



# LANDCARE EUROPE

## Founding Conference

“Cooperative nature conservation to benefit people”

**Moderation:** Dr. Sylvie Rockel  
Landcare Europe Network Coordinator



# Agenda

- **Opening address**
  - Jérémie Crespin, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit
- **“Key success factors for cooperative nature conservation to benefit people”**
  - Corinna Friedrich, Landcare Germany / Landcare Europe
- **“Supporting farmers and nature with livestock protection”**
  - Bernd Blümlein, Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege (DVL) e.V., Germany
- **“Regional production, marketing and value chains”**
  - Claire Wolff, Naturschutzsyndikat SICONA, Luxembourg
- **“Large-scale habitat restoration and innovative agricultural products as new income sources”**
  - Justas Gubinas, Baltic Environmental Forum, Lithuania



# Opening address

## Jérémie Crespin

European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit



# Key success factors for nature conservation to benefit people

Corinna Friedrich

Landcare Germany (DVL) / Landcare Europe



# Pilot project „Landcare Europe“

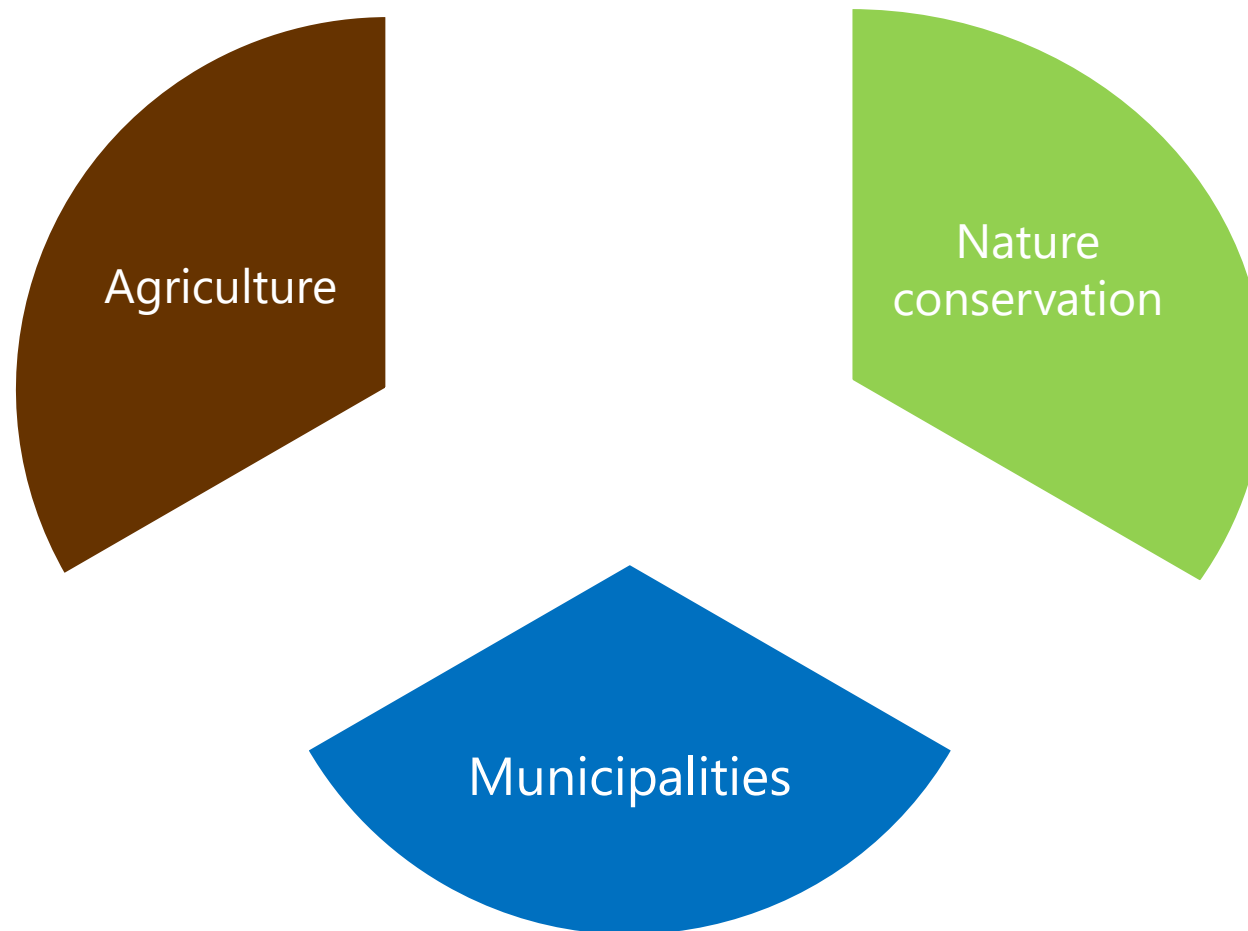
**Title:** “Improving guidance and knowledge sharing between land managers, conservationists and local communities to preserve our cultural heritage landscapes in and outside Natura 2000”

