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**EGC 2019**

**16<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Grassland Conference**  
in Graz, Austria and Maribor, Slovenia  
29 May – 05 June 2019

## Species-rich grasslands in the Palaearctic – a treasure without economic value?

Registration is open at: [www.edgg.org/conference\\_2019.html](http://www.edgg.org/conference_2019.html)



Grazing milk cows on a species rich *Cynosurion* pasture near Neumarkt/Steiermark, Austria (photo by M. Janišová)

### Second call

Semi-natural grasslands in the Palaearctic biogeographical realm are exceptionally species rich; they are a treasure of nature. However, their values are often neglected in man's thinking from the perspectives of management of natural resources and policy measures – and even in assessment of their economic value. The **aim** of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Eurasian Grassland Conference is to show the possibilities of how central European semi-natural grasslands can fulfill important ecosystem functions and together still generate income for their owners.

In addition, it aims to promote networking and collaboration between those interested in all aspects of semi-natural and natural grassland research and conservation. The conference is intended to bring together the latest research and link this to practical management and policy, thereby contributing to the sustainability of semi-natural grasslands and their animal and plant resources.



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The conference will include the following sessions:

### **1. Do species rich grasslands still have economic value? Examples from farming and conservation practice**

This topic is targeted specifically to people with practical experience or interest in generating economic value from species rich grasslands, for example producing and dealing with hayseed or high-quality milk or meat products. We hope we can establish a forum, that can bring together people with clever ideas that could help to promote them or could test them in other Eurasian regions.

### **2. Grassland conservation**

This session welcomes all contributions to active conservation, conservation planning or grassland management, estimating threats to different taxonomical or syntaxonomical groups or to restoration of species rich grasslands.

### **3. Ethnobotanical contributions to grassland management practises**

This is an experiment, influenced by our keynote speaker Zsolt Molnár. His ethnobotanical studies (together with his working group) generated a lot of knowledge about special management practices of traditional grassland farmers. It is rather obvious that such knowledge got lost during the industrialisation process of European agronomy of the last 50 years. At least some of these practices can help to find new, more sustainable techniques to manage species rich grasslands.

### **4. Biodiversity of Palearctic grasslands**

This session will cover all aspects of grassland classification and contributions to biodiversity of all taxonomical groups concerning grasslands.

### **Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process workshop**

Additional to the sessions, we are planning a Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process (N2KBP) workshop (afternoon of the 29<sup>th</sup> May) facilitated by Theo van Sluis and his co-workers, similar to the EGC 2018 in Sulmona. The workshop will hold an introduction to the current state of the N2KBP and financial support programs. Depending on the special knowledge and interests of the participants, teams will be established to discuss topics like

- what values are obtained from grassland and steppes?
- what are traditional management methods that are still being practised and how have they developed/changed over time?
- which management is practised in novel LIFE programs in various countries, and what are best practices and lessons learned?
- what adjustments to EU grassland-related policies are necessary?
- International experiences.

The purpose of this workshop is to formulate concrete actions with regard to development of tools, priority support actions and knowledge sharing on existing tools and means available.

### **Special issue**

A special issue of an ISI listed journal related to the conference is planned, to which all contributors to the conference will be invited to submit papers.

### **Mid-conference excursion / Technical workshops**



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This year's mid-conference excursion, a good tradition of the EGCs, will lead to the market community Neumarkt/Steiermark, 120 km north-west of Graz, visiting farmers generating their income by utilizing species rich grasslands. Considering how short of time the conference is, because it is a stressful time for grassland people, we decided, after long internal discussions, to offer three optional workshops parallel to the excursion (see the programme below). There will be the possibility to attend at least two of them.

There will be

- a workshop for scientific writing (guided by Jürgen Dengler),
- a bryophyte determining (guided by Christian Berg), and
- a lichen determining (guided by Peter Bilovitz) workshop.

