

## ESUG – Guidance for elections at Tallinn Meeting, 5 June 2025

As you were notified on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the European Sustainable Use Group (ESUG) will be holding its next General Meeting on 5 June 2025 at the Tallinn Technical University in Estonia – and online.

ESUG chair, Dr Julie Ewald, has now circulated the **Provisional Agenda** to you. As you are aware, one of the agenda items will be the **election of the Chair and the Committee**. For this purpose, we would like to provide you with some information on the election procedure.

### **Election of Chair and Committee**

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The General Meeting of ESUG – its supreme body - lays down policy guidelines and takes decisions *inter alia* on:

- the admission and removal of members,
- approval of the accounts,

and it also conducts the statutory elections for the Chair and Committee. According to Art. 13 of the ESUG Statutes, “*the Committee is the body which manages the association. It prepares and implements the decisions of the General Meeting of Members. It implements the general policy guidelines and ensures liaison with the association's Members and the Working Groups. It takes all the association's management and administrative decisions as the need arises.*”

The Statutes provide for a Chair and a Committee of five elected members. Two further members may be co-opted. The Treasurer is appointed by the Committee from among their members.

At the last General Meeting in Brussels on 31 May 2023 (see Minutes draft at <https://esug.sycl.net/4/reports-and-meeting-documents>), the following members were elected:

Chair : Julie Ewald (UK)

Committee : David Scallan (Belgium)

Viktor Šegrt (Croatia)

Robert Kenward (UK) who agreed to serve as Treasurer

Tetiana Gardashuk (Ukraine)

Sándor Csányi (Hungary).

Following the meeting in May 2023, Frank Voorhies was co-opted to the Committee and there have been no resignations. Since May 2023, there have been two formal Committee Meetings and extensive communication by email.

Present Committee members have been asked to indicate their provisional willingness or otherwise to serve for a further term. So far, we know that Julie Ewald is willing to continue as Chair, while all other members of the Committee have agreed to serve again until a meeting in late 2026.

It may be useful to indicate that the office of Chair is demanding of both time and energy, taking at least a day per week if actively assisted by delegated roles. Julie will continue to have help from Robert Kenward. The Committee meets at most twice a year, mainly by MS Teams or Zoom. Including meetings, and emails to deal with membership and any funding applications, the requirement have been somewhat less than an hour a month from Committee Members.

## Nominations

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**All places are open for election or re-election, with 5 positions on Committee. Members are welcome to consider nominating themselves or other Members for election.** It is not necessary to be planning to attend the meeting in Brussels to stand for election or to nominate someone. It is necessary to be at the meeting to vote.

To provide for a transparent election process, please feel free to send any further nominations for

- a. Chair
- b. one or more Committee Members

in writing to the following email address: bastid.perline@gmail.com, subject “Proposal for ESUSG Elections”. If you nominate someone else, please ensure that there is clear evidence of their willingness to stand. All candidates for election have provided 100-150 words about their suitability to serve and their hopes for ESUG during the coming period, as appended. Any further candidates should please do likewise.

## Voting Procedure

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Article 12 of the ESUG Statutes lays down the voting procedure at the GM that needs to be observed. “*Decisions of the GM are reached by simple majority voting, the quorum being one tenth of the Full Members.*” It is, however, important to understand that Members have to be present at the GM in order to exercise their right to vote. “*Each Full Member has one vote. Proxy voting is not permitted.*” In case the quorum cannot be met, current Members will serve 18 months.

All valid nominations that have reached the Nominations/Returning Officer in writing up to the time of the meeting will be presented to the GM for a vote.

## Deadlines

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Please kindly send in by email your nominations for election of ESUG Chair and Committee, with biographies of 100-150 words, by May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Do not hesitate to contact me in case of any question or proposal you may have in connection to the upcoming election. I am looking forward to seeing you in Tallinn if you can attend.

With best wishes,

Perline Bastid  
Nominations/Returning Officer

## **Brief biographies and hopes for ESUG from candidates for election of Chair and Committee members for the 2025-2026 period**

**Note:** It is not a requirement of the ESUG statutes that these brief statements should be provided but the Nominations/Returning Officer thought it would be helpful. Candidates were asked to provide 100-150 words.

### **Candidate for Chair**

**Dr Julie Ewald:** Julie grew up on a mixed farm in Nebraska and received her BS and MS (Parasitology) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She moved to Glasgow University in Scotland as a Fulbright Scholar and completed her doctorate in Parasitology there. After working on malaria/mosquitoes in Thailand, Julie joined the Game Conservancy Trust (now Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust - GWCT) in 1995. Currently Principal Scientist – Farmland Ecology and GIS at the Trust, she supervises staff and students undertaking research utilizing the GWCT's long-term and GIS-enabled databases, including the Grey Partridge Count Scheme and The Sussex Study and manages the GWCT sandwich placement scheme from universities. Her current and past projects include Grey Partridge population dynamics in relation to changes in agriculture and predators, the role of agricultural intensification and other factors on the declines of farmland birds and invertebrates, extent, and consequences of management for shooting on British wildlife, and land management and consequences of climate change for farmland invertebrates. Julie and her team support the GWCT's Interreg-funded PARTRIDGE project, as well as GWCT-facilitated Farmer Clusters (<https://www.farmerclusters.com/>). Julie joined ESUG while collaborating on TESS (Transactional Environmental Support System), worked on Perdixnet (<https://www.perdixnet.org>) after joining Committee in 2015 and looks forward to continuing as Chair if elected.

