



Workshop “The role of Rural Development Programmes in supporting semi-natural grassland management in Boreal countries”

26th–27th July, 2018

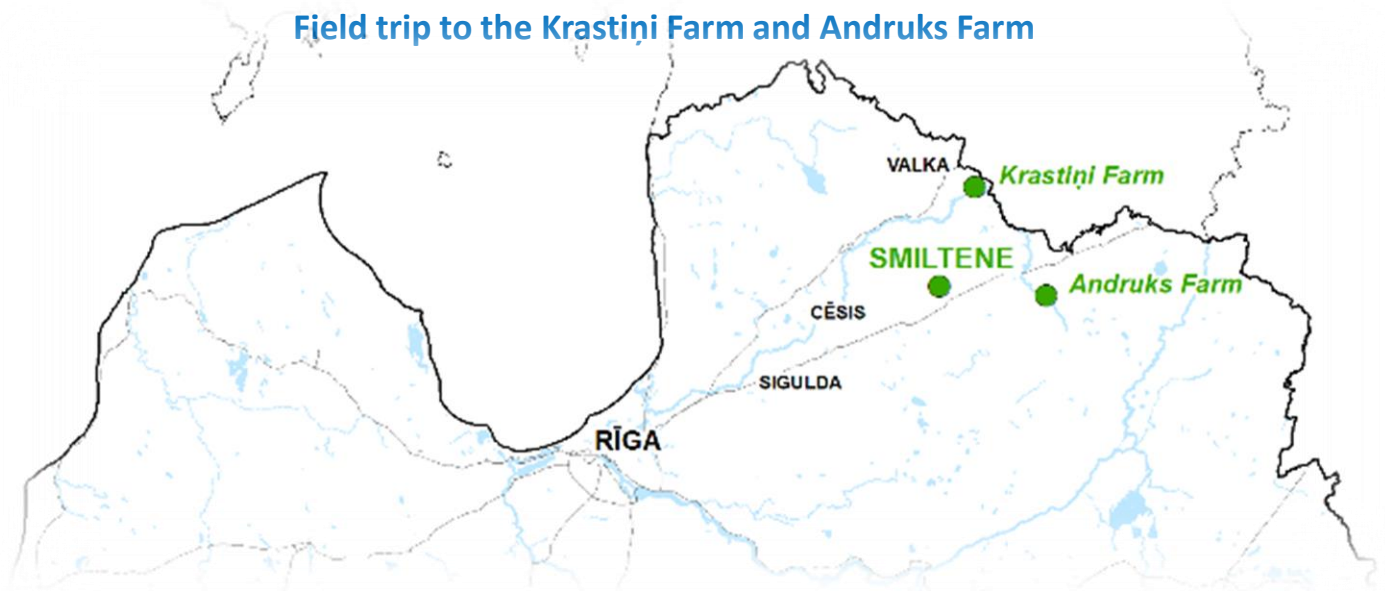
LATVIA

Organized by Estonian Semi-natural Communities Conservation Association and Latvian Fund for Nature in the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers’ Grant Programme for Nordic-Baltic Non-Governmental Organisations’ (NGO) Cooperation 2018 project No. NGSET-499 “The harmonization of knowledge in protected grassland management in Baltic region for sustaining viable ecosystems”.

Co-organised by the GrassLIFE project No. LIFE16NAT/LV/262 «Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use»

Initiated by Natura 2000 biogeographical process Boreal region grassland group.

Venue: Hotel «Brūzis», Brūža street 2, Smiltene
Field trip to the Krastiņi Farm and Andruks Farm



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Rationale

The workshop aims to foster the knowledge exchange between non-governmental stakeholders in the nature protection and farming for biodiversity, and policy development sector of Nordic-Baltic region in terms of the next Rural Development Plan Period preparations and for the harmonization of knowledge in protected grasslands management in Nordic-Baltic region for sustaining viable ecosystems.

