



# Restoring and promoting a long-term sustainable management of Fennoscandian wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia

## PROJECT SUMMARY

WOODMEADOWLIFE will improve the conservation status of wooded meadows in Boreal Biogeographic region by restoring Estonian and Latvian wooded meadows and establishing the system for their long-term management throughout both countries. By doing that, it will significantly contribute to the overall conservation status of *6530\* Habitat* in the EU, as both countries host 60% of all wooded meadows in the Boreal Biogeographic region. The overall long-term objective of this project is to restore significant areas of priority EU habitat **6530\* Fennoscandian wooded meadows** (700 ha in two countries), develop agreements, guidelines and smart solutions for their future management and highlight their ecosystem services, ecological functions and unique heritage value in both countries.

The project has various objectives:

- Restore currently overgrown wooded meadows on 700 hectares (500 ha in Estonia; 200 ha in Latvia).
- Prepare the restored areas (700 ha) to be managed using CAP funding foreseen in National Rural Development Plans.
- Increase the habitat-specific structures and speed up the restoration on 150 hectares of grasslands cleared from overgrowth.
- Establish long-term agreements and cooperation clusters between landowners, land managers and conservation authorities for the management of the wooded meadows, share practical knowledge and encourage partnership.
- Develop the management guidelines for future management of wooded meadows on the basis of project analysing the impacts of different restoration and management techniques (mowing combined with grazing, earlier start date for mowing, etc.) together with existing subsidy schemes.
- Cooperate with other Nordic and Baltic countries that host wooded meadows, analyse different country-specific management options and define best practices.
- Share knowledge and experience with other EU countries, via SER Europe network
- Support the site managers and increase their capacity and commitment to managing this unique habitat.
- Encourage similar actions to be carried out outside project areas, multiply project impact.
- Involve main stakeholders and general public via dissemination.
- Highlight the unique cultural and natural heritage of wooded meadows and their management.



- Assess and communicate the impacts of the project on the conservation status of wooded meadows, on their ecological value and their socio-economic value to the communities involved with the management.

## PROJECT CONSORTIUM

- Latvia Environmental Board
- Estonian Fund for Nature
- Estonian Academy of Arts
- Latvian Fund for Nature
- Estonian Seminatural Community Conservation Association
- European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International
- University of Tartu

## ROLE OF SERE

- Networking on EU level and development of a European wide replication strategy using on-line co-creative approaches with interested practitioners and professionals and revised by all project beneficiaries.
- Dissemination of a best practice summary across SERE network of experts of ecological restoration, as well as to affiliated and partner organisations, included in SER international Restoration Resource Centre – Project Database, and presented in a SERE webinar / podcast format allowing permanent future use, as well as at the SERE biannual Conference
- Acknowledge the project policy developments at the EU level by bringing and presenting the project policy developments and proposals to technical, stakeholder and political debates active at the time of the project implementation.
- LIFE projects community will also be informed about the events organized within the *WOODMEADOWLIFE* project (i.e. international seminars of wooded meadow restoration and management) and invited to participate.
- SERE will ensure wide dissemination across Europe of these events and activities.

## TIMELINE & FUNDING

- Project budget: 6,673,032€
- EU contribution budget (LIFE Programme): 5,004,772 €
- SER Europe Budget: 55,600 €
- Start date: 01.05.2022 (tentative)
- End date: 31.10.2026 (tentative)

## PROJECT PORTAL

In preparation.