### **Candidates for Committee:**

**Dr David Scallan** is the Secretary General for the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE). His daily work involves overseeing the implementation of FACE's work programme. He has a strong background in project management, EU affairs, conservation policy, game management, sustainable agriculture and human-wildlife conflict. He received his Ph.D. from the National University of Ireland Galway with a dissertation examining the economic, ecological and social place of hunting in rural Ireland. David is also experienced in developing conservation/management plans for huntable species. Within ESUG, he was involved in the TESS (Transactional Environmental Support System) project as the country coordinator for Ireland. He represents FACE within IUCN and is a member of SULi. David is keen to improve the visibility of ESUG's work at the national and international level to a broad range of stakeholders and decision-makers.

**Prof Sándor Csányi** graduated at the University of Agricultural Sciences at Gödöllő as an agricultural engineer in 1983. Sándor is the director of the Institute for Wildlife Conservation at Szent István University (1991-) and Professor of Wildlife Conservation (2002-). Since his graduation, he works in different areas of wildlife ecology, mainly on ungulates, and their management. His particular field is the modelling of population dynamics, harvesting and sustainable use of wildlife populations, and the application/development of wildlife databases. During the last decades, Sándor has led the development of the National Wildlife Management Database (since 1993) the delineation of wildlife management regions of Hungary, and a 3-level game management system. He is a member of the ESUSG since the early 1990s and member of several national and international organisations. Sándor seeks the possibilities for the increased role of evidence-based conservation, development of citizen science in the field of wildlife conservation, and the advancement of business initiatives on all relevant levels of sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

**Dr Tetiana Gardashuk** has a background in biology, with degrees from Kyiv University, an MSc from the University of Amsterdam, and scholarships at Iowa State University and ITAS/KIT (Karlsruhe). She is a member of the National Committee on Bioethics, Ukraine (from 2014). She has 200 scientific publications (5 monographs) in sustainable development and sustainable use, traditional and local knowledge, environmental education, citizen science, and biodiversity conservation. Tetiana participated in several national and international projects and has expertise in nature conservation, environmental education, and public participation. Tetiana joined ESUSG in 1997, WCPA in 2012, and CEM-SUME in 2015, as continental coordinator for Europe. Projects have included “Freshwater Fisheries in Central and Eastern Europe” and TESS for ESUSG. Since February 2022 she has focused on researching the war-environment interaction and the methodology of environmental peacebuilding.

**Dr Viktor Šegrt** grew up in the flat heartland of Croatia, in the city of Karlovac on four rivers, surrounded by pheasants, partridges and hunting dogs since birth. His greatest childhood desire was to hunt with trained birds of prey, and he completed a falconry course aged sixteen. His initial influence of British school of falconry was later mixed with US falconry, from which he took most of the legislation for incorporation in Croatian law. Also influenced by UK falconry friends, he gained knowledge about game bird releasing techniques which he introduced to the Balkan countries and used to start PhD research during 2007-16, on reintroduction models for grey partridges in Croatia, combining radio-telemetry with new releasing techniques in agriculturally untouched natural Croatian habitats. He has worked in the Faculty of Forestry in Zagreb, for the Karlovac Council in the EU department, and for eight years as director of the Regional Development Agency, with The Fresh Water Aquarium “Aquatika” co-funded by EU (98,7%) as his major project. In 2019 he got a call from the Ministry of Culture and Media to prepare Croatian falconry for UNESCO nomination and finally to place Croatian falconry on UNESCO list as intangible World cultural heritage on December 14th 2021. He has been an ESUG member since 2008 and considers that ESUG/SUME sustainable use approaches must be transferred as fast possible for the countries who are still doing transition from autocracy to modern democratic society.

**Professor Robert Kenward** grew up on a farm in southern England, took degrees at Oxford university and worked forty years in wildlife research. He taught and ran projects in four continents, mainly on raptors, game birds and squirrels. After founding a company for producing radio-tracking equipment and another for software, he left the government’s Centre for Ecology and Hydrology as director of technology transfer and then supervised contracts for European Commission and United Nations. He served for 12 and 31 years on councils of international NGOs followed by 20 on ESU(S)G committee. After being a vice-chair in IUCN-SSC for Sustainable Use and Livelihoods, he led CEM’s thematic group on Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems for 7 years. His scientific publications include books on radio-tagging, the northern goshawk and the common buzzard. A passion for helping people to improve rural areas has resulted in development of web-networking for nature conservation.