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# Embodying the after-LIFE thinking already from the first steps in the project - GrassLIFE experience

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Latvijas vides  
 aizsardzības fonda  
 administrācija



# after-LIFE

# GrassLIFE

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# LIFE says (Application Guide)



## **1.6.13 Long term sustainability of the project and its actions**

LIFE projects represent a considerable investment, and the European Union attaches great importance to the long term sustainability of these investments. It is obligatory that throughout the duration of the project, the beneficiaries consider how these investments will be secured, maintained, developed and made use of or replicated after the end of the project. This should be built into the proposal. This aspect will be carefully checked during the evaluation process, particularly under Award criterion 1.



# LIFE says (Application Guide)

## **sustainability**

LIFE projects represent a considerable investment

how these investments will be secured, maintained, developed and made use of or replicated after the end of the project.



# Sustainability definition

The ability to be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed.

Oxford English Dictionary:

**Sustainable** = “Designating a natural resource which is exploited in such a way as to avoid its long-term depletion.”

**Investment** = “The conversion of money or circulating capital into some species of property from which an income or profit is expected to be derived in the ordinary course of trade or business.”

**Money invested is not wasted and continues to serve towards achieving the long-term goals of the LIFE project.**



# But what does it mean?

**Money invested is not wasted and continues to serve towards achieving the long-term goals of the LIFE project.**

Minimum: Restored habitats are maintained / Infrastructure kept up  
+ Multiplier effect – transfer and replication ....

**But maybe we are actually doing more and producing even more benefits?**

---- monetary (M)

---- social (S)

---- nature (N)

LIFE16 NATLV000262

# 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\***



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# How do we see grasslands?

## Grassland as an endangered nature value



| Substrate   | Regions |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
|---|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--|
|   | ALP     | ATL | ELS | BOR | CON | MAC | MED | PAN | STE | MATL | MBAL |  |
| 6110 - Regionous calcareous/basiphilic grassl. Alyssa-Sodium    | U1      | U1  | U1  | U2  | U1  |     | U1  | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6120 - Xeric sand calcareous grasslands                         |         | U2  |     | U2  | U2  |     | XX  | U2  |     |      |      |  |
| 6120 - Calaminarian grasslands of the Volcrales calaminarias    | U1      | U2  |     |     | XX  |     | U1  |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6140 - Siliceous Pyrenean Festuca edica grasslands              | U1      | FV  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6150 - Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands                   | FV      | U2  |     | FV  | U1  |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6160 - Oro-Iberian Festuca indigera grasslands                  |         | U2  |     |     |     |     |     | U2  |     |      |      |  |
| 6170 - Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands               | U1      | U2  |     |     | U1  |     | U1  |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6180 - Macaronesian mesophilic grasslands                       |         |     |     |     |     | U1  |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6190 - Regionous Pan. grassl. Stipo-Festucetalia pallens        | FV      |     |     |     | U1  |     |     |     | U1  |      |      |  |
| 6210 - Semi-natural dry grassl. & scrubland facies on calc. sub | U1      | U2  | U1  | U2  | U2  |     | U2  | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6220 - Pseudosteppe with grasses & annual Thero-Brachypodium    | XX      | U2  | U1  |     | U1  |     | U1  |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6230 - Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates  | U2      | U2  |     | U2  | U2  |     | XX  | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6240 - Sub-continental steppe grasslands                        | U2      | U1  | U1  |     | U1  |     |     | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6250 - Pannonic loess steppe grasslands                         |         |     |     |     | U1  |     |     | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6260 - Pannonic sand steppes                                    |         |     |     |     | U1  |     |     | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6270 - Fennoscandian lowland species-rich dry to mesic grassl.  | U2      |     |     | U2  | U2  |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6280 - Nordic alvar and procambarian calcareous steppes         |         |     |     | U2  | FV  |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 62A0 - Easton sub-mesic dry grassl. (Scorzonera villosa)        | U2      |     | U1  |     |     |     |     | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 62B0 - Serpentinophilous grasslands of Cygnus                   |         |     |     |     |     |     | FV  |     |     |      |      |  |
| 62C0 - Ponto-Saravatic steppes                                  |         |     | U1  |     | U1  |     |     |     |     |      | U1   |  |
| 62D0 - Oro-Mediterranean acidophilous grasslands                | U1      |     |     |     | U1  |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 62E0 - Dichoxas with evergreen Quercus spp.                     |         |     |     |     |     |     |     | U2  |     |      |      |  |
| 6410 - Maltese meadows on calc./psam/terry-tillo-ladon soils    | U2      | U2  | U1  | U2  | U2  |     | U1  | U2  | FV  |      |      |  |
| 6420 - Mod. tall humid grassl. of the Molise-Molesechevion      | U1      | U1  | U2  |     | U1  | FV  | U1  |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb frage comm. of plains & montane   | U1      | U2  | U1  | U1  | U1  |     | U1  | U2  | FV  |      |      |  |
| 6440 - Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Caidion dubit   | FV      | U2  | FV  |     | U2  |     |     | U1  | FV  |      |      |  |
| 6450 - Northern boreal alluvial meadows                         | U2      |     |     | U2  |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6460 - Peat grasslands of Thodos                                |         |     |     |     |     |     | FV  |     |     |      |      |  |
| 6510 - Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Saugisortha)  | U2      | U2  | FV  | U2  | U2  |     | U2  | U1  | FV  |      |      |  |
| 6520 - Mountain hay meadows                                     | U2      | U2  |     | U2  | U2  |     | U2  | U1  |     |      |      |  |
| 6530 - Fennoscandian wooded meadows                             |         |     |     | U2  | U2  |     |     |     |     |      |      |  |

