





# Working together for the conservation of high nature value grasslands in Slovenia

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LIFE Platform Meeting: Agriculture for the Benefit of Biodiversity
9th -11th October 204



# Agriculture in Slovenia

Slovenia: 20.271 km<sup>2</sup>, geographically diverse

37 % of Slovenia covered with Natura 2000;

of which 23% agriculture land

### Agriculture area:

- 58% permanent grasslands
- 36% fields

Less favourable areas: 76 %

Size of agriculture holding (AH):

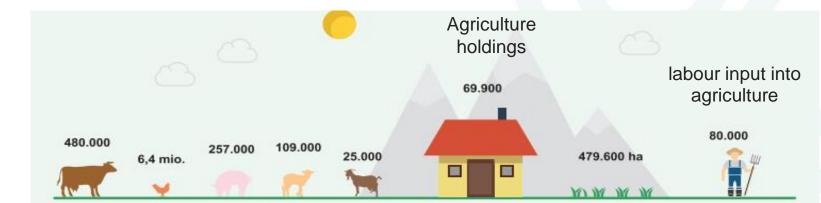
- average: 6,9 ha
- less then 5 ha: 60%
- more then 50 ha ≤ 1%

Average no. of animal heads per AH:

• 6

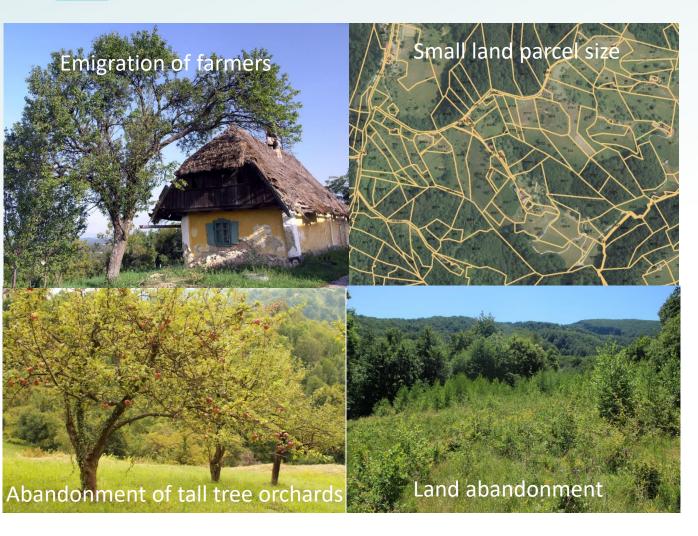
Average age of AH owner: 57 years







## Challenges in agriculture in Slovenia



70% of grassland in Natura 2000 in unfavourable conservation status (according to Report of Habitats directive)

- Agri-environment measures only as management schemes,
- Low enrolment into Agri-environment measures (AECM) for nature (too regulated, too much bureaucracy, low payments)
- Small traditional mixed farms managing species rich grasslands are disappearing





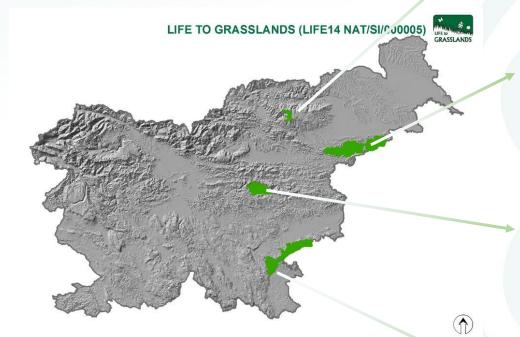
# **Project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS:**

Conservation and management of dry grasslands in Eastern Slovenia

01/11/2015 - 31/10/2020

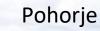
- **4 project areas:** (35.000 ha)
  - Haloze
  - Pohorje
  - Kum
  - Gorjanci
- 6 Natura 2000 sites
- Coordinating beneficiary:
  - Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
- Partners:
  - Agriculture and Forestry Institute Ptuj
  - Rural development centre PRJ Halo
  - NGO: Society Gorjanske košenice
  - NGO: Local community Dobovec
- Co-financer: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning





















HT 6210\* - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (\* important orchid sites))

HT6230\*: Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas







## **LIFE TO GRASSLANDS aim**

- overgrowth and renaturation of grasslands
- Motivating farmers to retain farming in rural areas (steep terrain - hard for farming)
- Assure long-term multifunctional extensive use of grasslands
- Develop of new attractive model for farming for conservation of species reach grasslands
- Development of local product on farms
- Proposal for a scheme for High Nature Value grasslands



**Bring back LIEF to grasslands** 





# Farmers involvement

359 owners / co-owners

163 Signed contracts





# **Assuring Long-term management**



Long-term management (ha)	Haloze	Kum	Pohorje	Gorjanci	sum
	283,12	83,16	276,89	34,50	677,67