We invite you to register and submit abstracts for talks and poster via the website [www.edgg.org/conference 2019.html](http://www.edgg.org/conference 2019.html)  
Registration deadline: 22 March 2019

**IMPORTANT: Unfortunately, the number of participants for the post conference tour is restricted to forty (40). Thus, the local organizers are pushed to apply the principle of "first come, first served". It means that the first 40 who register themselves for the post conference tour will be served. The rest will be included in a waiting list. After application for the post-conference-excursion you will get an invoice and payment conditions per mail.**

### Important dates

Early Bird registration deadline – 1 March  
Travel grant application deadline – 1 March  
Late registration deadline – 22 March  
Abstract submission deadline – 22 March  
Post-conference excursion application – 22 March

Travel grant allocation – 12 April  
Acceptance of abstracts and type of presentation – 12 April

### Preliminary programme

<b>29 May</b>	<b>Workshop, registration</b>
12.00 – 17.00	Natura 2000 Workshop
18.00 – 21.00	Registration, welcome reception in the greenhouses of the botanical garden of the University of Graz
<b>30 May</b>	<b>Talks and Posters Sessions I and II</b>
08.00 – 09.00	Registration
09.15 – 09.45	Opening ceremony
09.45 – 10.45	Keynote lecture by Zsolt Molnár
11.00 – 21.00	Talks and posters
<b>31 May</b>	<b>Mid-conference excursion or optionally workshops; evening: grassland party</b>
08.00 – 09.00	Keynote lecture Matej Vidrih
09.15 – 18.00	Mid-conference excursion from Graz to Neumarkt



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09.15 – 14.00	Workshop Scientific writing (Jürgen Dengler)
09.15 – 14.00	Workshop determining mosses (Christian Berg)
14.15 – 18.00	Workshop determining lichens (Peter Bilovitz)
18.30 – 22.00	Grassland party in the greenhouses of the Botanical Garden
<b>01 June</b>	<b>Talks and Poster Sessions III and IV</b>
08.00 – 09.00	Keynote lecture by Wolfgang Willner
09.15 – 20.00	Talks and posters
20.00 – 21.00	EDGG General Assembly
21.00 – 22.30	Evening mixer in the greenhouses of the Botanical Garden
<b>02 – 05 June</b>	<b>Post-conference excursion to Slovenia (optional, max. 40 persons)</b>
02 June, 7.00	Departure from Graz (Holteigasse 6, greenhouses of the Botanical garden) to Slovenia
05 June, 12.00	Arrival at the Graz airport

## Fees and Registration

We invite you to register and submit abstracts for talks and poster via the website  
[www.edgg.org/conference 2019.html](http://www.edgg.org/conference 2019.html)  
 Registration deadline: 22 March 2019

	Early Bird registration until 1 March	Late Registration until 22 March
Students IAVS members*	150 €	180 €
Students (including PhD students), not IAVS members*	170 €	200 €
Other IAVS members*	200 €	230 €
Non-students and non-IAVS members	220 €	240 €

\*please submit evidence of IAVS membership and/or your enrolment at a University by emailing confirmation of matriculation to [martin.magnes@uni-graz.at](mailto:martin.magnes@uni-graz.at)

The registration fee provides full participation in the conference including registration and conference materials, admission to the conference, coffee breaks on the 30 May and 1 June, grassland party, mid conference excursion or one or two of the workshop(s) on 31th May.

The basic registration fee does **NOT include** the following, which can be booked separately:

Participation in the Natura 2000 workshop (29 May, 12.00 – 17.00)	30 €
Post-conference excursion to Slovenia (2 – 5 June)	320 €

Cancellation and repayment for symposium (hall sessions):

- 100% for cancellation until 7 May
- 80% for cancellation until 17 May



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- no refund for cancellation after 17 May

Cancellation and repayment for post-conference excursion to Slovenia:

- no refund for cancellation after 25 March

Payments should be made by bank transfer by 1 March at the latest for early bird registration and by 22 March for late registration. You will be provided with the bank details during the registration process and on your online invoice (after successful login).

[We are not able to accept payment of the registration fee at the conference: this must be paid in advance by bank transfer.](#)

### Financial support

Thanks to the EDGG's mother organization IAVS, we can support a number of participants with travel grants. Travel grants will be awarded according to the IAVS criteria, based on income level and country of origin. They will preferentially be given to early-career and other financially constrained scientists. The support usually covers only part of the participant's costs, according to the number of successful applications. To qualify for a travel grant, active participation at the conference (oral presentation or poster) is required. After the conference, grantees are asked to provide a short report of the event as well as some photos that can be used in the EDGG bulletins.

Travel grants can be applied for during registration until 22 March, including a short motivation letter. Applicants for IAVS travel grants must be IAVS members for the year 2019. Information about travel grants will be given at the latest by 12 April.

### Field excursions

Austria and the northern part of Slovenia belong to the cool-temperate nemoral zone while the south west, coastal region of Slovenia borders the warm temperate subtropical (Submediterranean) zone with precipitation slightly higher in the winter than in the summer months. At the end of May and the beginning of June, in all the places we will visit the temperatures are pleasant but you have to expect rain showers.