**Duration:** 2021-2023

**Partners:**

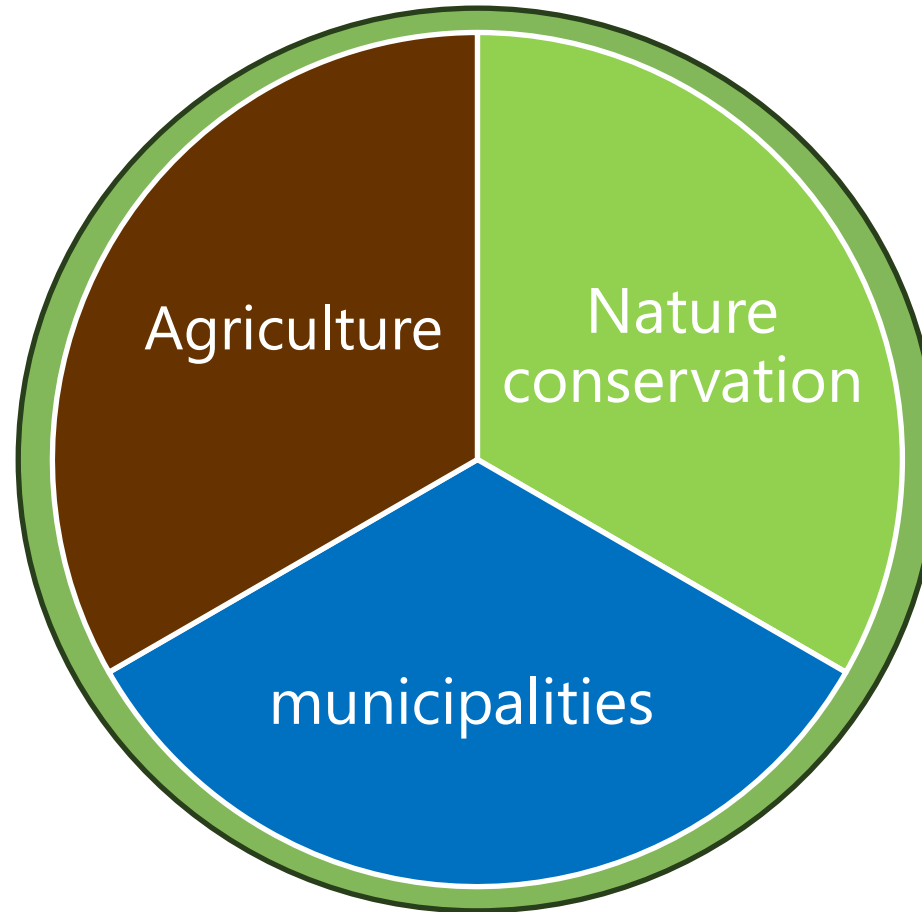


# Cooperative Approach



# How Landcare Associations (LCA) operate

- Cooperatively
- Voluntarily
- Regionally
- Interdisciplinary
- Independently



# LANDCARE EUROPE – Workshops

Local & suburban food production in & outside Natura 2000 areas – direct marketing from farm to fork

April 2022, **Italy**



Agroforestry systems to improve biodiversity, water & soil management & economic viability in & outside Natura 2000 areas

March 2023, **Spain**



July 2022, **Romania**

Human & wildlife co-existence – traditional & modern farming approaches in the mountains in & outside Natura 2000 areas



April 2023, **Lithuania**

Innovative approaches for species & habitat restoration in & outside Natura 2000 areas – good-practice-based payment schemes





# The farmers we work with...

- ... > 100.000 in Europe
- ... cultivate grasslands, arable land, wetlands and special crops
- ... in a conventional or non-conventional manner
- ... on farms stretching from <1 ha to >3.000 ha
- ... on private, public and communal land
- ... as family or agri-businesses



# Collaborating with our farmers

- Communicating as equals
- Involving farmers in decision-making
- Finding economically viable solutions
- Advising on funding sources



# Collaborating with our farmers

- Being aware of the various demands, farmers need to meet
- Guiding farmers on environmental topics
- Securing financial compensation for farmers
- Adapting meetings and trainings to farming schedules





# Planning and implementation

- Creating a win-win between benefitting people and nature conservation
- Balancing nature conservation goals, feasibility and actual impact
- Choosing a holistic approach
- Pooling different experts



# Planning and implementation

- Collaborating with local stakeholders
- Organising field visits
- Organising activities that value role models
- Considering diversity and gender equality
- Including monitoring and quality control





# Communicating and exchanging knowledge

- Providing interdisciplinary exchange
- Organising interregional and international exchanges
- Enabling farmer-to-farmer trainings



# Engaging in environmental education and public outreach activities

- Utilising media
- Designing information boards
- Organising information and participation events
- Targeting students & children



© SICONA



© Legambiente



Lombardia

 Bioökonomie in Mittelgebirgen

## Ideenwettbewerb: Modellbetriebe Bioökonomie in Mittelgebirgen

Innovative Ideen rund um nachhaltige land- und forstwirtschaftliche Produktion und Produkte gesucht!





