

Landcare Europe Workshop

Innovative approaches for species & habitat restoration with farmers in & outside Natura 2000 areas



Dates: 18-20 April 2023

Location: Lithuania – Klaipėda and the Delta of Nemunas river

Venue: [Old Mill Hotel](#), Žvejų street 22, LT-91241 Klaipėda ([map](#))

With a field trip around Nemunas delta river (full-day / 10 hours - trip)

This workshop is part of a series of events organised by "Landcare Europe", the network that aims to foster knowledge exchange between European Landcare associations and others on key factors for successful cooperative nature conservation. The events provide the opportunity to share experiences between participants, local farmers, decision makers, experts and project managers Landcare associations work with.

Day 1 of these workshops is dedicated to presentations and discussions from different representatives on topics related to the workshop. On the second day participants will go on a field trip visiting projects and sites that showcase good practices and allow them to exchange directly with locals involved in their implementation.

Topics to be addressed in this workshop:

- Expanding & improving the Natura 2000 network in collaboration with farmers & other land users
- Result-based payment schemes (RBPS) vs. (GPBPS)
- Restoring wetlands & farmland bird habitat for biodiversity & farming
- Product development and marketing of agricultural „waste“

About the workshop location

Klaipėda – also known as Memel, located on the Baltic Sea coast – is the third biggest city in Lithuania. It was established in the XIIIth century by the Livonian order. The order built a castle in place of a local settlement, which belonged to one of the Baltic tribes – *Curonians*. The city was ruled under different Prussian and German influences for almost 700 hundred years. Although the Germans make up a very small part of the city's population nowadays, you can still find their influence *speaking to you* through the old buildings and their architecture.



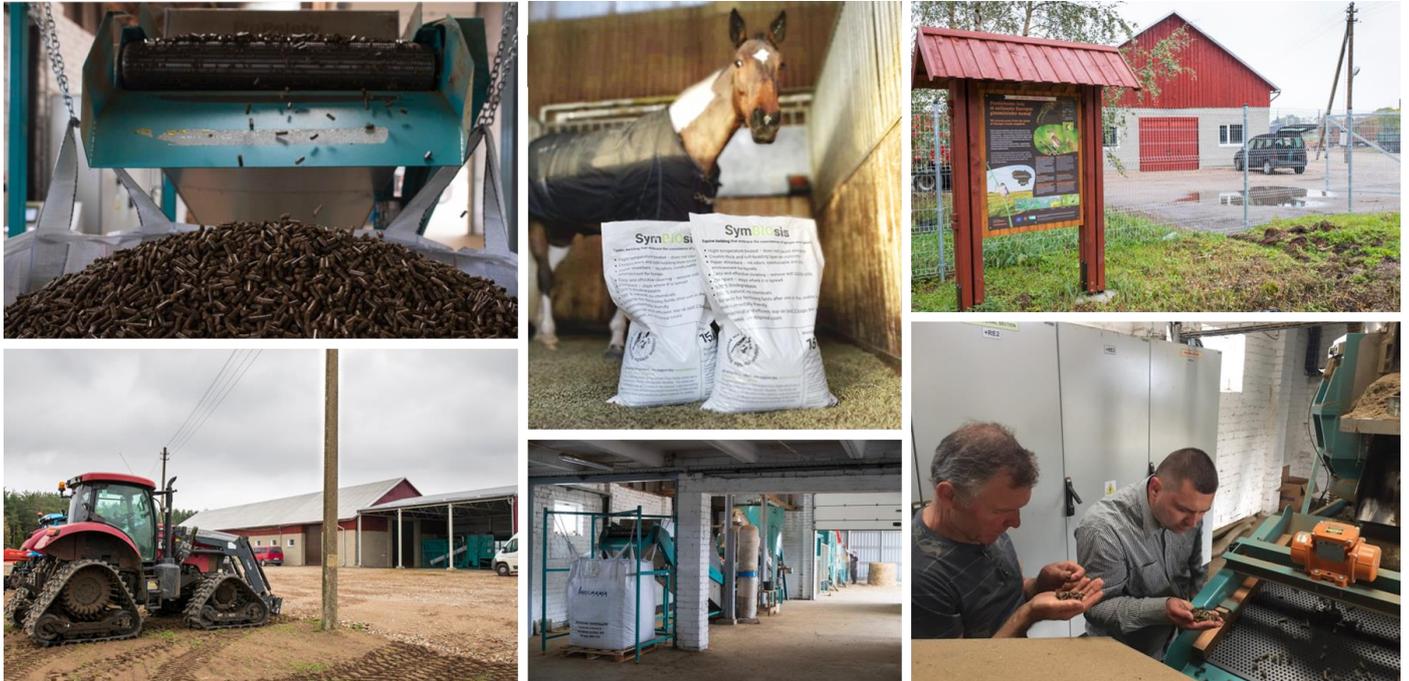
Klaipėda. © Mantas Volungevičius (flickr)

