

# Country report on support framework: Lithuania



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# CAP SP budget structure



NATIONAL OBJECTIVES	Self-sufficiency in sustainably-grown agricultural products and <u>increasing sector's added value</u> (47 % of total budget)	Adaptation to climate change and conservation of natural resources (31 % of total budget)	Creating viable, farming- and business-friendly rural areas (22 % of total budget)
	Direct payments 1598	Direct payments 753,1	Direct payments 672,3
FINANCING, MILLION EUR	Rural development 358,7	Rural development 538,8	Rural development 245,4
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b> 1956,7	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b> 1291,9	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b> 917,7
Horizontal objective ( <u>training</u> , <u>advisory services</u> , EIP, technical assistance): 115,1 <u>million EUR</u> (Rural development).			
TOTAL for Direct payments: 3023,4 million EUR		TOTAL for Rural development: 1258 million EUR	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>		<b>4281,4 million EUR</b>	

# Conditionality SMRs



- **SMR 3** protects birds (whole LT territory);
- **SMR 4** protects other protected species and natural habitats (only in Natura 2000 sites);
- **Both SMRs** at the same time protect grasslands, as depending on the particular species or habitat it is forbidden to re-sow/plough grasslands, replace grasslands with crops, use pesticides or fertilizers etc.





# Conditionality GAEC standards (1)



## GAEC 1 - Maintenance of permanent grasslands

- No more than 5 % decrease of permanent grasslands area compared to 2018 is allowed;
- Sanctions are applied if applicants who are required to restore grasslands don't do it;
- To increase the areas of permanent grasslands, it is allowed to declare new grasslands as permanent ones with an obligation to maintain them for at least 5 years, also to renew (re-sow without ploughing) permanent grasslands without losing this status;
- The requirement for restoration of permanent grasslands does not apply if land is taken into state ownership and used for public interest, it was repurposed to a forest etc.

# Conditionality GAEC standards (2)



**GAEC 9 - Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive permanent grasslands in Natura 2000 sites**

Such grasslands can be renewed (ploughed and resown), if such a possibility is foreseen in the nature management plan (the written consent of the State Service for Protected Areas under the MoE is mandatory).



# Eco-schemes and Rural development measures



## Eco-schemes

- Conversion of peat soils into grasslands;
- Conversion of eroded land into grasslands;
- Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands (2 separate sub-schemes);
- Extensive management of wetlands.

## Rural development measures

- Conservation of wild birds outside the Natura 2000 sites;
- Support for Natura 2000 on agricultural land;
- Non-productive investments related to restoration and conservation of biodiversity, habitats and landscape.

Basic payment in 2023 - 77.27 EUR/ha



# Conversion of peat soils/eroded land into grasslands (1)



Eligible type of agricultural land – arable land included into the peat/eroded soil layers.

At the end of the commitment period, these areas will have to be declared as permanent grasslands.

## **Payment rate:**

Conversion of peat soils into grasslands - 225 Eur/ha;

Conversion of eroded land into grasslands - 187 Eur/ha.

# Conversion of peat soils/eroded land into grasslands (2)



## Requirements

- Grasslands should be established only in those arable peat lands/eroded land areas which were declared as arable land last year, except grasslands up to 5 years;
- The hydrological regime cannot be changed;
- No-ploughing, including no-till technologies, do not resow grasslands with cultural grasses during the 2-5th year of obligation;
- Graze or mow at least once a year at the latest as of September 1;
- During the commitment period in the first year of the declaration not to increase the area by more than 10 %, but not more as 1 ha and not reduce it by more than 10 %;
- Commitment period – 5 years.
- The application for support is submitted annually throughout the commitment period.



# Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands (1)



## Two sub-schemes

- "Extensive management of permanent grasslands with animals grazing";
- "Management of natural grasslands, wetlands and species habitats of EC importance".

**The eligible area for support** is at least 1 ha, for each activity separately.

## Duration of commitments:

"Extensive management of perennial grasslands with animals grazing" - **1 year**;

"Management of natural grasslands, wetlands and species habitats of EC importance" - **2 years**.

## Payment rate:

Extensive management of permanent grasslands by grazing animals - 192 EUR/ha;

Management of natural grasslands of EC importance - 297 EUR/ha;

Management of wetlands of EC importance - 330 EUR/ha.



# Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands (2)



## General obligations of both sub-schemes

- Do not plow, including no-till technologies, do not replant with cultural grasses, do not install drainage, irrigation systems;
- Do not use plant protection products, do not fertilize with mineral or organic fertilizers, do not spread sewage sludge;
- Graze 0.3 LU/ha-1 LU/ha (with some exceptions), the grazing period is not limited;
- Mow without spreading or shredding only the remains of ungrazed grass from the 20th of June, remove the mowed grass until the 1 of October, except if grazing 0.5-1 LU/ha;
- To fill in the register of Completed farm work (for control of mowing and removal of grass from the field) and the Grazing register.

# Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands (3)



## Specific obligations

For the activity "Management of natural grasslands, wetlands and species habitats of EC importance", it is possible to choose the management method - mowing or grazing.

