



ENDURE

European Network for Durable Exploitation of crop protection strategies

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PU Public	x
PP Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Glossary

ENDURE	European Network for Durable Exploitation of crop protection strategies
ENDURE Information Centre	ENDURE IC
IPM	Integrated Pest Management

Summary

Objectives

The goal of this deliverable is to provide a comprehensive overview of the why, who, what and how regarding the ENDURE activity on the Network of Experts.

Rationale

This document is the result of one year of experience setting up and running the network of experts.

The ENDURE network of experts draws upon the competencies existing within ENDURE to respond to requests from groups seeking technical, advisory or institutional support on a specific question related to IPM implementation. It adds to ENDURE a live expert component that judiciously complements the body of information available from the ENDURE Information Centre (ENDURE IC). It responds to a need for European-level quality technical recommendations, collective assessments and advisory support that can be called upon on relatively short notice.

Teams involved:

The following ENDURE partners contributed to this deliverable:

INRA
JKI
PRI
AU
DAAS
RRes
CNR
UdL
SSSUP

Geographical areas covered:

The network of experts aims to offer expert assessments pertinent across Europe.

1. Introduction

The ENDURE network of experts draws upon the competencies existing within ENDURE to respond to requests from groups seeking technical, advisory or institutional support on a specific question related to IPM implementation. It adds to ENDURE a live expert component that judiciously complements the body of information available from the ENDURE Information Centre (ENDURE IC). It responds to a need for European-level quality technical recommendations, collective assessments and advisory support that can be called upon on relatively short notice.

2. Rationale

The ENDURE network of experts responds to a need for scientifically-based collective assessments on IPM implementation that draw from a European perspective and breadth. Together with the ENDURE IC, it ensures that valuable local experiences, lessons learned and expertise are shared and taken advantage of at the European level.

The added-value provided by this service stem from the assets specific to the ENDURE network, namely:

- its multi-national dimension
- its multi-disciplinary point of view
- the participation of scientists, extension, industry and civil society
- easy access to rich databases
- a focus on IPM

The network of experts benefits ENDURE by strengthening its sustainability and by contributing to making it a recognised point of reference on IPM.

3. Structure and Mechanics

Note: the structure and mechanics defined here are meant to be applicable to the future ENDURE ERG Task 3.2 “Network of Experts”.

3.1. Scope & types of requests

The network of experts is ready to address requests specifically related to IPM implementation. Within the general area of IPM implementation, two general types of requests are eligible:

- Scientific support to policy-making relevant to IPM
- Scientific and technical support for the practical implementation of IPM principles.

The thematic scope of the network is at the intersections between the following domains and the issue of IPM implementation:

- Biophysical disciplines: weed, insect and disease management, ecology and landscape ecology, biodiversity, agricultural engineering, and agronomy.
- Policy: national public policies and evaluation.
- Knowledge chain: research policy & agenda, advisory systems, learning approaches.
- Types of crop: arable, perennial, vegetable and minor crops in Europe.
- Pest Management approaches: decision-support and monitoring.

Some areas under-represented from the current pool of expertise may need strengthening in the future. These include agricultural economics, soil ecology and social processes, as regards disciplines, and expertise from Central and Eastern Europe, as regards geographic focus.

Impacts of pesticides on the environment, human health and food safety are not included in the scope of the Network.

Potential clients and requests include:

- EU-level clients (DGs), particularly regarding the needs of the EC in their follow-up of the implementation of the parts of the Framework Directive that relate to IPM.
- National authorities overseeing the implementation of the Framework Directive.
- National-level advisory services.
- European-level civil society and associations such as PAN-Europe, ECPA, IBMA and others.
- OECD working group on risk reduction

3.2. Overall mechanics

The leader of the task “Network of Experts” serves as a single point of entry for external requests. The eligibility and the way to respond to the request are discussed within the Network of Experts Editorial Board. If accepted, the work is allocated to designated members of the Board who call upon the relevant experts whom they know have an interest in and can contribute to the request. One Board member is designated to manage and compile the various contributions to an assessment.

Endorsement:

The compiled document is sent to all Board members for comments and endorsement. If the assessment is of European scope or of a political or controversial nature, the recommendation is to have the document overseen by the ENDURE Executive Committee for ENDURE endorsement. Otherwise, the document is produced on behalf of the group of individuals that produced it. It should be noted that obtaining ENDURE endorsement confers more power and legitimacy to the product.

Proprietary rules:

The product will be in the public domain and will be published on the ENDURE website at the same time that it is delivered to the client. This requirement will help to ensure that the product is not misused through modification of its content. The client should agree to do this.

Timing:

The minimum acceptable time between receiving a formal request and delivering a product is two months.

Nature of product:

The product is an analysis regarding a question that fits within the scope of the Network. The analysis made by experts, beyond a mere compilation, is what constitutes the added value brought by ENDURE to this product.