Map 1 shows the conference venue (Graz), and the destinations of the mid-conference and the post-conference excursion.



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Map 1: Venue of the Conference (Graz), destination of the mid-conference excursion (Neumarkt/Steiermark) and the main destinations of the post-conference excursion to Slovenia (1: Goričko Landscape Park, 2: Haloze region, 3: Slovenian Dinaric region).

#### Practical advice

Rainwear is recommended for the excursions. Be aware that ticks occur in areas we will visit. There is a risk of tick-borne encephalitis and Lyme disease throughout both countries. Travellers should avoid tick bites by wearing long sleeves and pants, preferably tucked in. Use insect repellent on exposed skin, socks or outer clothing. You should check your skin regularly for ticks and remove them as early as possible. There are also tick-borne encephalitis vaccines. Consult a physician as soon as possible if you would prefer a vaccination.

#### Mid-conference excursion

This excursion will lead us to the surroundings of Neumarkt/Steiermark. The Neumarkter anticline is situated between two mountain systems of different geology – in the west the Grebenzen (1892 m asl, palaeolithic limestone) and in the east the Seetaler Alpen with the Zirbitzkogel (2396 m asl, mainly gneiss). In the glaciation period, a branch of the Mur glacier pushed its way down from the northern main valley and covered the area with moraine material. The natural vegetation is dominated by spruce forests, fir and beech are restricted to climatically humid conditions.

In this region there is a tradition of feeding milk cows mainly by grazing and hay, complete without silage. In former times the milk was required for hard cheese production, now this special milk is traded with the brand name “hay milk”. We will visit some of these farms, most of them applying only or mainly solid manure. In these grasslands, most of them belonging to the *Arrhenatherion elatioris*, *Cynosurion cristati* or the *Phyteumato-Trisetion* alliances, we could determine up to 60 plant species (average 32,8) on 10 m<sup>2</sup> plots. The meadows are mowed twice per year and often grazed in autumn after the second cut. We will also see some of the season-round pastures, that are not as species rich as the meadows but show also around 30 plant species.



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Hay meadow in Pöllau near Neumarkt/Steiermark



Cattle track in Pöllau



Pastures in Pöllau (all photos M. Janisova)

## Post-conference excursion to Slovenia

A three-day post-conference excursion will take place in Slovenia (**2–5 June**). Slovenia has very interesting position at the intersection of four major European geographical units, the Alps, the Dinaric Alps, the Mediterranean and the Pannonian plain. On the first day, we will visit the **Goričko Landscape Park**, which forms one part of the Trilateral Park extending across Austria, Hungary and Slovenia. Goričko is a well-preserved example of typical and traditional Central European agricultural landscape with a mosaic of fields, grasslands, orchards, vineyards, hedges and forest. Geological substrates are mainly tertiary sediments, which form a gently sloping, hilly landscape of sandy-acid soils with a rich surface network of fresh water. Goričko is also a Natura 2000 area and aims to preserve traditional and extensive small-scale farming. We will visit several sites in the area with different types of extensively used semi-natural grasslands, four of them included in the EU Habitat Directive. Plant communities include the classes *Festuco-Brometea* (*Bromion erecti*), *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* (*Molinion caeruleae*, *Filipendulo-Petasion*, *Arrhenatherion elatioris*) and *Nardetea strictae* (*Violion caninae*). Rare and interesting plants include the wet meadow species *Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Iris sibirica*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe*



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and *Succisa pratensis*, and the dry grassland species *Dianthus deltoides*, *D. armeria*, *Moenchia mantica*, *Muscari comosum*, *Verbascum phoeniceum*, etc. In addition to the high nature value habitats the area is also known by religious diversity (Protestants, Catholics, Calvinists, Baptists, Pentecostal) and unique cultural treasures. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Romanesque Rotunda, a small circular sanctuary in the village of Selo. According to the legend, the church first belonged to the Templars. It is estimated that it was built sometime during the first half of the 13th century (1205–1235).