The idea of the workshop was initiated by the Boreal Grassland Group running in the framework of the European commission's [Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process](#). Previous workshop of the Boreal Grassland Group was held in Muhu, Estonia in October, 2017. One of the discussion themes was the subsidies for semi-natural grassland management, provided by EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It was striking how different systems each country had created. It was emphasized during the discussion that rural development programmes must be refreshed and harmonised among boreal countries to meet the challenge of maintaining biodiversity.

The coming workshop is the first step to reach this goal. The workshop is organised in the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Grant Programme for Nordic-Baltic Non-Governmental Organisations' (NGO) Cooperation 2018 project No. NGSET-499 "The harmonization of knowledge in protected grassland management in Baltic region for sustaining viable ecosystems".

The second workshop of this project is planned in October, 2018 in Estonia. It will continue the active cooperation of the involved NGOs and national institutions. The main result of the project will be the recommendations for measures subsidizing semi-natural communities management as an input for planning the next Rural Development Plan period efficiently.





26.07.2018, Thursday

9:30–10:00 [Arrival and coffee at Krastiņi Farm](#)

10:00–14.00 Field trip to the Krastiņi Farm. Semi-natural pastures in the Gauja River valley (habitat types 6270*, 6210, 6450, 6530*)

Discussion: RDP support for semi-natural grasslands in an extremely diverse landscape – eligibility, mapping units, consequences for farmers. Restoration of wooded pastures. Problems and solutions from the farmer's point of view.

14.00–15.00 [Lunch at Krastiņi Farm](#)

15.00–16.00 Travel to hotel «Brūzis»

16.15–19.15 Hotel «Brūzis». Presentations and discussions.

Current RDPs in boreal countries: pros and cons

Solvita Rūsiņa, Latvian Fund for Nature (main findings from the homework)

Evaluation of Rural Development Programme in Latvia

Pēteris Lakovskis, Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics, Latvia

What can we expect from the EC proposals for CAP post 2020

Andrejs Briedis, Latvian Fund for Nature

Environmental NGOs' expectations for the next RDP

Andrejs Briedis, Latvian Fund for Nature

Katja Raatikainen, SW Finland Cultural Landscape Association

Bert Holm, Estonian Semi-natural Communities Conservation Association

Discussion and work in groups: preparation of the first draft of comparison of RDPs (2014-2020) in boreal countries – pros and cons, first ideas on what to keep and what to change in the next RDP

19.15–20.00 [Dinner, hotel «Brūzis»](#)



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27.07.2018, Friday

7.30–8.00 Breakfast, hotel «Brūzis»

8.00–11.30 Hotel «Brūzis». Discussions.

Innovative management and restoration methods of semi-natural grasslands for the result-oriented agri-environmental schemes

LV – Inga Račinska, Latvian Fund for Nature

FI – TBC

EST – TBC

Preparation of the draft of ideas for the harmonization of the rules/practices of RDPs in Boreal countries.

11.30–12.30 Travel to the “Andruks” Farm

12.30–13.30 Lunch, “Andruks” Farm

13.30–16.30 Field visit to semi-natural grasslands and cultivated grasslands where restoration have been planned by using seed-rich green hay and *Rhinanthus* spp.

Discussion: traditions, knowledge and practices of protected semi-natural communities concept.

16.30–17.00 Coffee break, final discussions, departure

Registration:

Please register by 18 July, by filling in the online registration form available at this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/xS9YohdfjYJzbrVh1>

Contact:

- Solvita Rūsiņa, programme, presentations, discussions / University of Latvia, solvita.rusina@gmail.com tel. +371 26380676
- Baiba Strazdiņa, accommodation, travel information / GrassLIFE, Latvian Fund for Nature, baiba.strazdina@ldf.lv, tel. +371 26556605



