



Mr Jochem Bonte, PhD, Researcher in plant health – entomology, Diagnostic Centre for Plants – ILVO Plant Sciences - Belgium

Ms Pauline Musschoot, Plant health expert NPPO BE, Federal Public Service (FPS) Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment





Scope

Beware&Note is a **notification system** for **quarantine organisms** harmful to plants in Belgium, enabling their early detection.

- → developed by the Flanders Research institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), Natuurpunt Studie and PCS Ornamental Plant Research, on behalf of the Belgian Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment.
- → uses the same database as Observation.org, the largest nature platform in the Netherlands powered by nature observations of volunteers from all over the world.

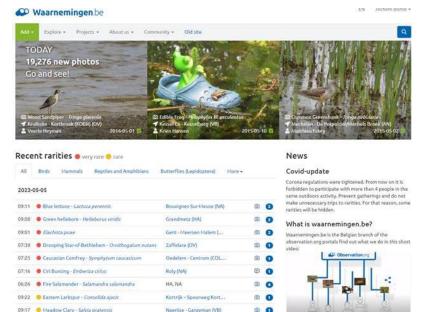
Provides the possibility to **every citizens** to submit **notifications** of these quarantine pests through the https://observations.be / https://waarnemingen.be platform high level of surveillance of the territory.















How it works – sequence of steps

1. Notification via the alert system by a citizen + ID suggestion via automatic identification tool (ObsIdentify app)

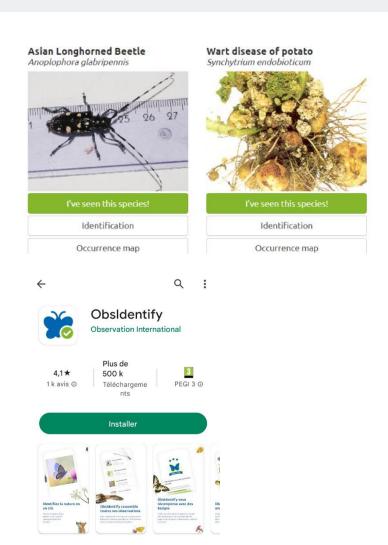
Identification sheets for the most important and easily recognisable species are available on the platform.

2. Verification by experts (ILVO as National Reference Lab)

Network of validators.

Suspect observations can be marked 'pending', making them invisible to the general public; additional sampling by NPPO if necessary (contact details of observer needed).

- 3. If the notification is found to be positive, and after approval by the competent authorities, an alert is sent out.
- (4. Establishment of emergency measures) → NPPO level







Relevance to the IPPC

Beware&Note is an innovative online tool supporting early detection and notification of plant pests.

It contributes to ensuring preparedness and responsiveness to any incursion of plant pests, thus contributing to food security.

It participates to public awareness thanks to its connection with a well-known existing platform.



Poster 10 most wanted | SPF Santé publique (belgium.be)





Main outputs, success and challenges

1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

- ❖ 1445 visits on the quarantine pages
- 6 reports of quarantine organisms sent by citizens



After verification by experts (ILVO), these notifications were all found to be negative \rightarrow no alert had yet to be sent.

- Relying on citizen scientists → data validation needed + focus on easily identifiable pests and disease symptoms → reduced likelihood of false positive notifications combined with automatic ID tool ↔ more training data for Q organisms needed.
- ➤ Annual publicity needed to expand regular users (= nature lovers) with other citizen scientists and professionals (growers, foresters, traders, ...) ↔ notification obligation.
- Updating and expanding of the quarantine organisms list





Euphresco project 2019-D-311

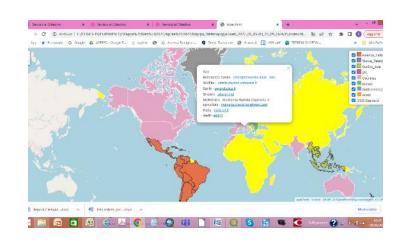
'Systems for awareness, early detection and notification of organisms harmful to plants' (01/06/2020 - 31/05/2023)

13 European partners + 4 observers, incl. IPPC, EFSA & EPPO

Some key objectives:

- Analysis of existing systems for monitoring organisms harmful to plants

 based on a questionnaire
- Provide general guidelines for developing systems for awareness, early detection and notification of organisms harmful to plants -> focus on citizen science
- How should example facts sheets for the main Q-organisms look like? (3 examples were prepared) → distinguish between 2 target groups: non experienced audience vs. experienced audience.









Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

ippc@fao.org | www.ippc.int

