

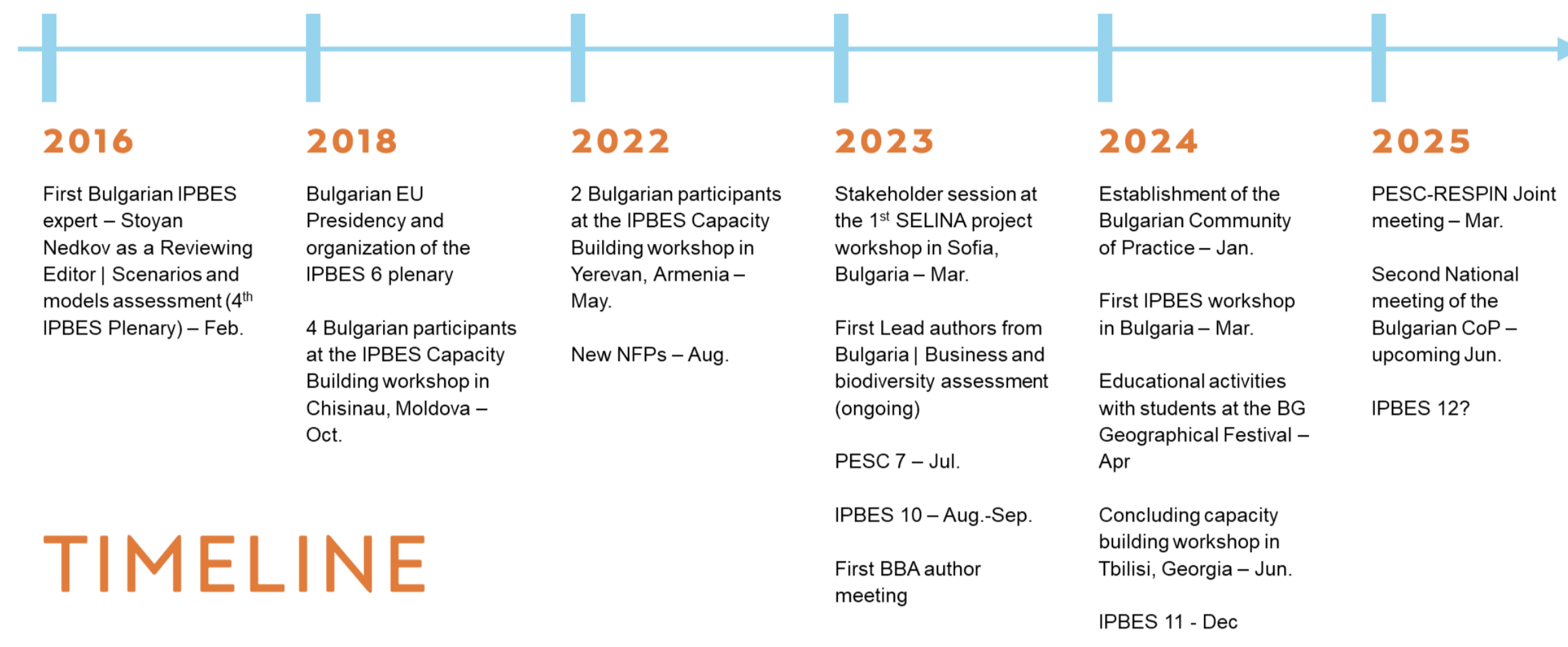
8th PESc-RESPIN Joint meeting, 10th-13th March 2025, Brussels, Belgium

Bulgarian Community of Practice and capacity building under the IPBES topics

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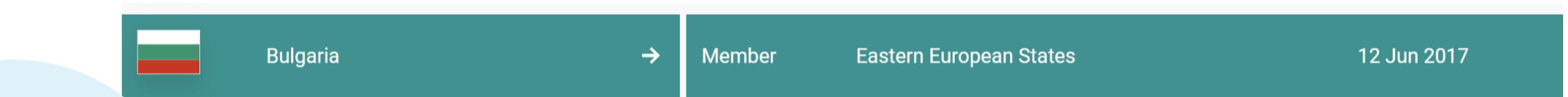
1 Bulgaria supports the idea of establishing the IPBES Platform since 2008, when it was proposed by the French Presidency. Since its establishment in 2012, IPBES has received on its trust fund financial contributions from different Governments, including Bulgaria – with small but regular contributions. Bulgaria's first participation in an IPBES Plenary session was in 2018 in parallel with the first Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



TIMELINE

2 Current actions and progress in Bulgaria are related to building a sustainable Community of Practice.

The Bulgarian CoP was established in January 2024. The core membership is built on already well-connected working groups and initiatives in Bulgaria including ESP, YESS, BGS, IPBES; past and ongoing EU-funded projects – EMERALDA, MAIA, and SELINA. IPBES activities and relations take central place in the BG CoP while the two Bulgarian IPBES NFPs are coordinating it (one from the Ministry – MOEW, and second from the NIGGG-BAS).