**Additional obligations** related to the characteristics of protected species or natural habitat are also applied:

- Different mowing start or finish date;
- Different grazing intensity;
- Mosaic mowing (20-30 % of area has to be left unmowed and the location of the non-mowing area every year should be changed);
- It is not allowed additionally feed farm animals on the area during the grazing period (valid for all species and habitats).



# Extensive management of wetlands (1)



**The eligible area for support is at least 1 ha.**

**Duration of obligations - 5 years.**

**Payment rate – 242 EUR/ha.**

During the commitment period in the first year, the declared area should not be increased by more than 10 %, but also no more than 1 ha and can not be reduced by more than 10 %.



# Extensive management of wetlands (2)



## Requirements

- Do not plow, including no-till technologies, do not replant with cultivated grasses, do not install new drainage systems;
- Do not use plant protection products, do not fertilize with mineral and organic fertilizers;
- To fill in the register of completed farm work (for control of mowing and removal of cut grass from the field) and the Grazing register;
- Make hay or graze animals (optional);
- Mowing, start it no earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, and remove the mowed grass by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March of the following year;
- If you choose to graze, you must own farm animals;
- Graze 0.3 LU/ha-1 LU/ha, the grazing period is not limited;
- If grazing is 0.3-0.5 LU/ha the remains of ungrazed grass from the 20th of June should be cut and removed (grass spreading or shredding is not allowed);
- Do not additionally feed farm animals on the area during the grazing period.



# Rural development measures (1)



## Conservation of wild birds outside the Natura 2000 sites

The support is granted annually for the grasslands outside the Natura 2000 area (within the special data layer), with the aim of compensating the additional costs and lost income.

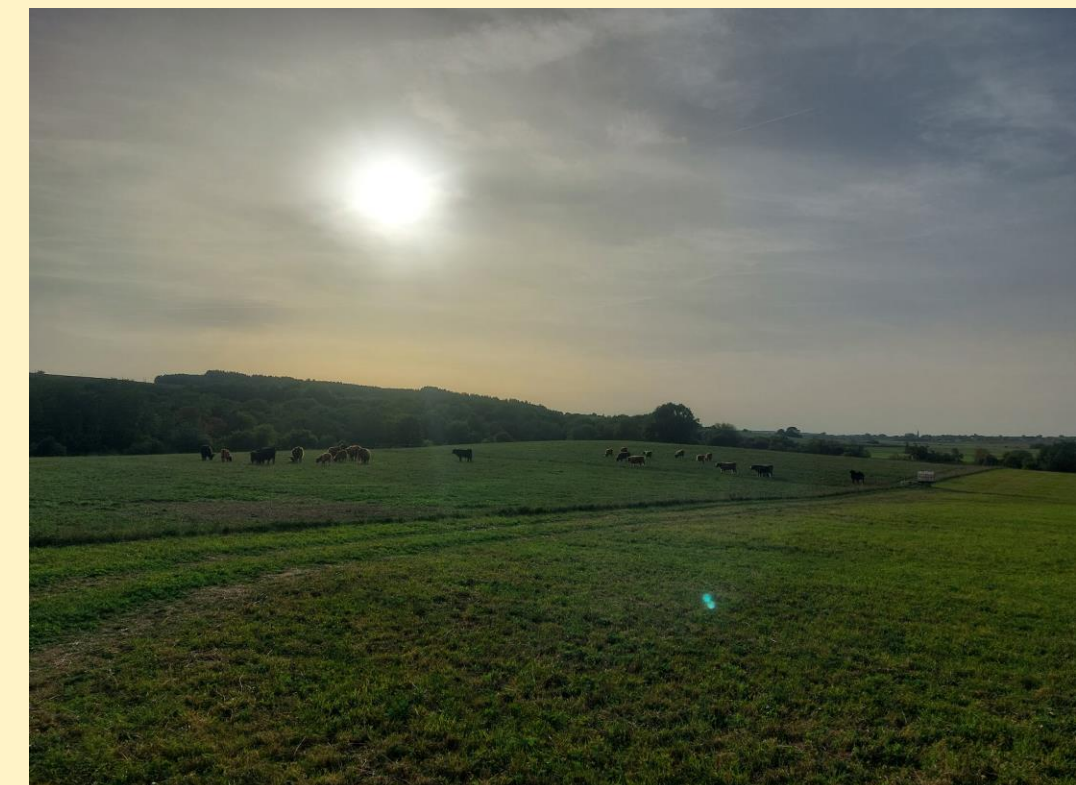
The duration of the commitment period is **5 years**. The application is submitted every year, the same areas are declared.

The area eligible for support, for which compensatory payments are paid, is at least 1 ha, consisting of fields of at least 0,1 ha area.

### Requirements:

- To mow from June 20 until October 30 (take the cut grass out of the field) or to graze;
- Not use mineral and organic fertilizers, plant protection products.

**Payment rate** – 74 EUR/ha.





# Rural development measures (2)



## Support for Natura 2000 on agricultural land

The area eligible for support, for which compensatory payments are paid for grasslands up to 5 years and permanent grasslands in the special data layer of Natura 2000 in agricultural areas, is at least 0,5 ha, consisting of fields of at least 0,1 ha. The duration of the commitment period is **1 year**.