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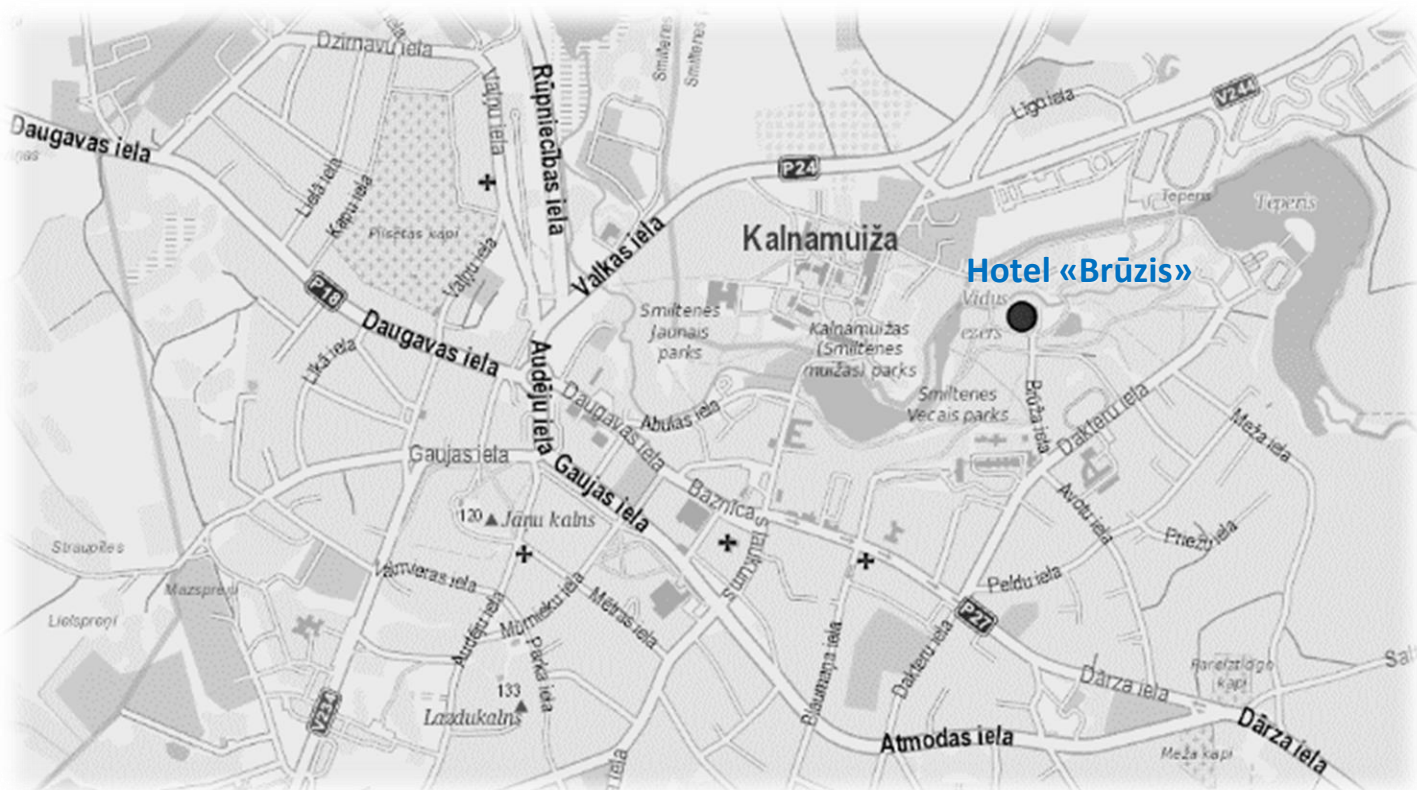
Travel information