- Moving
- Grazing
- Tall tree orchards





# Proposal for a scheme for High Nature Value grasslands

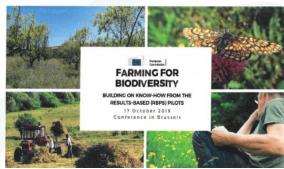
## **Build up knowledge and Network**

- 2015 EC pilot projects in Romania, Ireland, Spain and the UK (England) on resultsbased payment schemes for the enhancement of biodiversity - targeted at High Nature Value hay meadows
- Networking with Burren LIFE, Arran LIFE
- Conferences organized by EC
  - 2019 Farming for biodiversity: Building on knowhow from thee Result-based pilots
  - 2020 "Results-based payments schemes (RBPS) in the EU common agricultural policy 2021-2027"
- Result based payment network: <a href="https://www.rbpnetwork.eu/">https://www.rbpnetwork.eu/</a>

A lot of knowledge already available













Training of farmers about biodiversity and conservation.







## LIFE project – what have we learned

conservation of high nature value grasslands in Slovenia





http://www.lifetograsslands.si/en/



Crucial is to maintain farming in rural areas

Talk to farmers and acknowledge their knowledge of farming

Inform, educate farmers for biodiversity and conservation

Support and reward farmers in their effort for conservation

Develop possibilities for better / additional income for farms

Early engagement of the responsible Ministry and Paying agency in development of a scheme











# EIP project: Farming for the conservation of species rich grasslands with the transfer of knowledge to the farmer (EIP dry grasslands)

Measure M16 – Cooperation,

Sub-measure no. 16.5 - Support for joint action and mitigation or adaptation to climate change and joint approaches to environmental projects and sustainable environmental practices

18.5.2022 - 18.5.2025

### **Partnership:**

IRSNC, KGZ Ptuj, University of Maribor, 7 farms, PRJ Halo, Društvo Gorjanske košenice,

### Aim

- Promoting farming in areas with limited farming opportunities,
- Develop and practically test a result-based measure for dry grasslands (Haloze, Kum, Gorjanci),
- Transfer of knowledge to the farmers













# CAP Strategic plan for Slovenia 2023 – 2027 Result based scheme - BK.15 dry grassland conservation



### **Outline of the scheme:**

- Targeted habitat type: HT 6210\* Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (\* important orchid sites))
- 3 areas: Haloze, Kum, Gorjanci
- Enrolment 2025
- Score cards:
  - presence and coverage of selected positive and negative plant indicator species
  - presence of orchid: bonus + 10 points
  - assessment of habitat conditions
  - 0-100 scoring system
- Payment:
  - level I: 50 65 points: 340 EUR/ha;
  - level II: 66 80 points: 390 EUR/ha;
  - level III: 81 100 points: 460,00 EUR/ha.









# Dry grassland conservation sheme BK.15



year 0

Expression of interest by farmer

year 0

year 1

year2,3,4

year 5

Monitoring by expert

Farmers enrolment

Serfassessment by farmers

Monitoring by expert

- status of the habitat
- definition of eligible area
- definition of a transect



2024 data:

Area: 159,91 ha

Number of KMG-MID ID: 81

Average size of enrolment area: 1ha



## **Scorecard BK.15**



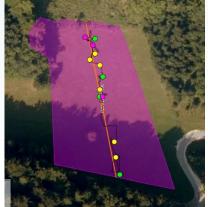




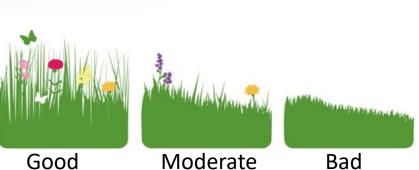




## Monitoring along the predefined transect.



Assessment of habitat structure





Grassland damage





## **Scorecard BK.15**





# Presence of 19 positive indicator species

Prisotnost pozitivnih indikatorjev	nizka	srednja	visoka	Zelo visoka
Število pozitivnih indikatorjev	1-4	4+	8+	10+
Točkovanje	0	10	20	30

Habitat type specific

Geographically applicable to all regions

## Presence of Orchids – bonus 10 points

### Pozitivne indikatorske vrste

Čopasta grebenuša (Polygala comosa)

Gorska detelja (Trifolium montanum)

Jajčasti popon (Helianthemum ovatum)

Mala strašnica (Sanguisorba minor.)

Materina dušica (Thymus sp.)

Mnogocvetna španska detelja (Dorycnium herbaceum)

Navadna migalica (Briza media)

Navadna turška detelja (Onobrychis viciifolia)

Navadni klinček (Dianthus carthusianorum)

Navadni oslad (Filipendula vulgaris)

Panonski osat (Cirsium pannonicum)

Pojalnik (Orobanche spp.)

