

# European drivers for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Eastern Europe

Belarusian-Russian University, Mahilioŭ, Belarus, August 13-14, 2018

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## The workshop aim, objectives and outcomes

The aim of the workshops is to discuss the state of the art in the development of EU biodiversity policies, and their external dimension (intended and unintended) in the context of the countries of Eastern Neighbourhood (also EaP) (especially Belarus) and Russia. We will primarily explore the conventions of the Council of Europe:

- **European Landscape (Florence) Convention** (*not ratified by Belarus and Russia*),
- **Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.**

In addition, we are going to discuss the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (**Aarhus Convention**), recognising its high potential for the promotion of good environmental governance.

We are going to explore, how the Conventions provide (or can provide in case of the Florence Convention) useful context for addressing the challenges faced by key stakeholder groups involved to biodiversity governance. We also take into account that the implementation of these conventions, as well as their potential to achieve the set targets is heavily contested by the stakeholders in Eastern Europe.

During the workshop we will examine, what are the challenges addressed (or expected to be addressed) by the Conventions, what are their perceived or expected impacts by various stakeholder groups, what agendas are persuaded, and how to make better use of the conventions and their institutions. We will also explore specific management and research tools promoted by the convention (e.g. mechanisms for the identification of Emerald network sites under the Berne Convention), and their relevance and utility in the Eastern European policy, management, physical planning and academic contexts.

In addition, we will discuss the **EU Research and Innovation Policy on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)** (European Commission, 2015), as a potential driver for innovative development in the fields, and also will try to identify other policies and mechanisms the EU has in place and that can be used for the promotion of quality landscapes, biodiversity conservation targets and sustainable livelihoods in Eastern Europe. This discussion will be closely related with the discussion on the Conventions, and it will provide space for highly specific local issues from peri-urban and urban contexts from across Eastern and Central Europe.

The outcomes of the workshop include a policy brief summarising and analysing stakeholder perspectives, and research papers addressing the issues explored on the workshops, and coordinated by attending scholars.

## Workshop participants

The workshop will bring together researchers and representatives of various stakeholder groups from the EU and Eastern European countries:

- Representatives of stakeholder involved with biodiversity and land-use governance in Eastern Europe, including biodiversity conservation areas, conservation agencies, local authorities, representatives of business, academia and NGO sector.
- Representatives of EU institutions and of various EU interest groups.
- Keynote speakers, high profile scientists.
- Postdocs or advanced PhD students working on or interested to develop new research on the case studies.

## Preliminary Schedule

**August 13, 2018:** Aarhus, Florence and Bern Conventions: what is their value for the EaP and Russia? On the morning and early afternoon we will hear keynote speakers covering national policy frameworks, challenges and implementation experiences (including spatial planning, development of ecological networks and corridors etc) in Belarus, Russia and selected Eastern & Central European countries departing from similar political and/or socioeconomic contexts. The late afternoon will provide space for a panel discussion on usability and performance of the Conventions.

**August 14, 2018:** Nature-Based Solutions for Smart Cities – what EU/Visegrad experience can be shared?

Likewise, the morning and early afternoon sessions will be filled with the talks describing local cases and national challenges in relation to NBS and smart cities across the EaP and Russia, as well as Visegrad and other EU countries. In the late afternoon we will wrap up, relate to the outcomes of the previous day, and make broader conclusions on the role of management and policy tools provided by the Conventions in the promotion of NBS and smart cities.

**Expressions of interest accompanied by CV are accepted until June 15, 2018 through [grass.jeanmonnet@gmail.com](mailto:grass.jeanmonnet@gmail.com)**



GRASS – EU governance of natural resources: geopolitics, regions and sectors (587697-EPP-1-2017-1-RUEPPJMO-PROJECT)

Pskov State University (RU)  
Erda Research, Technology, Education (NL)  
Central European University (HU)

Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE)  
NGO Ekapraekt (BY)  
RZ. Research. Management. Communication (SE)



NEXT – Nature-Based Solutions for Smart Cities (the project of the International Visegrad Foundation)

Belarusian-Russian University (RU)  
Warsaw University of Life Sciences (PL)  
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZ)

Slovak University of Agriculture (SK)  
Hungarian Climate Alliance (HU)  
NGO “EKAPRAEKT” (BY)



SMART-U-GREEN - Governing conflicting perspectives on transformations in the urban rural continuum

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