



Project: **“Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands”**  
 LIFE Viva Grass, No. LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189

**International seminar on**  
**“Integrating ecosystem service concept into spatial planning - for sustainable land-  
 use in grasslands and beyond”**

16-18 May 2018, Sigulda, Latvia

**Ecosystem services** are acknowledged as an important concept for decision making because of its holistic view on interactions between nature and humans. Ecosystem service concept can provide a comprehensive framework for trade-off analysis addressing compromises between competing land uses and help to facilitate planning and development decisions across sectors, scales and administrative boundaries. Furthermore, the ecosystem services mapping and assessment results provides greater opportunities to integrate environmental considerations and stakeholder interests into different stages of spatial planning, including stocktaking, development of planning solutions as well as assessing their impacts, e.g. through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

**LIFE Viva Grass project** aims to support maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by grasslands, through encouraging ecosystem-based planning and economically viable grassland management. The major task of the project is development of an integrated planning tool, which should operationalize the concept of ecosystem services into decision making and support land managers and planners in finding optimal management/planning solutions for enhancing grassland related ecosystem service supply.

**Aim of the seminar** is to discuss the challenges and opportunities for integration of the ecosystem services into spatial planning, by demonstrating the LIFE Viva Grass approach in development of grassland related planning solutions as well as experience from other European countries in applying ecosystem service framework in different spatial planning contexts.

**Outline of the Programme**

<b>Wednesday, 16 May, 2018</b>	
<b>12<sup>00</sup> – 13<sup>00</sup></b>	<b>Arrival, registration of participants, light lunch</b>
<b>13<sup>00</sup> – 13<sup>30</sup></b>	<b>Welcome &amp; introduction</b> on role of ecosystem service (ES) in land-use planning and decision making
<b>13<sup>30</sup> – 15<sup>00</sup></b>	<b>Session I:</b> Contribution of the ES mapping and assessment results to the stocktaking stage in spatial planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of ecosystem service supply and demand</li> <li>• Identification of ‘hot-spot’ and ‘cold- spot’ areas</li> <li>• Identification of the ES bundles and trade-off areas</li> </ul>
<b>15<sup>00</sup> – 15<sup>30</sup></b>	<b>Coffee</b>

15 <sup>30</sup> – 18 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Session II: Contribution of the ES concept in development of planning solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use prioritisation for enhancing ES supply, e.g. green infrastructure development, recreational opportunities etc.</li> <li>• Development of future land-use scenarios, trade-off analysis of different land-use alternatives</li> <li>• Impact assessment of planning solutions, e.g. Strategic Environmental Assessment and monitoring of implementation of the plans</li> </ul>
18 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Closing of the day</b>
From 19 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Joint dinner in the hotel's restaurant</b>
<b>Thursday, 17 May, 2018</b>	
8 <sup>30</sup> – 8 <sup>40</sup>	Review and Preview of the day
8 <sup>40</sup> – 11 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Session III: Potentials and limitations of the existing spatial planning system for integration of the ES concept</b>
11 <sup>00</sup> – 11 <sup>30</sup>	<b>Coffee</b>
11 <sup>30</sup> – 12 <sup>30</sup>	<b>Session IV: Stakeholder engagement for building knowledge on ES supply and prioritisation of the land-use alternatives</b>
12 <sup>30</sup> – 13 <sup>30</sup>	<b>Lunch</b>
13 <sup>30</sup> – 14 <sup>45</sup>	<b>Session V: Integrated approach to ES assessment and up-taking of the ES concept into policy and decision-making process</b>
14 <sup>45</sup> – 15 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Closing of the seminar</b>
15 <sup>30</sup> – 19 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Study visit (by joint bus) to the LIFE Viva Grass project areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape planning and grassland restoration in Cēsis municipality;</li> <li>• Grasslands restoration &amp; sustainable management in farm “Šovites” in Vecpiebalga municipality</li> </ul>
19 <sup>00</sup> – 20 <sup>00</sup>	<b>Dinner in farm “Šovites” and departure back to Sigulda</b>
<b>Friday 18 May, 2018</b>	
9 <sup>00</sup> – 13 <sup>00</sup>	Walking tour to grassland restoration sites in the Gauja river valley near Sigulda
13 <sup>00</sup> – 14 <sup>00</sup>	Light lunch and shuttle bus to the RIX airport

*The project “Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands” (LIFE Viva Grass) No LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189 is co-financed by the EU LIFE+ Programme, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund, Estonian Environmental Investment Centre and the project partners*

