

# **Joint ESENIAS and DIAS Scientific Conference 2022 and 11<sup>th</sup> ESENIAS Workshop**

## **Invasive alien species under conditions of global crisis**

**13 – 15 November 2022**

### **Opening Statement**

By Teodora Trichkova  
ESENIAS & DIAS

Chairman,  
Distinguished Colleagues and Guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome all distinguished participants, both in person and virtual in Demre, Antalya, to our 2022 Joint ESENIAS and DIAS Scientific Conference and 11<sup>th</sup> ESENIAS Workshop entitled **Invasive Alien Species under Conditions of Global Crisis**.

The conference is organised jointly by several organisations, and we appreciate very much their support. For a second year the organisers fully support the conference. So I would like to mention them:

- General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye (GDFA)
- General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye
- Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye (MFRPTI)
- Faculty of Agriculture, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Türkiye
- Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria (IBER-BAS)
- Faculty of Agriculture, University of Forestry, Bulgaria
- Faculty of Science, Hacettepe University, Türkiye
- Association for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (SUEkos), Türkiye
- The European Weed Research Society (EWRS) Invasive Plants Working Group.

Special thanks to all who dedicated valuable time for the organisation of these important events, namely the Chair Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay, and the Co-Chairs Mr. Mahir Kanyılmaz and Prof. Ahmet Uludağ for their leadership and all members of the

Organising and the Scientific Committees. It is necessary to outline the leading role of the representatives of the hosting country, Türkiye.  
Special thanks to my colleague Dr Hristina Kalcheva!

This Conference is of particular importance in view of the post-COVID situation when the mobility and transport activities are increasing amid of a new economic crisis caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. New IAS pathways have become more important, e.g. due to increased online trade, low border control because of lack of personnel at airports, intensified movement of people, etc. Let me focus on three critical areas:

- 1st is the need of a transitional shift from decision making to the implementation of the results of our work. The bottom line is that some of the ESENIAS and DIAS research projects have been performed with delay and it is essential to have an update on the latest developments, including the ongoing difficulties to reach the desired outcomes, innovative approaches and IAS management strategies at regional level.
- 2nd critical area is the sustainability of the funding of IAS related projects, national and local monitoring programmes, pathway analyses and action plans, control and eradication projects. A systemic approach includes ambitious plans to ensure impactful projects and actions to limit the introduction and spread of IAS. We should consider the need to embark on a clear path towards sustainability.
- 3rd critical area is the enhancement of the awareness about the outcomes of our work, from one side, and intensifying the collaboration among scientists in the ESENIAS and DIAS regions as well as the interaction with other networks and stakeholders across the board, on the other side. Having in mind that cooperation is a key factor for the timely implementation and accountability of the projects it plays also crucial role for a deeper understanding of the IAS-related policies at regional level and for better involvement of the civil society in the various initiatives.

Over the coming days we are looking forward to the presentations and discussions in the following areas:

1. Invasive alien species traits and trends
2. Vectors and pathways for invasive alien species introductions
3. The Danube River as invasive alien species corridor
4. Invasive alien species impact
5. Invasive alien species prevention and management and
6. Management and sharing of IAS data.

I wish you a very successful Conference and Workshop!

Thank you for your attention!