# Securing funding

- Applying for public funding
- Acquiring private money
- Working with community resources
- Aiming for permanent funding
- Combining different funding sources



© Legambiente Lombardia



© Neumann/DVL





# Summary – key success factors

- Cooperative approach
- Regionality
- Interdisciplinarity
- Voluntariness
- Independence
- Collaborating with our farmers
- Holistic planning and implementation
- Communication and knowledge exchange
- Environmental education and public outreach
- Securing funding



# Supporting farmers and nature with livestock protection

Bernd Blümlein

Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege (DVL)



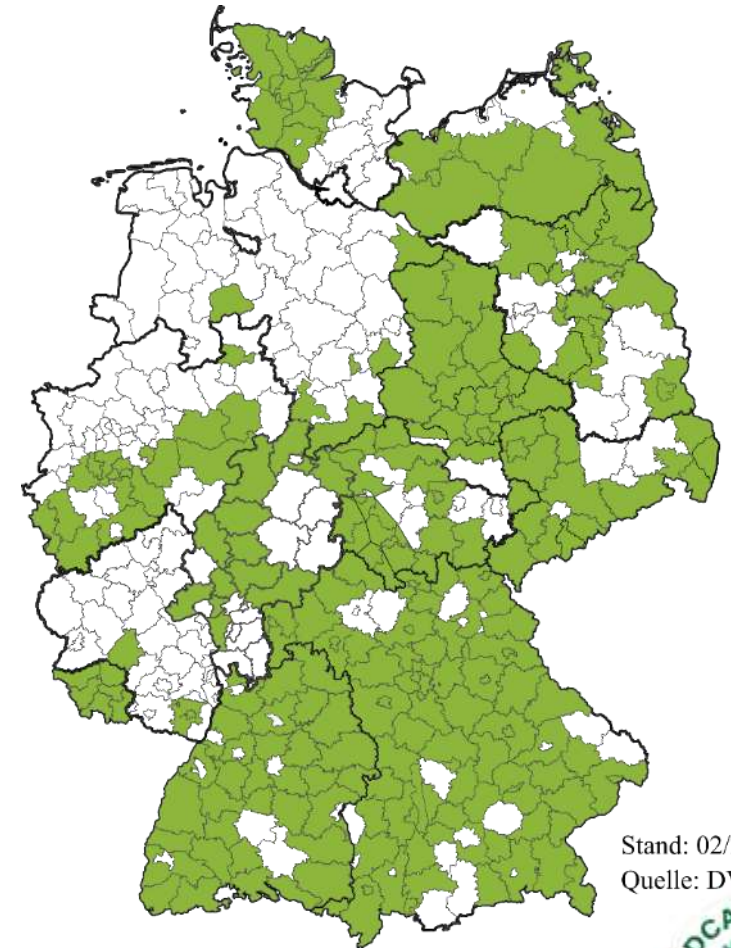
# Livestock protection - Challenge

- Grazing animals play a crucial role in maintaining extensive grasslands and their biodiversity
- This is especially true in areas where mechanical cutting is not appropriate or not possible
- Large carnivores such as wolves, lynx or bears are essential parts of functioning eco-systems as they are apex predators.
- Livestock can fall prey to large carnivores
- New challenges and tasks for shepherds and farmers which require knowledge, time and resources.
- Consequently, systematic support for farmers concerning prevention and compensation measures is essential.



# Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege (DVL) e.V.

- Founded 1993
- Umbrella organisation of 190 regional Landcare Associations (oldest founded in 1986)
- Collaboration with >10.000 farmers
- Equality of agriculture, nature conservation and municipalities is written in the Articles of Association
- „In our activities, we feel committed to the people who combine use and value creation in the landscape with the preservation of habitats for animals and plants as well as climate protection.“