3.3. Board

The Network of expert Editorial Board is the main group that manages the process of eliciting and receiving requests. The current Board membership is open to change particularly in view

of the upcoming launching of the ENDURE ERG. The current editorial board leader will be replaced by the corresponding ERG task leader.

For reference purposes, the current Board membership is as follows (it will be modified for the ENDURE ERG):

Who	Area covered
Marco Barzman – editorial board leader	Policy – Biocontrol
Silke Dachbrodt-Saaydeh	EU and national-level policy
Paolo Bàrberi	Weed management, agroecology, biodiversity, landscape ecology, IPM
Herman Schoorlemmer	Farm economics, social processes and practical implementation of IPM
Lise Nistrup Jørgensen	Disease management in arable crops, National Action Plans, pesticide management
Jens-Erik Jensen	Plant protection, weeds in arable crops, modelling and decision support, advisory systems, stakeholder management
Carolien Zijlstra	Monitoring, decision support, precision ag.
Bill Clark	Arable crops, cereal diseases
Antoine Messéan	Design, evaluation and systems approach
Pierre Ricci	Research policy
Marjan de Boer	Integrated crop protection, Farming with Future approach
Maurizio Sattin	Weed management
Jesus Avila	Integrated Production

3.4. Experts

Depending on whether the questions is on policy, on the implementation of policy or on purely biophysical issues, the experts called upon either have a good broad understanding of how policy relates to scientific and technical issues or are close to specific scientific and technical knowledge. Experts are called upon ad-hoc according to need. Each Editorial Board member should nevertheless have clearly identified ex-ante the pool of experts they may solicit.

3.5. Financial sustainability

The Network of Experts will continue beyond the EC-funded period of ENDURE via the participants to ERG task 3.2 which will function as the Editorial Board and will manage the requests. At the time of drafting this blueprint (April 2010), the 11.7 annual person-months from 9 partners have been committed to the ERG Working Group 3 which includes task 3.2 and task 3.1 “Scientific Support to EU Policy implementation”.

Participants in the Network of Experts will actively seek and generate future requests. Their participation at European-level meetings and events such as the Thematic Strategy Expert Group, and at national and international meetings will generate requests. They will maintain regular contact with potential national and European funders. The role and service of the Network of Experts will also be communicated via the ENDURE public website which will also function as a point of entry for queries or requests.

Financial sustainability will be ensured by the ERG participants' in-kind contributions, by successful responses to calls for tenders, and/or by direct payment for the service rendered. Participants will screen calls for tenders to respond to bids that fall within the Network's scope. In some cases, ERG partners may contribute additional expert time as in-kind contribution on an ad-hoc basis, depending on the nature of the assessment and the potential benefits to the involved partners. Assessments may also be paid for by the requesting institution and the generated income shall cover expert time and all other expenses associated with the request.

4. Proof of concept

Little more than one year has passed since January 2009, when the task "Setting up a network of experts" began running. During that time, a group of 11 ENDURE participants from seven partner organisations have been developing the concept of the network of experts while running it in parallel and providing evidence that the network responds to a genuine need and that it is capable of producing the desired expertise.

To-date, three formal requests have been received:

- In May 2009, The unit Biotechnology, Pesticides and Health of DG Environment requested that the Network of experts provide comments on the "BiPRO report" as part of the process of developing guidance for Member States in the implementation of IPM.
- In February 2010, the Italian National Committee on Integrated Crop Protection formally requested the Network to conduct a comparative analysis between the parts of the draft Italian National Action Plan that specifically address IPM.
- In March 2010, the Ecophyto Operational Committee which oversees the French National Action Plan requested the Network to conduct a comparison of specific aspects (goal-setting and monitoring, stakeholder involvement, role of knowledge chain) of pesticide action plans in five countries and a comparison of wheat disease management options in several European countries.

The request from DG Environment has been satisfactorily answered. The analysis was delivered in August 2009 and significantly contributed to the DG Environment guidance document on IPM. This exercise also contributed to having ENDURE designated as a member of the EC Thematic Strategy group of experts. The report is available at http://www.endure-network.eu/about_crop_protection/endure_position_papers

The Italian request is currently being processed. A report will be produced in September 2010 and a joint ENDURE/National Committee on Integrated Crop Protection meeting is in the planning.

The French Ecophyto request is currently processed. ENDURE will conduct presentations on the two topics June 21 2010 in Paris at the next meeting of the National Ecophyto Group of expert meeting.

In this short period, the number of formal requests received demonstrate the reality of the need we had foreseen and the successful answer to the first request is evidence of our capacity to produce this type of collective expert assessment. Regarding the latter point, bearing in mind that the assessment was carried out exclusively with members of the editorial board, we still need to show our capacity to mobilise experts beyond that group.