

Workshop

Extensively managed grasslands as natural carbon sinks – Practical implementation and requirements for CAP measures

11 – 13 June 2024 Slavonski Brod, Croatia,
hotel Art, Nikole Zrinskog 44, conference room, 3rd floor

Day 1 (Tue, 11 June 2024) – Conference Day

8:30 Welcome & registration,

- 9:00 Opening & welcome *Iris Beneš, president, Brod Ecological Society-BED*
 - Short introduction round
 - Project presentation “Landcare Europe Captures Carbon - Supporting Natural Climate Protection in Agricultural Landscapes” & Landcare Europe e.V., *Corinna Friedrich, DVL*
 - Video message, *Maria Noichl MEP*, president of Landcare Europe e.V.
 - *Grasslands as carbon sinks and its benefits for biodiversity & the water cycle, Darko Znaor, Executive Director, AVALON Foundation, The Netherlands*
 - Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) funding opportunities for grasslands, *Sonja Karoglan Todorović, president. Environmental Institute ECOLOGICA*

10:30 - 11.00 Coffee break (30 min)

- 11:00: National context Croatia - online - Extensively managed grasslands and nature protection in Croatia, *Tamara Čimbora Zovko, Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment Protection and Green Transition, contribution by Bernarda Rožman, Climate Directorate, MEPGT, Željko Crnojević, Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate for Support in Agriculture and Rural Development*
- Preserving traditional common management on Natura 2000 grassland of the wetlands «Gajna» [GAINA], farmers perspective, *Iris Benes, BED*
- Stories from different types of grasslands – dry grassland restoration, LIFE project “Dinara back to LIFE”, *Tomislav Hudina & Luka Škunca, BIOM*

12:30 Lunch break (90 min)

- 14:00: *Presentation of challenges and best-practice examples across Europe*
- Management & values of common grasslands, *Concha Salguero, president Landcare Europe, Spain*
- Development of results-based payments scheme for grasslands, *Traci Birge, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute*

Short presentation of another EUKI project: *Building the European Peatlands Initiative: a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe*", Marina Škunca, Eurosite-European Land Conservation Network

15:00 Coffee break (30 min)

- 15:30 - 17:15 *Roundtable discussion*
 - Introduction – Focus Paper on extensively managed grasslands
 - Roundtable discussion on success factors and necessary regulatory changes of the Common Agricultural Policy to foster grasslands as natural carbon sinks
 - *Are the recommendations suitable for your country?*
 - *Should the EU make these recommendations mandatory for the Member States? What could be minimum requirements?*
 - *Do you have regulations/eco-schemes/agri-environmental schemes that can be used as a best-practice? Measures efficient for climate protection that are easy to administer?*
 - *How can we advocate more climate/nature conservation in the CAP given the political context?*

17:15 End of conference

18.00 Bus in front of a hotel Art- drive (30 min) to site «Gajna», Walk & Dinner – all participants - return to hotel around 21.00

Day 2 (12 June 24):

8.30 Bus in front of a hotel takes us to excursion to Lonjsko Polje Nature park + farm visit (full day) – all participants.

Ones with tight flight schedules leaving to Zagreb, rest of the group driving back to SB, planned return no later than 18.00 Dinner in the city of SB.

Day 3 (13 June 24): Internal meeting (half day) – only EUKI project team members. No organized travel back to Zagreb.