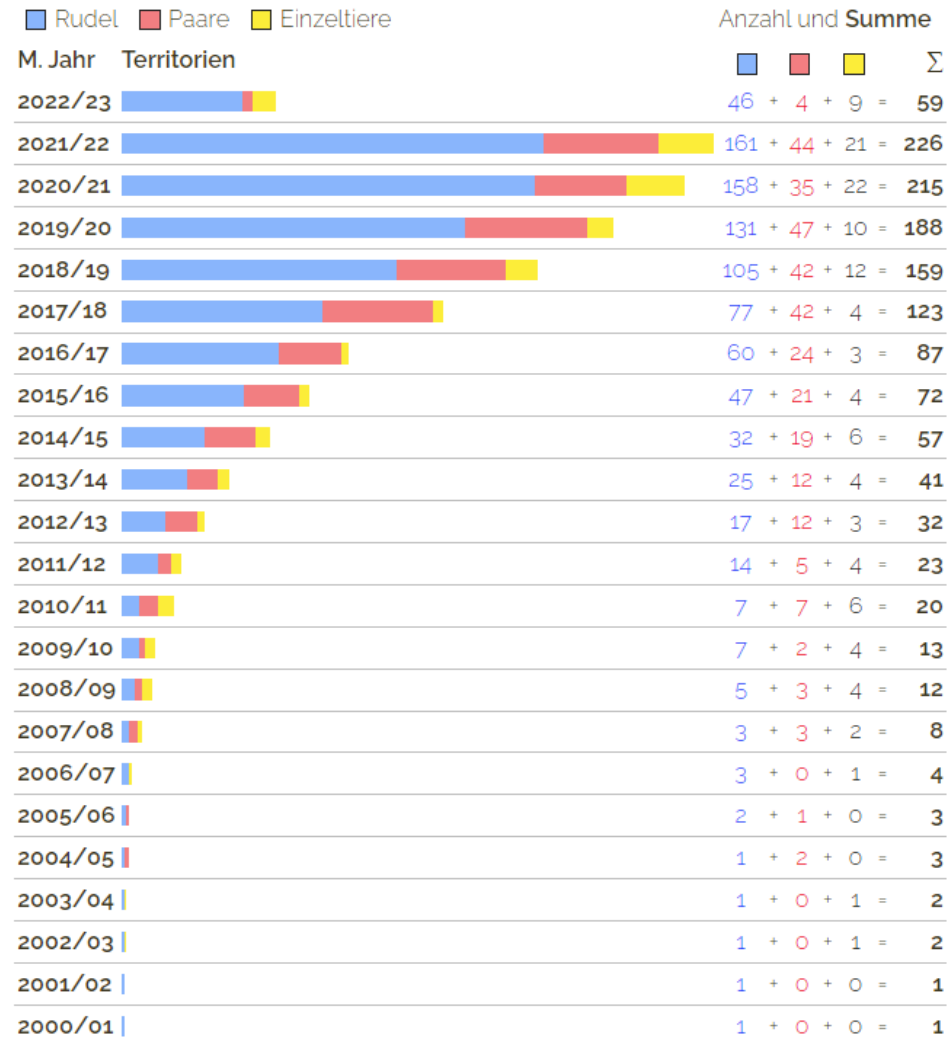


Stand: 02/2022  
Quelle: DVL





# The returning of wolves to Germany



Quelle: Abfrage der DBBW-Datenbank am 05.06.2023 um 01:52:45

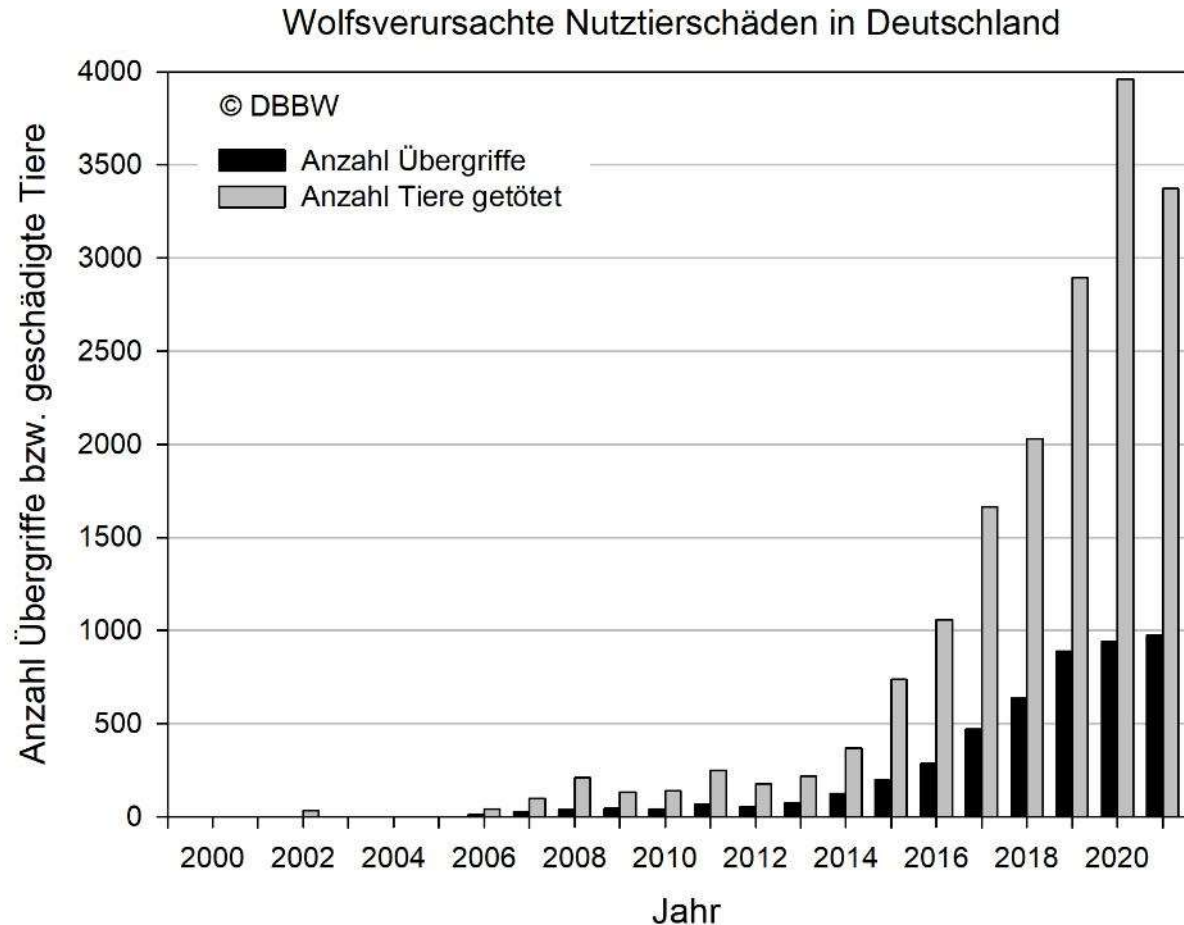
## Development of occupied territories since 2000

(blue = wolf packs, red = wolf pairs, yellow = single wolves)

Source: DBBW -  
**Dokumentations- und  
 Beratungsstelle des  
 Bundes zum Thema Wolf**  
<https://www.dbb-wolf.de/>



# Livestock damage caused by wolves in Germany



Entwicklung der wolfsverursachten Nutztierschäden in Deutschland von 2000 bis 2021.  
Seit 2000 gibt es reproduzierende Wolfsrudel in Deutschland.

