



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Challenges and opportunities in multifunctional management of grasslands

15th - 17th May 2019 | Ptuj | Slovenia

Conservation of biodiversity in an agricultural landscape is one of the key environmental challenges. In Europe, we have been faced with the decline in biodiversity in the agricultural landscape, for decades now. Extensive grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in Europe, as their existence is dependent upon sustainable, moderate land use. At the same time, these are one of the most diverse areas, but unfortunately, their value is often overseen.

The aim of the international conference is to promote the long-term multifunctional use of grasslands, networking of experts and the exchange of experience and knowledge in multifunctional management of grasslands, including all challenges of modern agricultural practices. The conference will also present grasslands potentials in the context of product production and promotion of tourism. We are aware that only through the support of active sustainable farming the biodiversity of grasslands can be preserved.

The conference is organized as part of the LIFE project "LIFE Conservation and Management of Dry Grasslands in Eastern Slovenia (LIFE14 NAT/SI/000005)" (project web page: <http://www.lifetograsslands.si>). The project is financed from the EU financial mechanism LIFE Nature and Biodiversity.

Conference languages are Slovene and English. Simultaneous translation Slovene /English will be provided.



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15 th of May 2019	12:00 on	Arrival and registration at Grand Hotel Primus, Ptuj	
Ptuj, Grand Hotel Primus and pre-conference tour to Haloze	13:30	Pre-conference tour: Dry grassland - orchid reach sites, Haloze, NE Slovenia	
	19:00	Dinner in Haloze	
	20:30	Return to Grand Hotel Primus (Ptuj)	
16 th of May 2019	8:30 - 9:30	Conference registration	
	9:00 - 9:30	Press conference	
Ptuj, Grand Hotel Primus	9:30 - 10:00	Opening speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marko Maver, PhD, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning - Marjeta Bizjak, MSc, Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry and Food - Teo Hrvoje Oršanič, MSc, Institute of the RS for Nature Conservation
	10:00 - 10:45	Session 1	
	10:00 - 10:45	Farming for Conservation in the Burren, Ireland	Brendan Dunford, PhD, The Burren Programme, Ireland
	10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break	
	11:15 - 13:30	Session 2	
	11:15 - 11:45	High nature value grasslands in Romania: identification, monitoring, conservation actions and compensatory payments	Popa Razvan Daniel, ADEPT, Romania
	11:45 - 12:15	Grassland restoration in the White Carpathian mountains	Karel Fajmon, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic
	12:15 - 12:45	Challenges in conservation of grassland biodiversity in the protected area of Nature Park Žumberak – Samoborsko gorje	Katarina Husnjak Malovec, Dubravka Kranjčević, Nature park Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje, Croatia
	13:30 - 14:30	Lunch	
	14:30 - 16:30	Session 3	
	14:00 - 14:30	Conservation and management of dry grasslands in eastern Slovenia	Nika Debeljak, PhD, Institute of the RS for Nature Conservation, Slovenia
	14:30 - 15:00	Management and conservation of high dry meadows on Veternik and Oslica (LIFE project)	Mojca Kunst, Kozjansko Regional Park, Slovenia
	15:00 - 15:30	Efficient management of extensive meadows in the Natura 2000 site - Goričko	Gregor Domanjko, Goričko Nature Park, Slovenia
	15:30 - 16:00	Long-term effects of karst meadow fertilization on plant species biodiversity, yield and feeding value of forage	Janko Verbič*, Branko Vreš** PhD, Tomaž Žnidaršič* PhD, Jože Verbič PhD, *Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, ** Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, Slovenia
	16:00 - 16:30	Discussion	
	19:00	Evening sightseeing of Ptuj old town centre	



17 th of May 2019 Ptuj, Grand Hotel Primus	8.30 - 9:00	Coffee break	
	9:00	Session 4	
	9.00 - 9.45	Experiences, lessons and conclusions of the Result-based nature conservation payments in Austria	Wolfgang Suske, Suske consulting, Austria
	9.45 - 10:30	Capacity building with farmers on biodiversity	Daniel Bogner, Austria
	10:30 - 11:00	Result indicators for species-rich dry grasslands in Slovenia	ass. prof. Sonja Škornik, University of Maribor; Faculty of natural sciences and mathematics, Slovenia
	11:00 - 11:30	Farmers involvement in the conservation of grasslands - experiences from the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS	Andrej Rebernišek, Jelka Brdnik, Agriculture and forestry institute Ptuj, Slovenia
	11:30 - 12:00	Meadow orchards - farm development potential	Janez Gačnik, Institute Jabolko, Slovenia
	12:00 - 12:30	Farmers benefits from hay meat and hay milk production, EIP project	Boštjan Kosec, Agriculture and Forestry Chamber of Slovenia, Slovenia
	12:00 - 12:30	Conference closure	
	13:30	Guided tour to the event "Specialities of Slovene farms" (Ptuj)	

For more information about the conference please refer to: <http://www.lifetograsslands.si/en/international-conference/>.

The first day, the 15th of May 2019, a pre-conference excursion will be organized to Haloze, where we will visit orchid-rich dry grasslands on calcareous soil. We will also visit Life to grasslands projects' actions and their results.

The second day, the 16th of May 2019, the conference will focus on the exchange of experience in long-term multifunctional management of grasslands along with all the challenges.

The last day of the conference, 17th of May 2019, as a support to preserving sustainable farming, the potential that grasslands present in the context of the development of products and brands, will be emphasized. In the afternoon a post-conference visit to "Dobrote slovenskih kmetij" (Specialities of Slovene farms) will be organized. The event has a long history as an evaluation exhibition of specialties from Slovene farms (namely bread and desserts, dairy and meat products, oils, dried fruit, spirits, canned vegetables).



Registration

The registration is opened from the 1st of February 2019. We kindly ask you to fill in the application form on the project page: <http://www.lifetograsslands.si/en/international-conference/>.

For more information regarding the registration, please send an e-mail to andreja.roznik@zrsvn.si.

The conference has no conference fee, but has a limited number of available seats.

Please register in time.

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline – **15th of March 2019** - closed

Registration deadline – **30th of April 2019**

Conference venue and accommodation

The International Conference will be held at the Grand Hotel Primus, in Slovenian oldest city - Ptuj (Pot v Toplice 9, 2251 Ptuj, Slovenia <https://www.sava-hotels-resorts.com/en/terme-ptuj/accommodation/grand-hotel-primus>).

Ptuj, Slovenia

Ptuj lies in the north-eastern part of Slovenia, in the center of Podravje lowlands, in the Pannonian Plain. It is surrounded by Slovenske gorice and Haloze.

Ptuj is the oldest town in Slovenia. The area of the town was settled in the late Stone Age. In the antiquity, the Roman fortress Poetovio developed from the military camp. The medieval part of the town leaned against the foot of the Castle Hill. An important historical crossing over the Drava River took place past Ptuj, where a trade route between the Baltic and the Adriatic Sea was called the Amber Path.

In Ptuj, there is an annual competition for carnival masks from various places, including the domestic carnival mask "kurent", which was added in December 2017 to the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage.



Organizer and Contact persons

Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, PhD Nika Debeljak, nika.debeljak@zrsvn.si.

We kindly invite you!