

European drivers for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Eastern Europe

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

Workshop is co-organized by projects: Jean-Monnet **GRASS** - *EU governance of natural resources: geopolitics, regions and sectors*, the International Visegrad Foundation **NEXT** – *Nature-Based Solutions for Smart Cities*, Horizon 2020 **SMART-U-GREEN** - *Governing conflicting perspectives on transformations in the urban rural continuum*, CBHE Erasmus+ **INTENSE** – *Integrated Doctoral Program for Environmental Policy, Management and Technology*

Background notes

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 (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 key outcome of the workshop is a critical analysis of the EU (and EU-promoted) institutions that will be summarised in a policy brief, and discussed in a research papers.

Schedule

Venue: Belarusian-Russian University, Building 1, room 323 (Mira Ave. 43)

August 13, 2018:

- 10.00 – registration and welcome coffee
- 11.00-11.30 – opening, welcoming addresses, introduction

Aarhus Convention for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Belarus, and its perspectives for Russia

co-chaired by Hanna Skryhan and Iryna Usava

- 11.30-12.10 – Keynotes on the Aarhus Convention (20 min per talk):
 - **Olga Zakharova** – Aarhus Convention in Belarus – implementation issues and perspectives
 - **Siarhei Mahonau** – Involvement of non-governmental sector to the Aarhus process and cooperation on Aarhus objectives for better environment
- 12.10-12.50 – Panel discussion on the mechanisms and outcomes of the Aarhus process for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Belarus and perspectives for Russia

Lunch break, 12.50-13.50

Florence Convention: mechanisms for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

co-chaired by Massimo Sargolini and Mária Bihuňová

- 13.50-14.50 – Keynotes on the Florence Convention (20 min per talk):
 - **Diana Pungar** – History and implementation context of Florence Convention
 - **Viktar Kireyeu, Olga Likhacheva and Nikolai Sobolev** – Options for Florence Convention in Belarus and Russia: opportunities and barriers
 - **Volodymir Rozhak** – Florence Convention in Ukraine – what works and what does not
- 14.50-15.20 – Panel discussion on the Florence mechanisms for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

Coffee break, 15.20-15.50

Berne Convention: mechanisms for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

co-chaired by Kalev Sepp and Viktar Kireyeu

- 15.50-16.50 – Keynotes on the Florence Convention (20 min per talk):
 - **Nikolai Sobolev** – Development of the Emerald network in Russia – coherence between Berne and national approaches and criteria
 - **Andrei Abramchuk, Marina Abramchuk** – Development of the Emerald network in Belarus – coherence between Berne and national approaches and criteria
 - **Alena Shushkova, Anna Sidorovich, Vladimir Ustin** – Directions and policy options for further development of National Ecological Network and System of Protected Areas (PA) in Belarus
- 16.50-17.20 – Panel discussion on the Berne mechanisms for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

Wrap-up session and conclusions

co-chaired by Kalev Sepp and Viktar Kireyeu

- 17.20-17.50 – Aarhus, Florence and Bern Conventions: what is their value for the EaP and Russia?

Workshop dinner, 18.30-21.00 (venue tbc)

August 14, 2018:

Nature-based solutions and smart cities: policy context, objectives and challenges

co-chaired by Attila Katona and Agnieszka Karczmarczyk

- 10.00-11.00 – talks on policy and conceptual foundations (30 min per talk):

- **Matthijs Hisschemöller** – Governing the transition to smart urban green
- **Kalev Sepp** – Nature-Based Solutions – policy and management objectives, approaches and tools

Coffee break, 11.00-11.30

- 11.30-12.00 – Panel discussion on science, management and policy of smart cities and NBS

Nature-based solutions for smart cities in Europe – an overview

co-chaired by Olga Likhacheva and Ilenia Pierantoni

- 12.00-13.20 – talks on lessons learned (20 min per talk):

- **Attila Katona** – NATURVATION project – results from across Europe and Urban Nature Atlas
- **Mária Bihuňová** – Development of green infrastructure and promotion of nature-based solutions in Slovakia – policy and management challenges
- **Agnieszka Karczmarczyk** – Development of green-blue networks and infrastructure in Polish cities – outcomes and lessons learned
- **Attila Katona** – Nature-Based Solutions in Hungary – an overview

Lunch break, 13.20-14.10

- 14.10-14.40 – Panel discussion on NBS and smart city development experiences around Europe

Governance of good urban and peri-urban landscapes – policy context in the EaP and Russia

co-chaired by Matthijs Hisschemöller and Iryna Usava

- 14.40-15.40 – talks on policy and management contexts and objectives (20 min per talk):

- **Elena Pavlova** - National planning & urban development policy objectives, smart cities and nature-based solutions in Belarus
- **Nikolai Bobylev** – Nature-based solutions and smart cities for Russia – policy context and options
- **Petr Kiryushin** – Universities as drivers for development of sustainable & smart cities: opportunities for Russia's and international perspectives

Coffee break, 15.40-16.10

- 16.10-16.40 – panel discussion on options for NBS and smart cities in the EaP and Russia

Wrap-up session and conclusions

co-chaired by Matthijs Hisschemöller, Attila Katona and Nikolai Bobylev








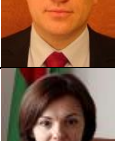



- 16.40-17.10 – European drivers for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Eastern Europe













Meeting of the editorial group













co-chaired by Anton Shkaruba and Kalev Sepp













- 17.10-18.00 – Discussions of policy conclusions and recommendations; perspectives of a scholarly paper

Workshop participants:

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Erda Research, Technology, Education (NL)

Central European University (HU)

<http://grass.pskgu.ru/>

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*)

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<http://en.bru.by/content/departments/internationaldepartment/next>

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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SAAD University of Camerino (IT)

IATEUR IRCS Université de Reims (FR)

Regio Drechtsteden (NL)

Marche Region (IT)

Reims Métropole (FR)

<https://ipi-urbaneurope.eu/project/smart-u-green/>

University of Zagreb (HR)

Pskov State University (RU)

NGO EKAPRAEKT (BY)

CIVILSCAPE (DE)

School of Environmental Design and Rural

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INTENSE – Integrated Doctoral Program for Environmental Policy, Management and Technology (586471-EPP-1-2017-1-EE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP)

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