© DBBW Dokumentations- und Beratungsstelle des Bundes zum Thema Wolf

- **Number of wolf-attacks** on livestock (black columns)
- **Number of killed livestock** (grey columns)

Source: DBBW  
<https://www.dbb-wolf.de>

# Which livestock is particularly at risk?



Photos Roggenthin / DVL



- **Sheep and goats** are killed by wolves significantly more often than larger farm animals
- Of the livestock killed or injured by wolves in Germany from 2002 to 2020, **89.3% were sheep or goats**, 6.3% were **farmed game** and 3.9% were **cattle** (mostly calves).
- **However, older cattle and horses were also killed lately**

Source: DBBW  
<https://www.dbb-wolf.de>



# Which livestock is particularly at risk?



© LPV Prignitz-Ruppiner Land e.V.



For livestock owners, the loss of animals due to a wolf kill is not only an economic loss. There is also an emotional component to consider, and deep-rooted fears must be addressed.



# DVL-Project: „Herd protection in grazing livestock“

## DVL supports livestock-farmers and herd protection advisors

- Exchange of practical knowledge
- Preparation of training materials
- Demonstration farms



## Short project description:

- The overall objective of the project is to improve herd protection in grazing livestock and thus to avoid wolf attacks on farm animals.
- The DVL wants to inform, educate and support livestock-farmers and multipliers so that they can assess risks and take precautionary measures.
- The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

# DVL-Project: „Herd protection in grazing livestock“



## **DVL Trainings** (from 11/2020 – 05/2023)

- 48 events held (2 conferences, 13 face-to-face events with cooperation partners, 33 online training courses).
- A total of 2,850 participants (of which approx. 45 % are livestock farmers).
- Most in demand: the online training course "Grounding the electric fence - this is how it works" 7 times with a total of 550 participants.

# DVL-Project: „Herd protection in grazing livestock“

## DVL supports livestock-farmers and herd protection advisors

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## Available online for everyone:

- <https://herdenschutz.dvl.org>
- **Online-training-courses** – on youtube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrA74x502hW64INJRSNr3W431WC8ghnCA>
- **Films** were made on individual **herd protection measures**  
-> <https://www.herdenschutz.dvl.org/dvl-herdenschutzfilme>
- **Download** practical knowledge and print out yourself  
-> <https://www.herdenschutz.dvl.org/dvl-infosammlung>



# Key success factors – DVL-Project & Workshop results

- Offering training for livestock-farmers, including hobby farmers
- Being aware of the emotional component
- Being quick about prevention measures
- Including pioneer farmers
- Securing information flow
- Working with unbiased, competent consultants
- Applying independent monitoring
- Being aware of the influence of mass media
- ...



# Recommendations for regulation & funding

- Enable comprehensive prevention measures
- Fund maintenance of infrastructure
- Funding advice on livestock protection
- Simplify regulations



# Regional production, direct marketing & value chains

Claire Wolff

Naturschutzsyndikat SICONA, Luxembourg



# Regional production, marketing & value chains - Challenges

- Supporting the EU Farm to Fork Strategy & Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- Agricultural production that includes nature conservation measures can usually **not economically compete** with intensively farmed products
- Products need rather to be distributed via **direct marketing** and **regional value chains**
- These are labour- and cost-intensive processes that require the long-term engagement of the public and products must be **constantly promoted**





- **Syndicat intercommunal pour la conservation de la nature**
- in central & southwestern Luxembourg
- Association of 45 municipalities for nature conservation  
(southwestern region: 21 members; central region: 12 members and 12 associates)
- Public body, active since 1990





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# What does SICONA do?

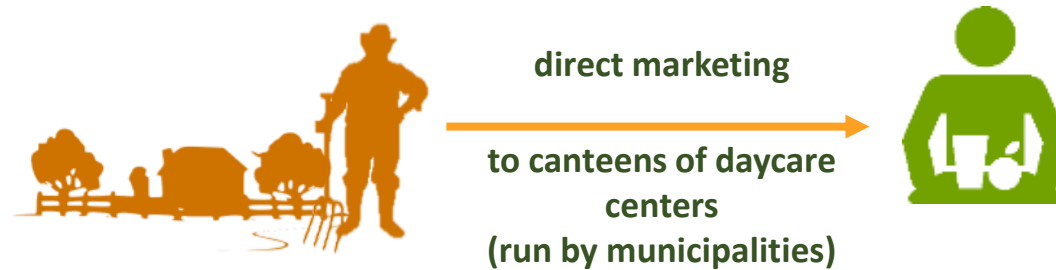
- Conserving **biodiversity** and **landscapes**
- Realizing **practical conservation work** on behalf of the member municipalities on public and private land
- **Counseling** the members and farmers on the subject of nature and landscape protection



© SICONA



# “Natur genéissen” / „savouring nature”



1. Creating a **higher demand for agricultural products** issued from **environmentally sound land use** inside and outside NATURA 2000 sites

→ additional market for regional farms that are engaged in nature conservation

2. **Healthy and sustainable diet** in the **childcare centers** of the member communities

→ Kitchens of childcare centers have to buy a high amount of regional, seasonal, organic and transfair products



# How does it work?

→ creating supply relationships

producer meets *Natur généissen* criteria



**farmer**  
(producer)



**supply:** meat from beef, veal, pork and chicken, eggs, dairy products vegetables, fruit, noodles, juice



Supply and demand  
rise through *Natur généissen*



Childcare center respects the *Natur généissen* criteria (*cahier de charges*)



