

Field visits – Tuesday 18 June 2024 at 14:00

Participants will be divided into 2 groups. One of the groups will go with one bus to 1st Field trip north of Ljubljana, second group will join the second bus and will visit the 2nd Field trip south of Ljubljana, then, both groups will exchange and visit also the other location.

1st Field trip to National Institute of Biology and to dry meadows in Roje (north of Ljubljana)

General information about National Institute of Biology

National Institute of Biology (NIB) is one of the independent Public Research Institution for Life Sciences in Slovenia. The basic activity of the Institute is basic, developmental and applicative research in the fields of biotechnology, biophysics, biomedicine and system biology. As such the Institute is a project partner also in some recent EIP projects.

a. EIP Project: Supporting pollinators in intensive agricultural landscapes to promote biodiversity (EIP-POMOP)

The project contributes to the development and application of solutions or practices that will **improve conditions for pollinators and biodiversity** in the agricultural landscape. By using **stubble litter** (remains of crop residues, such as stalks and leaves, left on the field after the main part of the crop has been harvested) **and ground nest boxes**, project will improve the nutritional conditions and nesting opportunities for pollinators. The use of mixed stubble residues will also contribute to the protection of soil and other fauna (which is important for the circulation of substances and soil fertility) and prevents the leaching of nutrients. The effect of solutions on biodiversity is thus manifold, direct and indirect. The solutions will also benefit agriculture, as they will contribute to the protection of many ecosystem services.

Expected results are the use of stubble byproducts to improve nutritional conditions for pollinators, the use of ground nesting sites for solitary bees to increase their populations in agricultural landscapes and the use of additional options to improve living conditions for pollinators and protect biodiversity. Among dissemination products are a manual and educational video, training courses and lectures, and experts consultation.

Project coordinator: National Institute of Biology

Number of farms included: 5

Duration: 2022–2025

[Link to the project \(in English\)](#)

[Link to the project \(in Slovene\)](#)



b. EIP Project: Fruit growers for pollinators and pollinators for fruit growers (EIP-SOOS)

We are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of **wild pollinators** (bumblebees, solitary bees...), which are key to reliable pollination, but their numbers are declining. Without pollinator diversity, there is no food security. Pollinators are in the interest of agriculture and society in general. The EIP project Fruit growers for pollinators and pollinators for fruit growers was one of the first in the field of pollinator protection in agriculture in Slovenia and contributed to the goals of Slovenia becoming a model for sustainable management of pollinator populations. Project results contribute to reliable food production and protection of biodiversity, and at the same time Slovenia could become an example for other countries.

In the fruit orchards that were included in the project, the nutritional and nesting conditions for pollinators were improved. A training program for farmers, lectures and workshops was carried out, a consultation was organized, a manual was published, and educational video content was published.

Project coordinator: National Institute of Biology
 Number of fruit growing partners: 6
 Duration: 2018–2022

[Link to the project \(in English\)](#)

[Link to the project \(in Slovene\)](#)

General information about location in Roje



Grassland rich in biodiversity, Roje (botanical garden)

Roje is located to the north of Ljubljana. The site is located on gravel soils along the Sava River and is one of two lowland areas along the Sava River where some grasslands are still well preserved. The area belongs to the Natura 2000 network, is an Ecologically Important Area. In 2002 the University Botanic Gardens Ljubljana took a dry meadow which is a natural value of national importance (botanical and ecosystem



features) on lease. The meadow covers 2 ha in the middle of intensively cultivated agricultural fields. Dry meadow is mowed once a year, usually in August, contributing to its conservation. The meadow has been under constant monitoring since then, and it is currently home of a variety of plants, including many listed in the Red List of endangered plants. During the visit, the meadow will be in bloom, and we will be able to see how dry meadows and the surrounding intensively cultivated farmland coexist including its role regarding pollinators and discuss on pollinator-friendly farming practices. Importantly, it is a combination of native grassland plants and pollinators that have co-evolved with these plants, thereby providing the best range of services for cultivated plants as well.

[More information](#)



2nd Field trip to Ljubljana Marshes (south of Ljubljana)



Photo: Interweaving of agricultural areas and nature elements (like hedges) on Ljubljana Marshes (Anže Bizjan, Depositphotos)

General information about location

Ljubljana Marshes is a wetland and peat bogs area situated south of Ljubljana. This is the largest marsh area in the country with 163 square kilometres (1% of Slovenian territory). In the past, the area was drainage for cultivation and was object of large-scale peat extraction. Currently, a major part of the area is protected in the Ljubljana Marsh Nature Park and is part of Natura 2000 network. The marshes are home of rare plant and animal species.

Agricultural land covers two thirds of the area, mainly meadows, fields and gardens. Farmers face, on the one hand, potential and opportunities, but on the other hand, limitations, which they face due to limitations imposed by various regulations and requirements (nature park, NATURA 2000, CAP and national regulations).

During the visit we will have a tour through the wetland meadows and their biodiversity, exploring preserved and new or renewed hedges and hedgerows, and get to know practical examples of pollinator-friendly practices in agriculture applied in the area.

[Ljubljana Marsh Nature Park brochure](#)



c. EIP Project: Farming with(for) biodiversity on lowland farms in Slovenia (EIP-VIVEK)

Suitable agricultural practices are crucial for maintaining pollinators and bird populations and grassland habitat protection. **The project design and test different biodiversity friendly agricultural practices on grasslands and arable fields.** It designs conservation measures for pollinators, three bird species that nest mainly on arable fields, and two grassland habitat types. Furthermore, adjusted management is performed on arable fields and landscape elements, lacking in farmland, are established (e.g. hedges). The project includes training course for agricultural holdings and an analysis of feasibility of transferring tested measures into practice.

The results of the project were also important for designing current agricultural policy in Slovenia, based on results and pilot testing we have special result oriented agri-environmental measures.

Project coordinator: E-institute, Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions
Number of farmers: 6
Duration: 2021–January 2024

[Link to the project \(in English\)](#)

[Link to the project \(in Slovene\)](#)

