Effective control of invasive alien species has been hampered by the lack of a comparable spatio-temporal data on the distribution and spread of species across different regions. The European Union has recently established a research programme (DAISIE) with the primary goal of developing an inventory of alien species. DAISIE will deliver a European "one-stop-shop" for information on biological invasions in Europe. It will bring together:

* The European Alien Species Expertise Registry: a directory of researchers and research
* European Alien Species Database: including all known naturalized alien species in Europe
* European Invasive Alien Species Information System
* Species Distribution Maps and Spatial Analysis

DAISIE will be a pivotal instrument in developing a Europe-wide strategy that encompasses both the geographical scale of the problem and unites the study of different taxa in marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments. DAISIE will address the need for a regional network of invasive alien species information. With direct access to national knowledge bases throughout Europe, those addressing the invasive alien species challenge could easily obtain data on which species are invasive or potentially invasive in particular habitats, and use this information in their planning efforts.

keyword: alien invasive species, inventories, databases, Europe