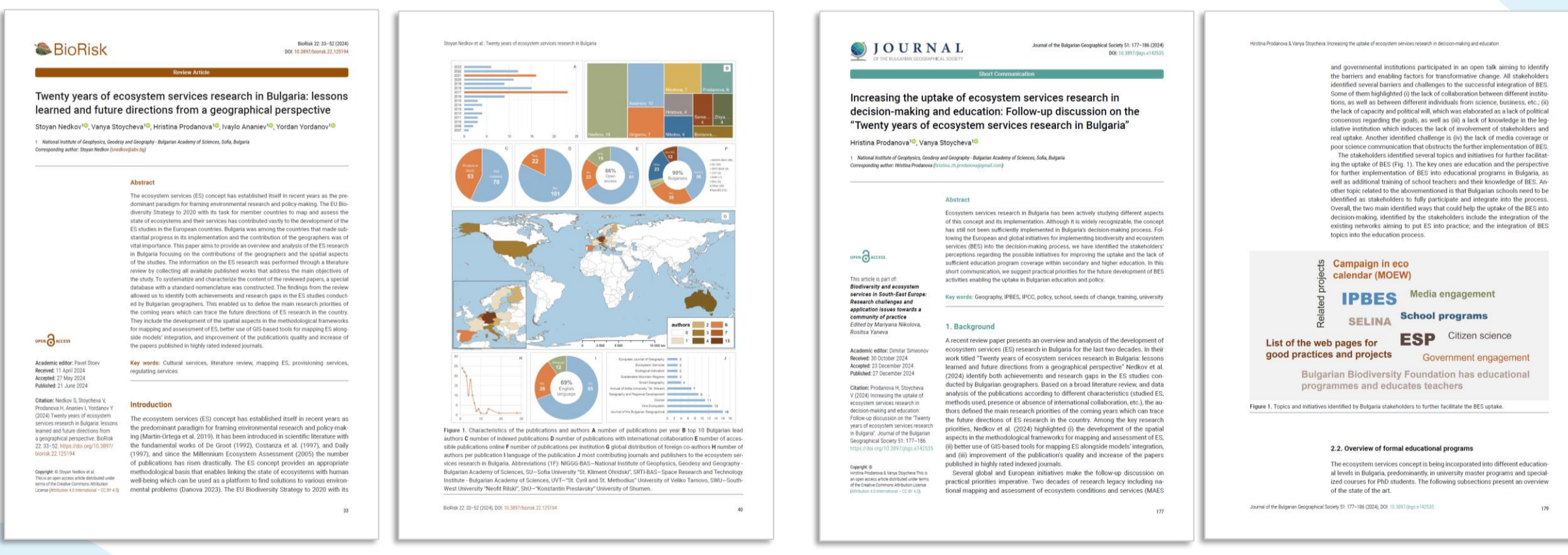


3 Bulgarian CoP activities in 2024. A bilateral IPBES Capacity building workshop for Bulgaria and Romania (March 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria) where 27 participants from both SELINA CoPs shared experience on different IPBES activities—lead authors, editors, MEP-members, secretariat. Educational activities for secondary school students took place in April 2024 at the Bulgarian Geographical Festival in Burgas, where an experimental mapping and assessment of coastal and wetland ecosystems involved 20 students and their teachers. The third major activity is publishing a review paper of the 20 years experience on the ES research in Bulgaria (Nedkov et al. 2024).



4 Suggested priorities for development of BES activities enabling the uptake in Bulgarian education and policy.

Stakeholder consultation among the Bulgarian CoP and a literature review enabled an analysis of the visibility of the ES concept in the Bulgarian educational system and policy-making (Prodanova and Stoycheva 2024).



- Further reading:**
- Nedkov S, Stoycheva V, Prodanova H, Ananiev I, Yordanov Y (2024) Twenty years of ecosystem services research in Bulgaria: lessons learned and future directions from a geographical perspective. *BioRisk* 22: 33-52. <https://doi.org/10.3897/biorisk.22.125194>
 - Prodanova H, Stoycheva V (2024) Increasing the uptake of ecosystem services research in decision-making and education: Follow-up discussion on the “Twenty years of ecosystem services research in Bulgaria”. *Journal of the Bulgarian Geographical Society* 51: 177-186. <https://doi.org/10.3897/jbgs.e142535>

5 Expectations for the PESc-RESPIN Joint meeting, 2025. The forum will help us understand IPBES and IPCC linkages, to strengthen Bulgaria's participation in the process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Such forums are important for the fulfillment of the commitments made by the MOEW, the scientific community, NGOs, and experts from various sectors. IPBES and IPCC products support the preparation of national action plans and assessments to mitigate the nature loss globally.

Acknowledgements:

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