Pokončni stoklasec (Bromopsis erecta)

Ranjak (Anthyllis sp.)

Resasti/mali škrobotec (Rhinanthus glacialis/Rh. minor)

Srednji trpotec (Plantago media)

Travniška kadulja (Salvia pratensis)

Vrbovolistni primožek (Buphthalmum salicifolium)

Navadna nokota (Lotus corniculatus)

Višina: 15-60 cm Cvet: Bel. združen v socvetia Čas cvetenja: maj-avgust Listi: Trojnati, ozkoeliptični, priostreni na



Čas cvetenja: junij-avgust Listi: Luskasti listi, spiralasto razvrščeni



Višina: 5-25 cm, polegla razrast Cvet: Rožnat ali svetlo viioličen Čas cvetenja: maj-julij



### Mnogocvetna španska detelja

Višina: 5-35 cm

Cvet: Glavičasta socvetja, cvetovi so bele in

umene barve z rdečkastimi zobci

Čas cvetenja: maj-avgust

Listi: Pernato sestavlieni

Višina: 15-30 cm Barva cveta: Cevast venec, rumene barve, po



Listi: Sedeči, črtalasti, tudi jajčasti, nasprotno

### Navadna turska detelja

Cvet: Grozdasto socvetie, bledorožnati cvetovi s temnejšimi žilami Čas cvetenja: maj-avgust Listi: 6-12 parov ozkosuličastih listov



Višina: 30-80 cm Cvet: Bel. cvetovi so združeni v navidezne kobule, ima sladek voni

Čas cvetenja: maj-avgust Listi: Pritlična rozeta, 2x pernato deljeni



Višina: 5-50 cm

Čas cvetenja: maj-september Listi: Nazobčani, nasprotno razvrščeni



### Navadni klinček – Kartavza

Cvet: Roza, rdeče, vijolične barve Čas cvetenja: junij-avgust Listi: Ozkosuličasti, do 6 cm veliki



### Višina: 20-50 cm

Cvet: Klasasta socvetja velika 2 prašnične niti so bele do svetlovijolične, daljše od venca

Čas cvetenja: april-september Listi: v pritlični rozeti, veliki 9 -17 cm, brez



Višina: Do 50 cm Cvet: Rumen košek, velik 3-5 cm Čas cvetenja: junij-september Listi: Suličasti, premenjalno razvrščeni



Višina: 40-80 cm Cvet: Manjši koški veliki 1-2 cm, vijolične

Čas cvetenja: junij - avgust Listi: odspodaj dlakavi, pernato deljeni



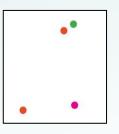
## **Scorecard BK.15**

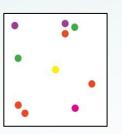


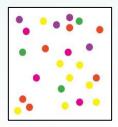


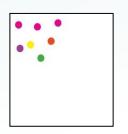


## **Coverage of indicator species**











### **Coverage of posivite indicator species**

Coverage of positive indicators	Low	Moderate	High
	Less then 20% of	20-50%	More then 50%
	the area	of the area	of the area
points	5	20	30



## **Coverage of negative indicator species**

Pokrovnost negativnih indikatorjev	Nizka	Srenja	Visoka
	Manj kot 10% površine	10-50% površine	Več kot 50% površine
Točkovanje	10	5	0













# Mobile app "Maj travnik" scoring by farmers







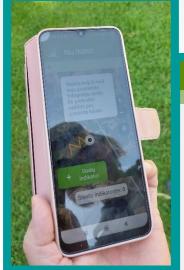






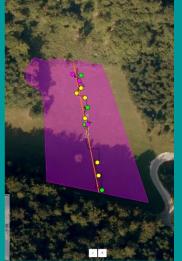


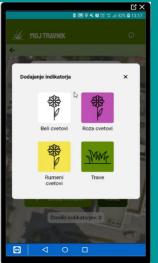
 Photographing indicators (location and time of monitoring)

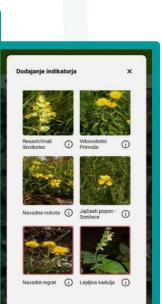














# Self-assessment by a farmer in a mobile app





## **Education of farmers**

- Empowering farmers with knowledge:
  - Biodiversity
  - Species rich grasslands
  - BK 15 and mobile app "Moj Travnik"
- Farm visits by experts and preparation of Personalised manuals for each farm
- Visit to Austrias "Farmer teaches the farmer" model
- Each farmer educates other farmers on her/his own farm - "Farmer teaches the farmer" model





