EU importance grassland habitat restoration experience in Latvia

Baiba Strazdiņa, Latvian Fund for Nature
Semi-natural grasslands in Latvia

2010 – 0.3-0.7%
1960 – 4%
1926 – 30%

28 000 – 47 290 ha
6% from 1960 or 2% from 1926

<table>
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<th>Semi-natural grasslands in Latvia</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>Piejūras zālāji</td>
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Grassland habitat restoration

Since 2000
7200 ha
Only 15% FV
23 800 ha
10% of initial area
72 000 ha

15 Life projects
Felling, stump removal, root grinding, initial mowing, spontaneous succession
Restorative grazing, spontaneous succession

6 N2000 sites

60-300 ha large grazing areas
Restoration of hydrological regime – restoration of flood regime, destruction of ditches, spontaneous succession.

3 N2000 sites
2 rivers 4 km

Life
Removing of thick litter layer – controlled burning

390 ha
Removing of thick litter layer
Seed transfer

~10 ha
Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use
01/09/2017 – 31/03/2023

Coordinating Beneficiary: Latvian Fund for Nature
Associated Beneficiaries: University of Latvia, Institute for Environmental Solutions and 12 farmers

Co-financed by: Latvian Environmental Protection fund and project beneficiaries

14 Natura 2000 sites of Latvia
EU priority grassland habitats 6120*, 6210*, 6230*, 6270*, 6530*
1320 ha
Habitat restoration

12 farmers
700 ha

Removal of over-growth
Root grinding
6530* restoration
Deep ploughing
Top soil removal
Alfa alfa seeding
Restorative grazing
Restorative mowing
Rhinanthus sp.
Expan-sive species
Hidrology
Tussock milling
Green hay
Seed transfer
Turf planting
Collection of seeds
Investments in grazing infrastructure
Mobile grazing units

- 60+ ha
- 250 herds
- 600 ha in 5 years
- 4 herds
- 6120*
- 6210*
- 6230*
- 6270*
- 6530*
- 14 N2K
Grassland products – desk study, tests, marketing
Increase of demand –
High value products, social benefits, national identity etc.
Thank you for your attention!

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