



International workshop
Enhancing Economic viability of Grasslands by Green Farming in Europe
May 27-31, 2015



In Plosti, Kurzeme Region in Latvia, near Kandava town

Organized by the LIFE Viva Grass project and the Rural European Platform

27th May 2015



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| 12:00 | Departure from Riga Centre, Kalpaka boulevard towards "Plosti" |
| 14:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00 | Excursion to Abava River Valley and grassland management area, discussion and feedback to the local managers |
| 19:00 | Dinner and informal getting together |

28th May 2015

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| 9:00 | Start of the event  |
| | Introduction to the event (Heidrun Fammler, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia) |
| | Tour de Table – introduction of participants |
| 9:30 | Ecosystem based integrated planning and the Viva Grass project ambitions in the Baltics (Kestutis Navickas, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania) <i>The Life Viva Grass project has the ambition to address nature conservation targets to socio-economic needs of rural people to be able to develop economically sustainable green farming</i> <i>Questions/Feedback</i> |
| 10:00 | Analysis of experience with grassland management in Baltic States (Anda Ruskule, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia) <i>LIFE VivaGrass project has performed an analysis of HNV grassland management in Baltic States and will present an overview followed by one or two cases which seem to be characteristic for our region.</i> <i>Questions/Feedback</i> |
| 10:30 | 20 years of grassland management on Saaremaa island, Vilsandi and Viidumae National Parks, Estonia (Argo Peepson, Estonia, University of Life science) <i>After 20 years' experience of grassland management by various projects still the question remains on how to ensure long-term and sustainable grasslands management measures. Limitations from nature conservation regulation versus infrastructure development - is a compromise possible?</i> <i>Questions/Feedback</i> |
| 11:00 |  |
| 11:30 | Policy and market context (Paul Silcock, economist and director at Cumulus Consultants Ltd, UK) <i>Brief introduction to set the scene in terms of CAP and relevant market pressures and trends</i> |

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| 12:00 | <p>How can industrial farming, green farming, forestry & nature conservation reinforce each other? (Hilary Kirkpatrick (grazing and policy expert, CNCC), Paul Silcock, Kestutis Navickas, Herbert Diemont) <i>The opportunities of more land resources becoming available to deliver simultaneously food, wood products, environmental services and favourable conservation status in the European Union</i></p> |
| 12:30 | <p>Flat rate payments and greening of the CAP (Oisín Murnion, Extensive Grazer in N.Ireland /chair Red Meat Association SDA) <i>A contribution from the farming community in N. Ireland</i></p> |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | <p>Moderated working groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy and market context 2. Farm business/financial importance of green payments 3. Different, mutually beneficial approaches |
| 14:30 | Rapporteurs - Plenary |
| 15:30 |  |
| 16:00 | <p>Local food and drink production (Paul Silcock, economist and director at Cumulus Consultants Ltd, UK) <i>Options arising from local markets to contribute to a green future</i></p> |
| 16:30 | <p>Tourism and income from green payments generated by private outdoor recreation firms (Hans Heinhuis, Leisurelands Ltd., NL) <i>What are the options to contribute to rural development, while generating income for the amenity and tourist sector</i></p> |
| 17:00 | <p>Moderated working groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local food and drink 2. Tourism |
| 18:00 | Rapporteurs - Plenary |
| 18:30 | End of the day, dinner |
| 20:00 | <p>Evening session on 28 May for drafting a position paper on options for green farming!</p>  |


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29th May 2015

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| 9:00 | Start of the Day ☺ |
| 9:15 | Water management of grasslands in Europe and the economic interface (Henk Ritzema, grassland hydrology expert, Wageningen University, NL and Jacob Stibinger, grassland specialist /agronomist Prague University, CZ) <i>Water management is in many cases crucial to maintain grassland productivity also in low input farming systems. What are the economic perspectives?</i> |
| 9:45 | Environmental services, bio-based technology and farm income (Raymond Schrijver, economist and expert on extensive grazing, ALTEERRA, NL) <i>Perspectives of bio-based grassland systems are becoming a reality</i> |
| 10:15 | Local economic solutions developed for green farming in nature areas and national parks. Paulo Castro (former director Penez Geres National Park, Pt); Paul Silcock (UK); Raymond Schrijver (NL); Oisin Murnion (NI). |
| 10:45 |  |
| 11:10 | Moderated working groups 1. Water management 2. Environmental services (covering full range) 3. Local economic solutions |
| 12:00 | Rapporteurs - Plenary |
| 12:30 | Wrap-up and Conclusions |
| 13:30 | Lunch and end of seminar |
| 15:00 | Excursion to Abava vinery (optional) |

30th May 2015

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| 9:00 | Excursion to Lake Engure, Coastal Areas, Kemeru National park (optional) |
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31st May, 2015

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| 9:00 | Departure to Riga/ RIX airport |
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