



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

FINAL CONFERENCE

“Ecosystem service concept for support of grassland biodiversity, land use planning and rural development”

27-28 February 2019
 “Best Western Vilnius Hotel” (Konstitucijos av. 14, Vilnius)
 Vilnius, Lithuania

Draft Programme

Wednesday, 27 February, 2019	
13:00	Arrival, registration of participants
14.00	Individual short courses on “Viva Grass Integrated Planning Tool” for those not familiar with it: main features and ways to use it. Ivo Vinogradovs, Latvian University; Justas Gulbinas, BEF Lithuania; Miguel Villoslada, Estonian University of Life Sciences
15:30	Study trip and joint dinner “Tasting the treasures of meadows” in Dargužiai (Varėna district). Registration required. Organized by BEF Lithuania
20:30	Coming back to the hotel
Thursday, 28 February, 2019	
8:30	Arrival, registration of participants
9:00	Opening and Introduction to the Final Conference of project “LIFE Viva Grass” Presentation: “LIFE Viva Grass” result reflection vis-à-vis project idea – what we wanted to do, what did we achieve? Zymantas Morkvenas, Project manager, BEF Lithuania
Session I: Ecosystem service assessment: process and methodologies	
9.30	Assessment of ecosystem services on national scale: 3 Baltic states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short pitch speeches from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia: what is the state of national MAES processes & methodologies used. Representatives from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia • Methodology used to assess agro-ecosystems in “LIFE Viva Grass”. Miguel Villoslada, Estonian University of Life Sciences • Round table discussion: lessons that can be learnt from each other & future plans of national assessments. Moderated by Anda Ruskule, BEF Latvia
10 ³⁰ – 11 ⁰⁰	Coffee break

Session II: the “Viva Grass Integrated Planning Tool”	
11 ⁰⁰ – 12 ³⁰	<p>Presentations on the Tool’s functioning and operationalizing eco-system services in different land-use decision making contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Idea behind the Tool and how it integrates the ES approach. Arvydas Dotas, BEF Lithuania <p>Three different land-use decision making contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green network. Miguel Pecina-Villoslada, Estonian University of Life Sciences • Agricultural land use planning. Ivo Vinogradovs, Latvian University • Protected area management. Justas Gulbinas, BEF Lithuania • Stakeholder involvement in all project areas. Kristina Veidemane, BEF Latvia) <p>Discussion: potential applications of the tool. Moderated by Žymantas Morkvėnas, BEF Lithuania</p>
12 ³⁰ – 13 ³⁰	Lunch break
Session III: Future policy development	
13 ³⁰ – 14 ¹⁵	<p>Future outlook in policy uptake of ecosystem service in land-use planning, biodiversity & nature conservation policies and/or green infrastructure</p> <p>TBC (European Commission / NGO from European scale / Scientists on European scale)</p> <p>Recommendations from the “LIFE Viva Grass” project: applying the ES approach in rural development plans and spatial planning practices</p> <p>Anda Ruskule, BEF Latvia</p>
14 ¹⁵ – 16 ⁰⁰	<p>Round table discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future perspectives of the Ecosystem Services concept? • Recommendation to implementation and long-term impact: Opportunities for social well-being by safeguarding grassland biodiversity
16:00	Closing of the conference and light buffet dinner

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