U2 – Unfavourable – Bad conservation status in a whole Boreal region

6120\* = Xeric and calcareous grasslands

6210\* = Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (orchids)

6230\* = Species-rich nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates

6270\* = Fennoscandian lowland species-rich dry to mesic grasslands

6530\* = Fennoscandian wooded meadows



# How do we see grasslands?



Grassland as a business resource



Grassland as cultural and historical value, part of our identity

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# How do we see grasslands?



Grassland as a beautiful landscape



Grassland as a seed bank

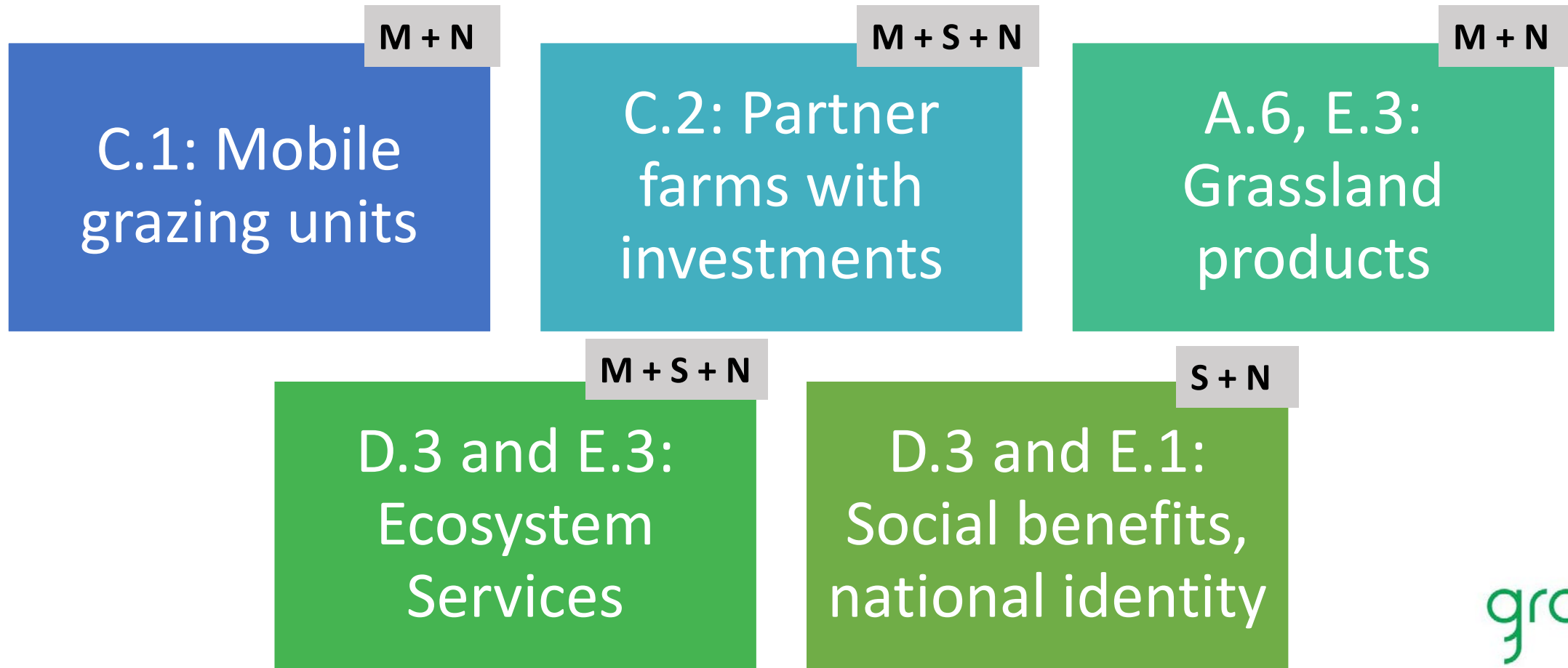


Grassland as inspiration: for art, for ....

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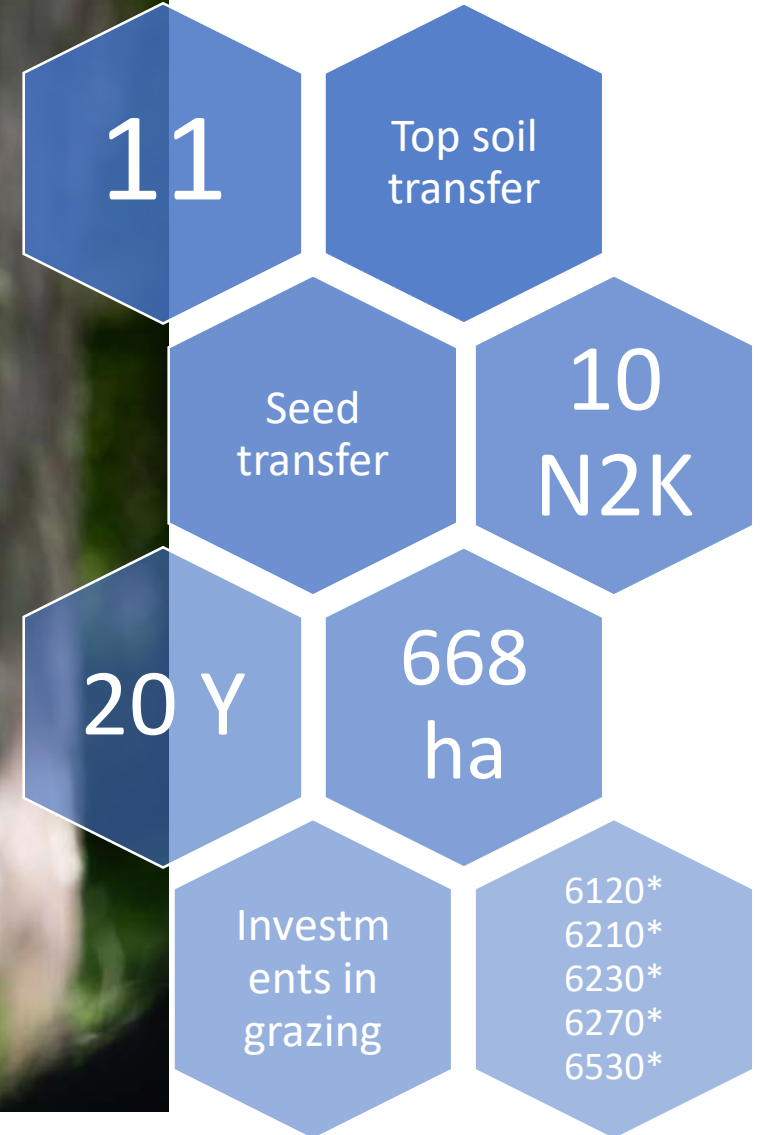
# GrassLIFE approach



