

Nordic-Baltic LIFE Platform Meeting

# Human meets Nature: Stories of LIFE

Field Trip No 2.

## Wooded Meadows and Farmlands

9th of September, 8:30-17:30



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

This field trip gives an opportunity to explore the largest wooded meadow complex in Haavakannu Nature Reserve, which aim is to protect local forest ecosystems and semi-natural grasslands. We also visit Piira farm and meet the local manager to learn about different biodiversity approaches used in agricultural land.



Our first stop is the **Haavakannu wooded meadow**, which is 211 hectares wooded meadow complex in North-East Estonia. The meadow has partly become overgrown in recent decades due to changes in traditional management practices. With the help of the WoodMeadowLIFE project, 15 hectares of meadow were restored in early 2025, habitats were created for bats and insects that depend on decaying wood, and seeds of meadow plants were sown to support faster recovery.

After the lunch in Rakvere, we visit **Piira Farm**, where a seventh generation farmer and rancher Kalmer Visnapuu manages 62 hectares of forest, arable land and wooded pastures. Kalmer is testing innovative approaches to increase biodiversity and soil regeneration in farmland. Together with the LIFE IP “ForEst&FarmLand” project, he has established eight-meter-wide grassland strips on one of his fields to provide food resources, shelter and wintering sites for species, as well as to help increase habitat diversity and provide springboards for organisms moving across the landscape. The strips are arranged so that beneficial insects can provide natural pest control throughout the field.



The day ends with a visit to **small water bodies restored for amphibians in the Mädapea oak-tree landscape reserve**. Since amphibians need both terrestrial and aquatic habitats, a collection of small water bodies with different natural habitats ensures their successful reproduction and species diversity. To restore such habitats, 91 small water bodies adjacent to intensively managed agricultural landscapes have been restored by the LIFE IP “ForEst&FarmLand”, we explore a few of them.



*The field trip is guided by the “WoodmeadowLIFE” and LIFE IP “ForEst&FarmLand” coordinators and experts of University of Tartu.*