The formal part of the workshop on day 1 will take place in the [Old Mill Hotel](#), which is situated next to the remains of the castle and the old town – just on the bank of the river Danė.

About the field visit sites

On the second day of the workshop, participants are welcome to join a bus trip and visit several objects in the *Nemunas* river delta and near it.

The first stop will be at a grass pelleting facility in a town called *Dreverna*, where late mowed grass from the habitats of the aquatic warbler is turned into pellets, which are used as bedding for horses.



Pelleting facility in Ventė © Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania

Participants will also visit *Aukštumala* – the first bog in the world that was described in a scientific monograph. Part of the bog is still being excavated for peat. The rest is a strict nature reserve. We will walk along the wooden path inside the bog to see and learn about the protected species living in it and what restoration measures were taken to improve the quality of the habitat.

We will stop for lunch at a restaurant situated in the area of the *Kintai* fishponds.



Farmers restoring habitats © Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania

The trip will take further through the *Nemunas* delta, which is both a regional park and a Natura 2000 site. This part of Lithuania is known for its polder system, large plots of meadows and seasonal floods. Therefore, it is an ideal habitat for breeding and migrating birds. Potentially, we should see both: the floods and high numbers of migrating birds.

The final stop of the field trip will be the *Cape Ventė* ornithological and bird ringing station on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. The station has the largest [live traps](#) for migratory birds in Europe, as well as the original "zigzag" traps installed here, which catch live birds in all weather conditions throughout the year. The *live traps* are used to catch birds alive for ringing and monitoring purposes. After that they are set free. During the migrating season, up to 200,000 birds pass *Cape Ventė* daily. It is one of the largest bird migration routes in Europe.



Bird watching © Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania



Map of west part of Lithuania with the workshop venue in Klaipėda (red) and the excursion stops (black).

Programme Field Trip – 19 April 2023

Excursion [Map](#)

Time	Map	Stops & Activity / Topics
8:30	1	Departure from the Old Mill Hotel (travel 60 min.)
9:30	2	Vente ornithological station . Excursion at the bird ringing station and spring migration birdwatching.
10:30		Travel to Šyša polder (45 min.)
11:15	3	Šyša polder. Aquatic warbler breeding habitat Topics (LIFE MagniDucatusAcrola): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental measure targeted on aquatic warbler conservation • Late-cut biomass use • Sluice for water regulation • Nature tourism • Scything championship
12:15		Travel to Šilutė for Lunch (15 min.)
12:30	4	Lunch in Šilutė (60 min)
13:30		Travel to Aukštumala (15 min.)
13:45	5	Aukštumala bog walking Topics (Life Aukstumala project): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise-bog habitat restoration • Nature tourism • Paludiculture
14:45		Travel to Dreverna (30 min)
15:15	6	Late cut biomass processing facility Topics (LIFE MagniDucatusAcrola): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing of biomass into grass pellets • Technology • Products and market
16:15		Departure back to the hotel (45 min)
17:00	1	Arrival at hotel
18:30		Going for dinner in the city