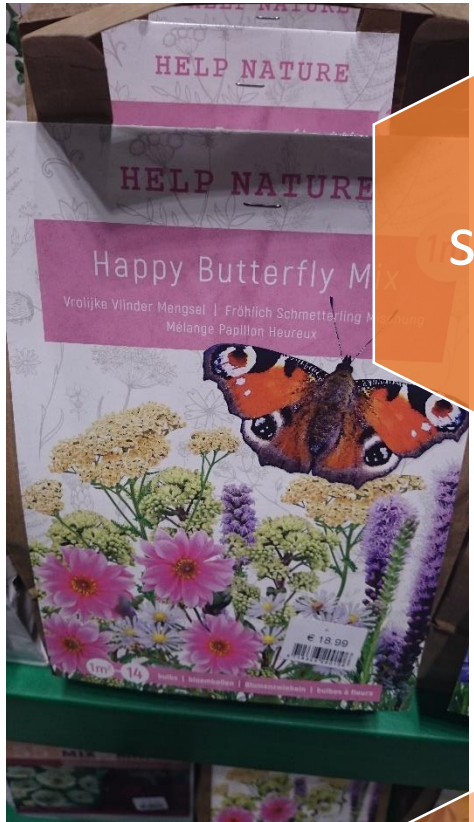
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# Partner farms with investments M + S + N



# Grassland products with high added value M + N



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# Ecosystem services M + S + N



Desk study

Cases

Provisioning:  
food,  
materials,  
plants

Regulating:  
carbon  
seq./storage  
erosion,  
pollinations

Habitat/  
supporting:  
spp, genetic  
diversity

Cultural:  
traditions,  
recreation

# Social benefits, national identity S + N



Live  
country  
side

Work-  
places

Small and  
medium  
farms

Mosaic  
landscape

95%

Our  
identity



# Mobile grazing units M + N



4

60 +  
250

300  
ha / y

14  
N2K

6120\*  
6210\*  
6230\*  
6270\*  
6530\*

Business  
model



# GrassLIFE ganības

Mēs – liellopi un aitas – esam Latvijas Dabas fonda mobilais ganāmpulks. Mēs šeit strādājam un atjaunojam dabiskās pļavas.

**Lūdzam netraucēt!**  
Turieties drošā attālumā!  
Nebarojiet un nekaitiniet mūs!

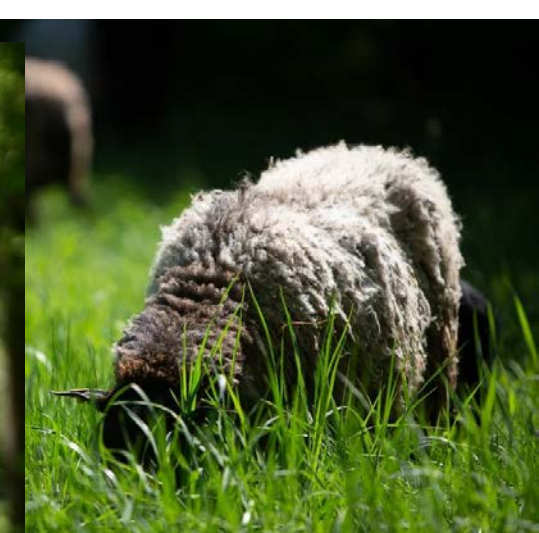
**Par plaukstošām pļavām!**

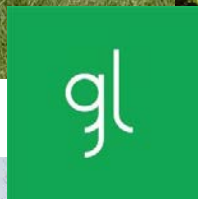
GrassLIFE ir Eiropas Savienības LIFE programmas finansēts projekts LIFE/NAT/LV/262, kura mērķis ir atjaunot izsīcošos zālājus un veicināt to ilgtspējīgu apsaimniekošanu.

**ievērojiet:**

- Aplokā nedrīkst strasties suni!
- Uzmanieties no elektrības!
- Nebojājiet aplokus un ganību infrastruktūru!
- Jautājumu un neskaidrību gadījumā zvaniet mūsu ganāmpulku koordinatoram!

29119612  
[www.grasslife.lv](http://www.grasslife.lv)





# So, is there a business?

Grazing on 300 ha / year  
60 cattle and 250 sheep

**Income:** Service for grazing ca 100-200 EUR/ha → 30,000 - 60,000 EUR/year  
+ income from selling the animals/meat = ??

## Yearly costs:

- staff, 2 FTE and all taxes = 45,000 EUR
- Insurance for cattle and staff = 4000 EUR
- Transportation costs = ???
- Electric fences = ???
- Mowing in the grazing areas = ????
- Equipment maintenance (fences, tractor, transport, etc.) = ????
- Winter fodder = 15,000 EUR

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# The after-LIFE

- Grasslands-based business improved in farms
- Mobile grazing units as a service, run by LFN (hopefully)
- Products from grasslands with high added value produced and promoted
- Information work and continuing to build the appreciation for grassland as a tremendous resource
- The main challenge – how to quantify that?

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