**Childcare centers**  
(buyer)

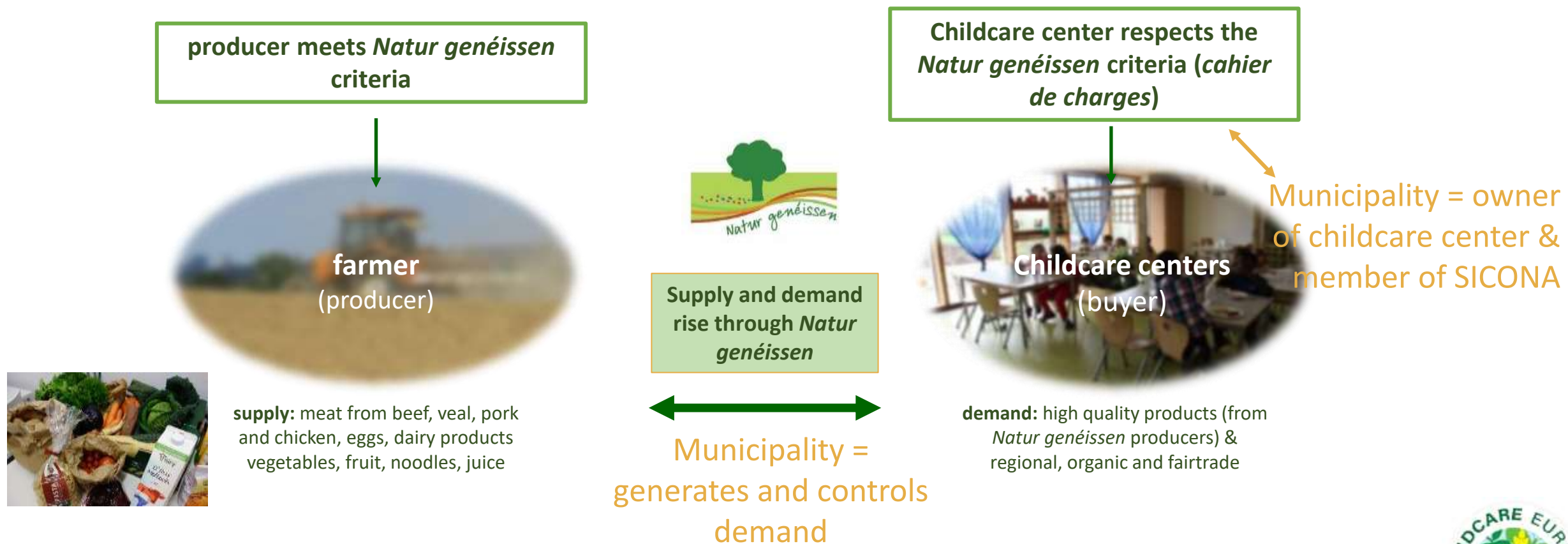


**demand:** high quality products (from *Natur généissen* producers) & regional, organic and fairtrade



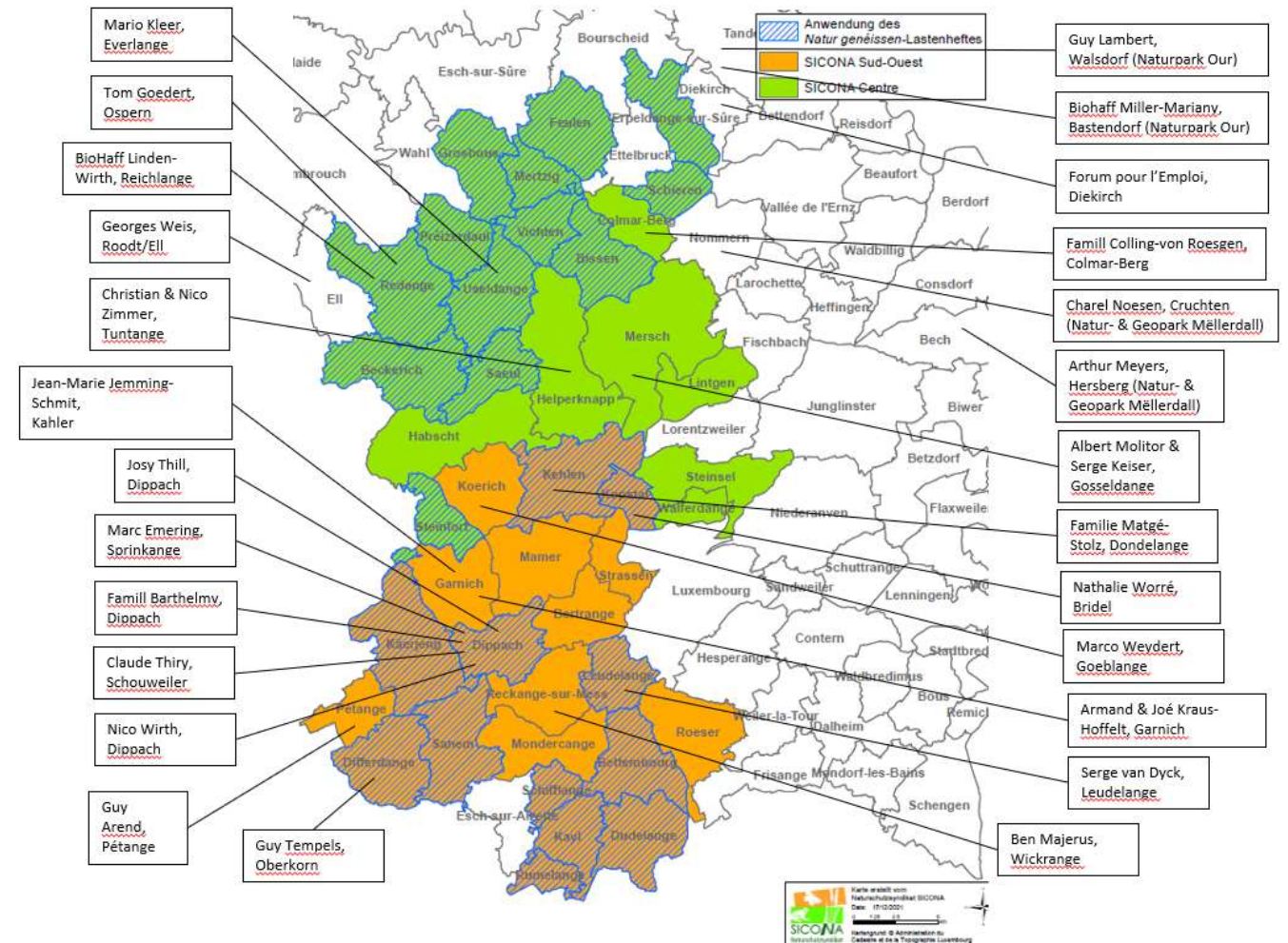
# How does it work?

