



East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species (ESENIAS)

www.esenias.org

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Nomination of a focal point to IPBES, in response to Letter EM/2021/33/22 November 2021

The East and South European Network on Invasive Alien Species (ESENIAS) was established in 2010 to promote studies, collaborative activities on IAS in regional scale and contribute to global works to protect biodiversity and mitigate effects of climate change and any environmental and ecological issues that might be concern to network participants. The aims of ESENIAS are: 1) exchange and sharing of IAS information via an Internet portal; 2) facilitate collaboration between institutions and IAS experts from East and South Europe; 3) conduct joint research activities (publications, projects); 4) develop and harmonise regional IAS policy; and 5) integrate to European and global IAS and biodiversity initiatives. One of the main activities of ESENIAS has been promoting of awareness raising and capacity building initiatives on IAS within all countries in the region, by organisation of yearly workshops (Zagreb 2010, Sofia 2011, Belgrade 2012, Çanakkale 2013, Antalya 2014, Sofia 2015, 2017, Bucharest 2018, Ohrid 2019, Turkey and Sofia 2021). ESENIAS initiates and implements many projects, the largest of which is the ESENIAS-TOOLS project: East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species – A tool to support the management of alien species in Bulgaria (2015–2017) funded by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009–2014, under the Programme BG03 ‘Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services’. Collaboration of ESENIAS with many organisations in the region makes it a main player on invasive alien species, climate change, and biodiversity. More information about ESENIAS is available at: www.esenias.org.

It is my great pleasure to nominate Prof. Dr. Ahmet ULUDAĞ from the Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University (Turkey) for the position of ESENIAS focal point representative to IPBES.

Prof. Ahmet ULUDAĞ is the Scientific Secretary of ESENIAS and one of the founders of our network. He is a weed scientist and specialist on invasive alien plants. During his position as IAS project manager at the European Environment Agency, he participated in the preparation of the EU IAS Regulation. One of his tasks in his career is being a member of EPPO Scientific Panel on Invasive Plants.

Thank you for considering Prof. Ahmet ULUDAĞ’s nomination! If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to starting a fruitful cooperation with the IPBES!

Sincerely Yours,

Teodora Trichkova
ESENIAS Chair