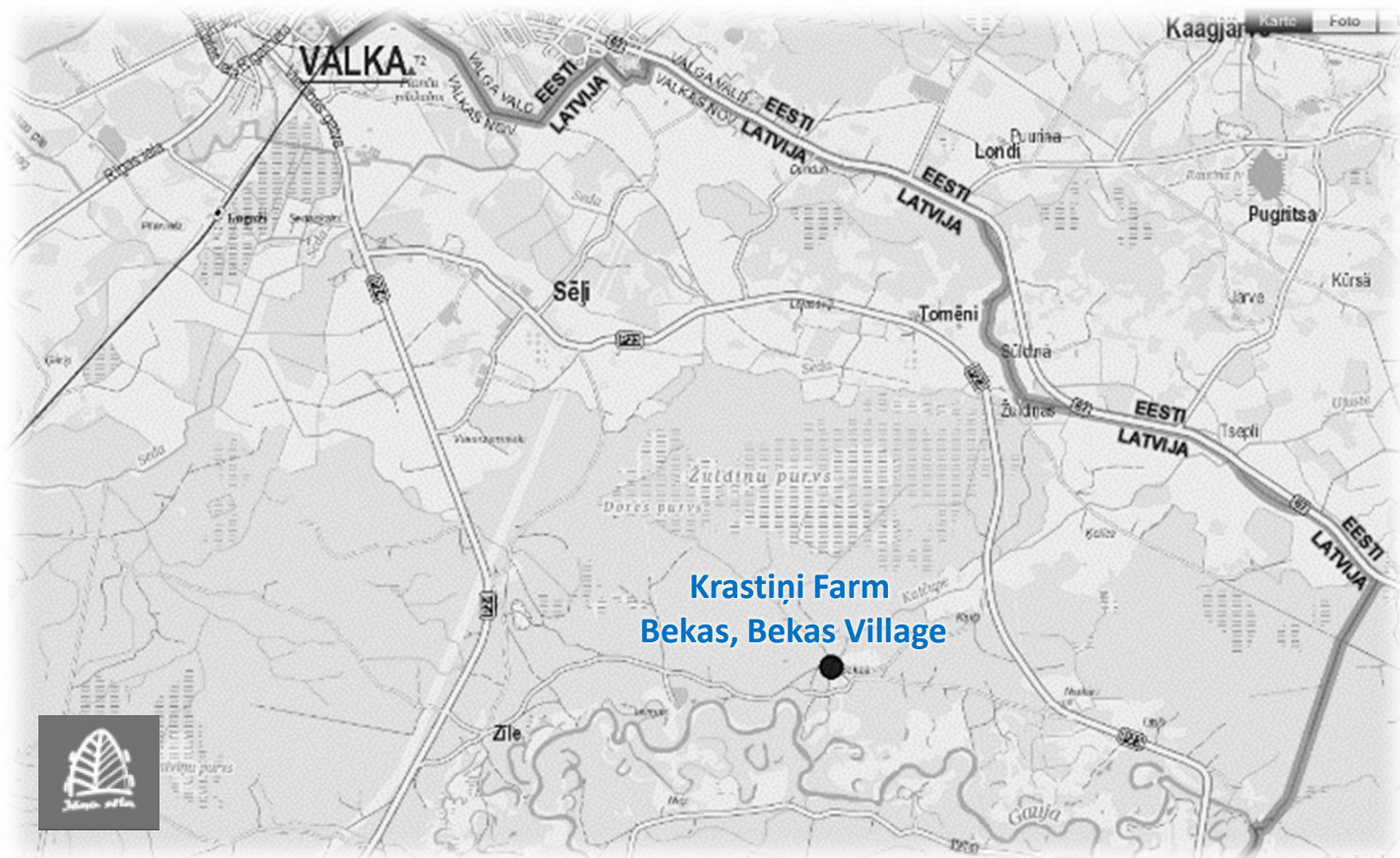
It is planned that participants would arrive with their cars and the travelling from workshop venue to farms will be by cars. Travel is organized by local partners of the project (for details contact: Finland – Traci Birge traci.birge@gmail.com, Estonia – Bert Holm bert.holm@saaremaaavald.ee, Latvia – Solvita Rūsiņa solvita.rusina@gmail.com).

For those who plan to arrive by public transport on 25 July: we plan to organize some cars from Riga Airport or Riga bus or railway stations to the workshop venue in the hotel «Brūzis» (contact Solvita Rūsiņa solvita.rusina@gmail.com).