→ creating supply relationships



# Participating farmers and municipalities

Municipalities	24
Menus per day	9.500
Producers in total	38
located in SICONA municipalities	22
in others regions	8
Form of production	
conventional	6
in transition to organic farming	3
certified organic	29



# Some of the Natur genéissen farmers



Farm  
Matgé-Stoltz,  
Dondel



Farm  
Barthelmy,  
Dippech



Farm  
Van Dyck,  
Leideleng



Farm  
Weydert,  
Giewel



Farm  
Wirth,  
Dippech



Farm  
Molitor/Keiser,  
Gousseldeng



Farm  
Arend,  
Péiteng



Farm  
Majerus,  
Wickreng



Farm  
Emering,  
Sprénkeng



Farm  
Tempels,  
Uewerkuer

© SICONA





# Criteria for Natur généissen production, examples

- General mandatory requirements for agriculture and vegetable cultivation take into account:
  - **Nature conservation:**
    - Conservation of **existing habitats & biotopes** and restoration (e.g. by SICONA)
    - **5 % of farmland have to be structural elements and natural surfaces**, of which at least 3 % have to be structural elements



Habitat: Lowland hay meadow



Structural element: high stem fruit trees



Biotope: fallow on wet land

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# Criteria for Natur généissen production, examples

- General mandatory requirements for agriculture and vegetable cultivation take into account:
  - Participation in trainings
  - Marketing
  - Regionality
  - Soil, water and climate protection:
    - Participation in certain AES
    - Diversity of crops, rotation
    - Nutrient, humus and energy balances
    - Fertilization
    - Water protection
    - Crop protection strategy



© SICONA



# Catalogue of obligations for kitchen staff, examples

- Proportions regarding the origin / production type:

**min. 30 % organic**

of which min. 20 % organic **Natur généissen**

of which min. 20 % organic LU

**max. 70 % conventional**

of which min. 10 % **Natur généissen**

of which min. 30 % LU

- Requirements regarding the quality of the product:

**Dairy products**

Only from Luxembourg

Only fresh pasteurised, not UHT  
sterilized

**Beef meat**

Only from Luxembourg

From nose to tail  
Less meat consumption  
(recommended, not in the  
catalogue)



© SICONA



# Trainings for cooks, educational staff and farmers



→ Short clip about Natur genéissen with french subtitles on <https://sicona.lu/projekte/natur-geneissen/>

© SICONA



# Key success factors

- Analysing the local context and market needs
- Forming an effective expert group
- Creating meaningful quality criteria
- Aiming for variety
- Organising regional events
- Working with storytelling
- Forming a cooperative or collaboration
- Building local product chains
- Good timing and persistence



# Recommendations for regulation & funding

- Supporting farmers with direct marketing → funding of organizational structures
- Funding through tourism and economic development
- Regulations for public canteens
- Raising public awareness



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# Large-scale habitat restoration and innovative agricultural products as new sources of income

Justas Gulbinas

Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania





# Large-scale habitat restoration - Challenge

- Supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, esp. Natura 2000 network
- Challenge: considerable changes in the landscape and landscape management
- significant **change in their farming practices** & the **quality and quantity** of the agricultural products
- need to adapt** innovative production methods, potentially invest in new equipment and materials and commit long-term
- new understanding** of the farmer's profession needed: Farming for biodiversity and nature conservation
- large-scale restoration requires the **cooperation** of several farmers and land managers
- need to **find and/or build a new market** for new products



# Baltic Environmental Forum

- Established in 2003
- As a non-governmental organisation **we believe that nature should be protected not from people, but with people**
- We look for innovative ways to find solutions for solving problems and tackling obstacles in our way.





