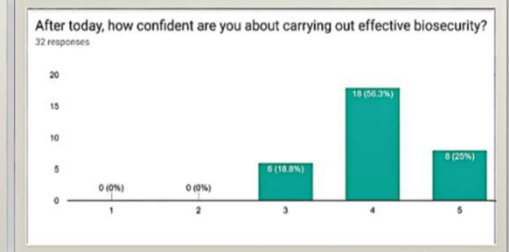


Practical Biosecurity Grassroots Workshop

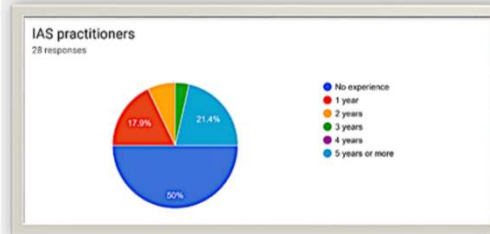
Part 2 : Eliciting knowledge



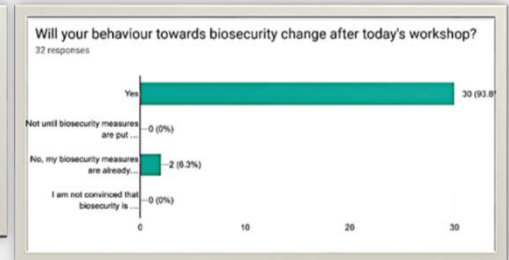
Confidence in carrying out effective biosecurity **BEFORE** the workshop



Confidence in carrying out effective biosecurity **AFTER** the workshop



A wide spread of experience amongst participants in working directly with IAS made this workshop particularly interesting



Over 98% of participants said their behaviour towards biosecurity would change after the workshop

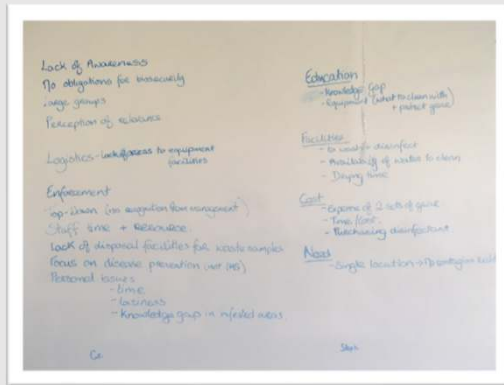
Outputs: Benefits to participants



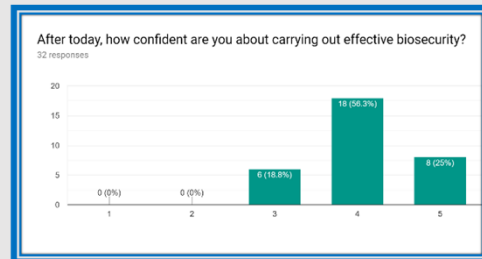
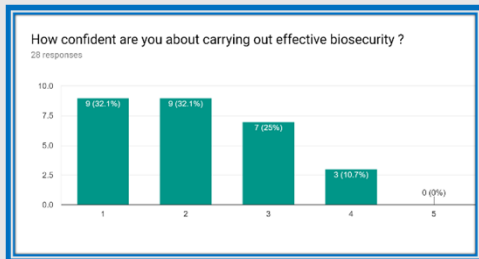
- Improved skillset in the workplace
- Contacts created – networking
- Opportunity to contribute positively
 - Amongst peers
 - Informing best practice
- Certification

Outputs:

Benefits to facilitators



- Pilot to inform future training events
- Contacts created – high demand for further workshops
- Feedback gathered – inform future work
- Data gathered – possible publication
- Irl/UK Biosecurity Network established





The Irl/UK biosecurity network



Thanks for listening

Any questions?

Stay in touch with us...



“Invasive Aliens”