Accommodation

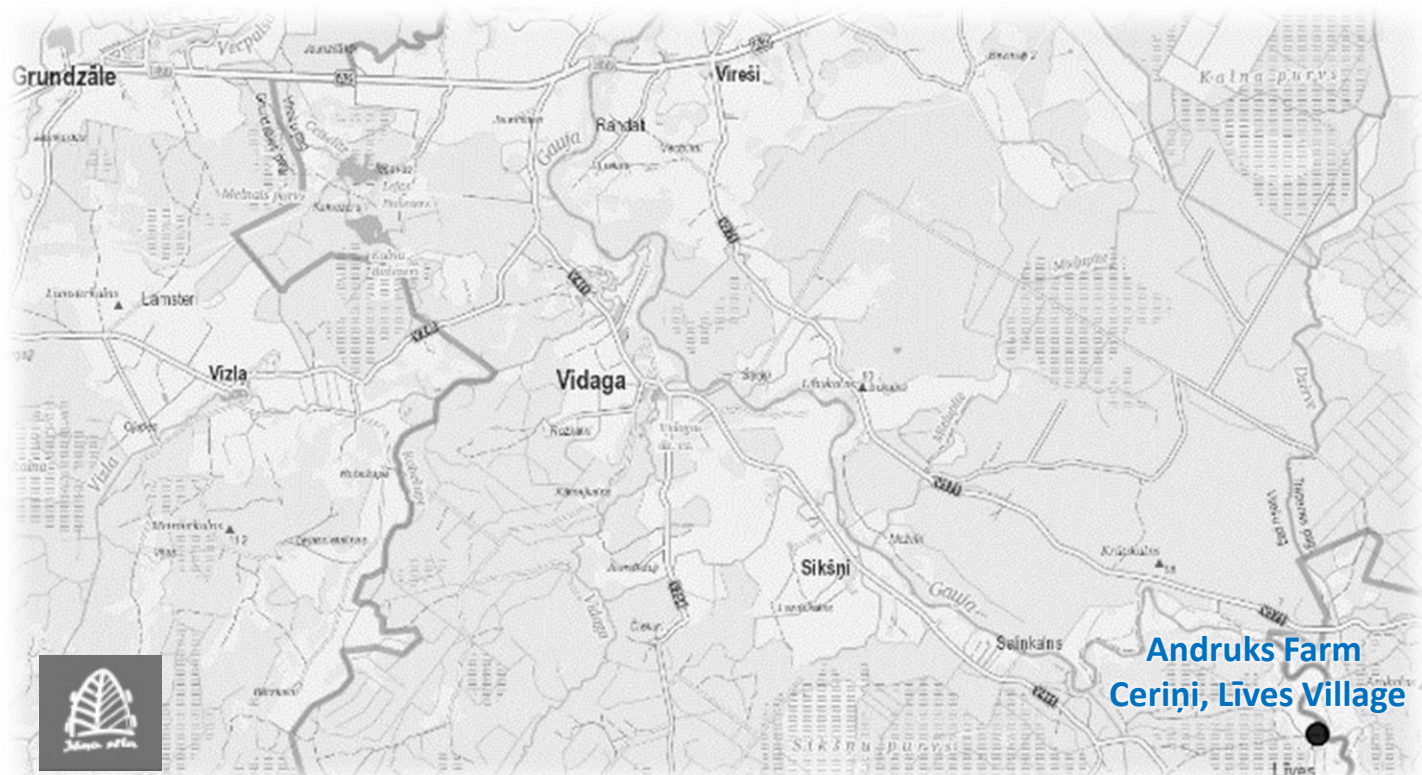
Hotel «Brūzis», www.hotelbruzis.lv, Brūža street 2, Smiltene, LATVIA. Accommodation and seminar costs will be covered by LIFE programme from GrassLIFE project (LIFE16NAT/LV/262) and by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Grant Programme for Nordic-Baltic Non-Governmental Organisations' (NGO) Cooperation 2018.





Krastiņi Farm
Bekas, Bekas Village

<https://ej.uz/Bekas>



Andruks Farm
Ceriņi, Līves Village

<https://ej.uz/Cerini-Andruks>