# Baltic Environmental Forum

- Established
- As a non-g  
organisatio  
**nature sho**  
**from peop**
- We look fo  
solutions fo  
tackling ob





# Example

## Aquatic warbler – the Europe's rarest songbird, long distant migrant

Migration route



- 200 times more rare than African elephant
- Global population less than 16 000 birds
- Breeds only in 4 countries: Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus;

© BEF





## Aquatic warbler habitat



© BEF



# Change of perception towards the farmer

From favourable conservation status of the bird species to favourable conservation status of a farmer



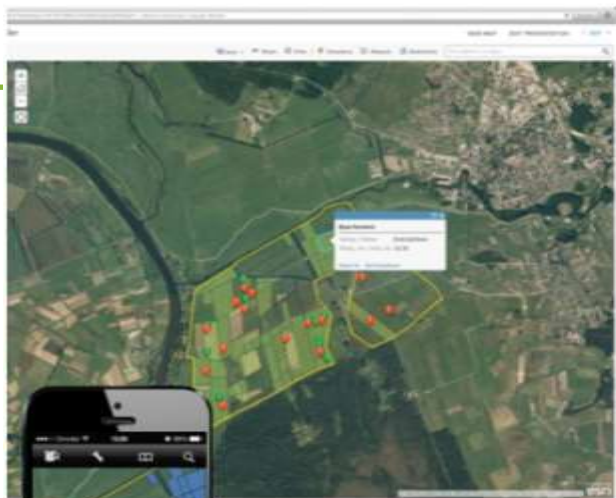
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Farmer – not as conservation tool but as an important driver for disturbance of ecosystem succession (and degradation)





## Protecting every nest to ensure good breeding success

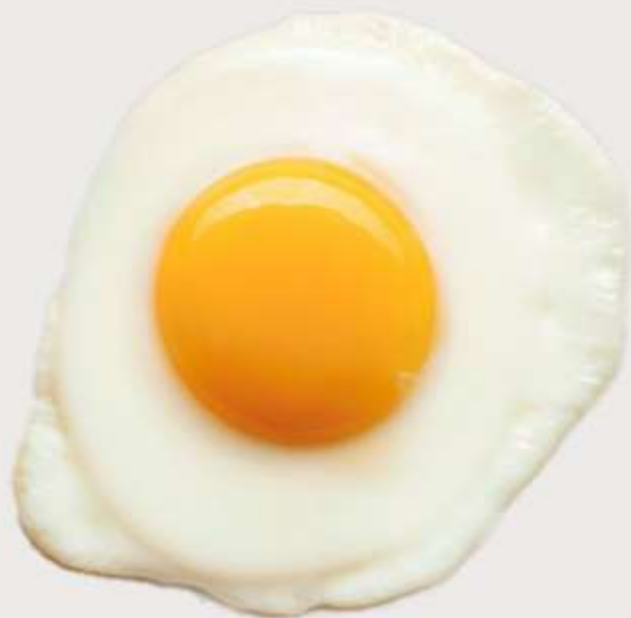


© BEF





Building  
relationship  
instead of just  
doing business



© BEF







Farmers engagement

© BEF





# Creation of an agri-environmental scheme

## Aquatic warbler conservation in natural and semi-natural meadows

AW singing male counts performed first decade of June. Plots observed with singing males extracted for late mowing.

- For plots where AW singing males observed - mowing after August 15;
- For plots where AW singing males NOT observed – half of area mowing in July;
- For all area – mowing shall be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Baled or stacked biomass may be left for winter, but should be removed from the field until March 1<sup>st</sup> next year;
- Extensive grazing (1 SLU/ha) allowed until October 15.

Payment: **291** eur/ha (+ others possible: direct, Natura 2000, LFA)

## Aquatic warbler conservation in wetlands

- Full mowing of the area shall be done within 2 years (50% each year);
- Start of mowing allowed from August 1<sup>st</sup>;
- Mowing shall be finished until October 1<sup>st</sup>, stacked or baled biomass can be removed from field by March 1<sup>st</sup> next year;
- Maximum grazing density allowed 1 SLU/ha;

Payment: **160** eur/ha (+ others possible: direct, Natura 2000, LFA)



## Targeted agri-environmental scheme for aquatic warbler conservation proved to be very succesful



Alka polder (2021)

App. 79% of aquatic warbler singing males in Lithuania observed (2021) in plots declared for special agri-environmental scheme



Farming in peatlands - need for changing perception how we understand farming



© BEF







**Special  
compensation  
scheme for  
farmers for late  
mowing**



**Late-cut biomass  
a problematic  
waste**

**Grass pellets –  
farming product**



**Water level  
management to  
meet interests of  
farmers and birds**



**Relationship  
building between  
farmers and  
conservationists**



# Key success factors

- Including areas under & outside the Natura 2000 network
- Prioritising measures
- Scheduling adequate preparation time
- Creating innovative agricultural products
- Upcycling before energy production
- Providing farmers with equipment
- Creating new professional profiles for farmers
- Creating a plan on the landscape level



© Landcare Europe



# Recommendations for regulations and funding

- Creating specific agri-environmental schemes
- Enabling collective approaches
- Supporting innovative farming practices
- Accelerating the shift of niche products to an economical scale with funding
- Providing a network of good advisors





# Outlook & Discussion

## Perspectives for Landcare in Europe

Questions & Answers

