WOODMEADOWLIFE

„Restoring and promoting a long term sustainable management of Fennoscandian wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia“

LIFE20 NAT/EE/000074

Deliverable action E5

UNESCO compliance seminar taken place

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Beneficiary in charge:

Estonian Academy of Arts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Estonian wooded meadows have been inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage tentative list since 2004. However, since 2004 limited if no steps have been taken to advance the ambition to promote these unique biotopes on a global level. The aim of the current activity is to (re)start the discussions with UNESCO Estonia National Commission, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, Environmental Board and the governmental, non-governmental and municipal institutions that take care of wooded meadows. Simultaneously the consultations with relevant international institutions and partners were opened.

In addition to consultations with experts, EKA started a series of workshops with students of cultural heritage and conservation to discuss the relevance and challenges of World Heritage policies with young generations and analyse the World Heritage List sites, the nominations and state of conservation.

The main events

- May 2022 Meeting with Pärandkoosluste Ühing in Tartu. Participants: Riin Alatalu (EKA), Andrus Laansalu (EKA), Jaak-Albert Metsoja (PKÜ), Jüri Metssalu (expert). The meeting focused on identifying partners and levels of cooperation.
- June 2023 Presentation and discussion at the Wooded Meadows Summer School in Abruka. Participants: experts Riin Alatalu, Robert Treufeldt, Elo Lutsepp and Andrus Laansalu and 18 students from the Estonian Academy of Arts, the University of Latvia, the Latvian Academy of Arts, the University of Tartu and foreign students from Japan and Brazil.
- Jan 2024 Student debate to discuss the peculiarities of mixed properties in the World Heritage List. Participants: Riin Alatalu, Andrus Laansalu, 8 EKA MMK23 master level students of Estonian Academy of Arts.
- June 2024 Participation at the study tour on comparative analysis to Gotland. Participant: Andrus Laansalu
- **Sept 2024 UNESCO Compliance seminar part I in EKA.** Participants: 10 participants from EKA, the Environmental Board, Ministry of Environment, UNESCO National Commission, Tartu University, Pärandkoosluste Ühing, Tallinn Botanical Garden
- Jan 2025 Student debate to discuss the peculiarities of mixed properties in the World Heritage List. Participants: Riin Alatalu, Andrus Laansalu, 8 EKA MMK24 master level students of Estonian Academy of Arts.
- **Apr 2025 UNESCO Compliance seminar part II in Kõue Manor.** Participants: 22 participants from EKA, the Environmental Board, Ministry of Environment, UNESCO National Commission, Tartu University, Pärandkoosluste Ühing, Tallinn Botanical Garden and EKA students.
- Apr 2025 presentation and discussion with the teachers of biology and nature sciences in Nedrema. Participants: Riin Alatalu, Andrus Laansalu, teachers
- May 2025 Meetings with the Ministry of Environment and Environmental Board and representatives of IUCN.
- June 2025 Presentation to the general audience in Luhtre.
- Sept 2025 consultations for the preparations for the application for preliminary assessment request (delivered by the Ministry of Climate to UNESCO in Sept)
- Nov 2025 consultations with IUCN and ICOMOS.
- Dec 2025 Student debate to discuss the peculiarities of mixed properties in the World Heritage List Participants: Riin Alatalu, Andrus Laansalu,, 6 EKA MMK25 master level students of Estonian Academy of Arts.
- **March-April 2026 UNESCO Compliance student workshop in Käru.** Participants: Riin Alatalu, Andrus Laansalu, Anneli Randla, Epp Lankots and 8 master level students of cultural heritage and conservation.

The UNESCO Compliance seminars were carried out in two parts in September 2024 and April 2025. The seminars were targeted to the decision making bodies of Estonia.

09.09.2024 in Estonian Academy of Arts

Participants (10): Margit Siim (UNESCO NC), Urve Sinijärv (Tallinn Botanical Gardens), Heidi Öövel (Estonian Environmental Board), Andrus Laansalu (EKA), Riin Alatalu(EKA), Jaak-Albert Metsoja (PKY), Silvia Lotman (PKY), Kaja Lotman (PKY), Hanno Zingel (MInistry of Climate), Reet Vaiksalu (Estonian Environmental Board)

Agenda:

- The procedure of UNESCO nomination
- The potential joint nomination with Sweden, Finland and Latvia
- The drafting of nomination files
- Identification of responsible persons and institutions
- Division of tasks.

02.04.2025 in Kõue Manor

Participants (22): Margit Siim (UNESCO NC), Urve Sinijärv (Tallinn Botanical Gardens), Heidi Öövel (Estonian Environmental Board), Andrus Laansalu (EKA), Riin Alatalu(EKA), Jaak-Albert Metsoja (PKY), Silvia Lotman (PKY), Kaja Lotman (PKY), Hanno Zingel (MInistry of Climate), Reet Vaiksalu (Estonian Environmental Board), Aveliina Helm (Tartu University), Triin Reitalu (Tartu University), Toomas Kukk (ELF), Kalev Sepp (Estonian University of Life Sciences), 8 EKA master level students of cultural heritage and conservation

Agenda:

- The procedure of UNESCO nomination. Update
- The potential joint nomination with Sweden, Finland and Latvia. Update
- The drafting of nomination files. Update
- Identification of responsible persons and institutions. Update
- Reports on actions
- Visit of Kõue Manor
- Presentation of Wooded meadows video games



Seminar in Kõue 02.04.2025

To discuss and reflect the challenges of UNESCO compliance and provide input for the preliminary assessment as part of upstream processes EKA organised a student workshop dedicated to 31.03-02.04.2026 in Käru.

Participants: Riin Alatalu, Andrus Laansalu, Anneli Randla, Epp Lankots and 8 master level students of cultural heritage and conservation.

Agenda:

- The World Heritage Convention
- 5 Cs: Credibility; Conservation; Capacity building; Communication; Communities
- Outstanding Universal Value
- Selection Criteria
- Comparative Analysis
- State of Conservation
- Community involvement



Workshop in Käru 31.03-02.04.2026