### **The declared area must have at least one of the restrictions:**

- Ban on using fertilizers and pesticides or liming agricultural land;
- Ban on draining or changing the hydrological regime of the territory;
- Limited number of grazing animals (no more intensively than 1 LU/ha);
- The terms of grazing or mowing are set.



If in a specific area mowing or grazing terms are not regulated, an obligation to mow the meadow is from June 20 until October 30 or to graze (the term of grazing is not determined, the intensity of grazing is not higher than 1 LU/ha).

**Payment rate** – 76 EUR/ha.

# Rural development measures (3)



## Non-productive investments related to restoration and conservation of biodiversity, habitats and landscape

**The goal** - to manage abandoned natural and semi-natural meadows and wetlands (territories where extensive agricultural activities used to take place, but are currently discontinued), restoring their favorable condition and creating conditions for the survival of protected species and natural habitats.

The following **species and natural habitats** of EC importance are protected: *Acrocephalus paludicola*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Maculinea teleius*, *Osmoderma barnabita*, *Lycaena helle*, *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Thesium ebracteatum*, *Gallinago media*, *Limosa limosa*, *Tringa totanus*, *Numenius arquata*, 6530, 5130, 9070, 2330, 6120, 6210, 6230, 6410.

**Eligible area for financing** - areas of protected species habitats and natural habitats of EC importance determined by the MoE or its authorized institution. The area eligible for support, for which compensatory payments are paid, is at least 0.5 ha.

# Rural development measures (4)



## Funded expenses of investment measure:

- Removal and maintenance of woody vegetation (including invasive plants);
- Removal and maintenance of herbaceous vegetation (including invasive plants);
- Removal of woody and herbaceous vegetation;
- Installation of pasture fences in areas where there were no pastures until now, or pasture structures are dilapidated;
- Installation of new shallow ponds in the habitats of turtles in meadows and pastures up to 0.1 ha.



The maximum support intensity is 100 % of eligible expenses.

After the implementation of this intervention, it is **mandatory to participate in the activity** of "Management of natural meadows, wetlands and species habitats of EC importance" of the CAP pillar I intervention "Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands ", the commitment period of which is 2 years.



# Declaration results of 2023



Eco-scheme	Declared area, ha	Planned area, ha	Implemented area (% of the planned area)
<b>1. Conversion of peat soils into grasslands</b>	1939,7	3 968	48,9
<b>2. Conversion of eroded land into grasslands</b>	41,07	840	4,9
<b>3. a.</b> Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands: sub-scheme " <b>Extensive management of perennial grasslands with animals grazing</b> "	21 807	23 938	91
<b>3. b.</b> Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands: sub-scheme " <b>Management of natural grasslands, grasslands and species habitats of EC importance</b> "	2 401	7 390	32
<b>4. Extensive management of wetlands</b>	1 989	12 965	15

The RDP measures - only continuous obligations were carried out (from previous 2014-2020 period.)

# Update of the SP regarding grasslands (1)



## Change I of SP

### The eco-scheme "Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands"

- Two additional habitats were added (7140 and 7230);
- The sub-scheme "**Extensive management of permanent grasslands with animal grazing**" - the prohibition to re-sow grasslands with cultivated grasses was included;
- The sub-scheme "**Management of natural grasslands, wetlands and species habitats of EC importance**":
  - It was decided to define the specific mowing and grazing requirements for individual species not in the SP, but in the rules;
  - The general deadlines for the end of mowing are aligned with the activities criteria established for receiving direct payments;
  - The requirement to have farm animals will only apply if grazing is selected.

# Update of the SP regarding grasslands (2)



## Change II of SP (not approved by the EC yet)

- For farms which have at least 40% of permanent grasslands or which will newly establish 3 % of permanent grasslands (from the declared area of agricultural land), from 2024 will be easier to participate in the complex ecological system for arable land.
- New eco-scheme for 1) establishment and 2) renewing of permanent grasslands is created, according to which additional payments will be paid from 2024.
- Farmers who at the end of the year of 2023 will get an obligation to restore perennial grasslands, the area of declared perennial grass strips, as well the areas both according to GAEC 4 and when establishing new and/or maintaining grassy landscape elements according to the eco-schemes will be fully included in the restored area of permanent grasslands in 2024.



# Update of the SP regarding grasslands (3)



Change II of SP (not approved by the EC yet)

## **Eco-scheme "Integrated management of grasslands and wetlands":**

- Reduce the requirement to have farm animals from at least 0.3 LU/ha to at least 0.1 LU/ha;
- Reduce the grazing intensity requirement from 0.3–1 LU/ha to 0.1–1 LU/ha;
- Specify that during grazing and when additional mowing is necessary, the grass must not always be removed, only when it is grazed with a certain intensity.

## **Eco-scheme „Extensive management of wetlands":**

- Reduce the grazing intensity requirement from 0.3–1 LU/ha to 0.1–1 LU/ha;
- Shorten the commitment period to 2 years.



**Thank you  
for your attention**