Dry *Arrhenatherion* grasslands in the Goričko region  
(photo S. Škornik)



Wet *Molinion* meadows with *Iris sibirica* (Goričko) (photo  
S. Škornik)



Traditional hay making in Selo village (photo N.  
Pipenbaher)



The Romanesque Rotunda, a small circular sanctuary in  
the village of Selo (photo N. Pipenbaher)

The second day will be devoted to the **Haloze region**, which has the highest density of “orchids-rich meadows” (*Bromion erecti*, ass. *Onobrychido viciifoliae-Brometum*) in Slovenia (approx. 25% of non-forest land). It is the land of the low Tertiary hills with highly diverse relief. The altitudes reach up to 600 m a.s.l. The agricultural management practices are strongly determined by the steep slopes, ranging from 6 to 30 degrees. In the past, Haloze used to be known particularly for its excellent wine growing regions. A large part of the western Haloze area is covered by deciduous forest (*Carpino-Fagetea*). Rare plants include numerous species of orchids, such as *Ophrys sphegodes*, *O. holosericea* and *O. apifera*, *Himantoglossum*



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*adriaticum*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Dactylorhiza sambucina*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Orchis ustulata*, etc. We will also visit wooded (dry) grasslands along the Drava River. This very unique habitat type developed on limestone gravel deposits and represents the remains of an ancient cultural landscape.



Orchids-rich *Mesobromion* meadows (*Onobrychido viciifoliae-Brometum*) in Haloze region



Sheep grazing on steep slopes in Haloze

*Himantoglossum adriaticum* and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (all photos S. Škornik)

The third day will take us to the **Slovenian Northern Adriatic karst zone**, which represents the northeastern most branch of the Dinaric mountain range, extending along the Eastern Adriatic. The climate is transitional between Mediterranean and continental pre-Alpine, with cool, rainy winters and long, hot, dry summers. The natural vegetation is mixed deciduous thermophilous woodlands. In some places the Karst plateau is still an open landscape, with a large extent of extensively used dry grasslands. These steppe-like grasslands belong to the order *Scorzoneretalia villosae* (class *Festuco-Brometea*). We will see semi-dry meadows (*Scorzonerion villosae*), which are found on deeper soil, with more humus and moisture, and karst pastures (*Saturejion subspicatae*) that occur on shallow rocky soils where vegetation is much more sclerophilous and basiphilous. Karst pastures are considered as one of the most species-rich



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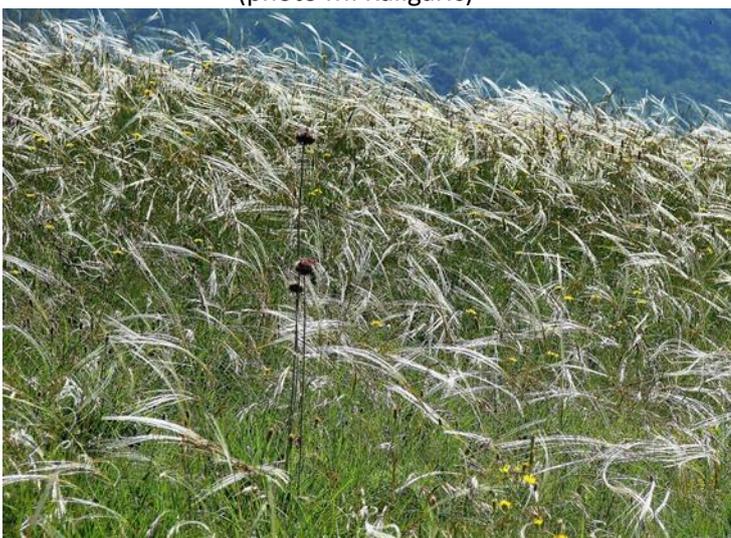
plant communities in this part of Europe. Before the dry period, around 150-200 different plant species that occur within this plant community are in flower, including many rare and interesting species such as *Narcissus radiiflorus*, *Fritillaria tenella*, gentians like *Gentiana tergestina* and *G. utriculosa* and other attractive species, like *Pulsatilla montana*, *Polygala nicaeensis*, *Asphodelus albus*, *Paeonia officinalis*, *Lilium carniolicum*, *L. bulbiferum* and three species of the genus *Iris*: *I. illyrica*, *I. sibirica* subsp. *errerrhiza* and *I. graminea*. On this excursion we will also be able to admire some typical karst features (phenomena) like rock shelters, natural stone bridges, etc. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the famous 15th-century frescoes of “Dance Macabre” in Hrastovlje’s Romanesque Church of the Holy Trinity. The church is worth visiting also for its architecture and setting.



Limestone cliffs of the edge of the Karst plateau (left)  
(photo M. Kaligarič)



*Asphodelus albus* with *Narcissus radiiflorus* (left) and  
*Paeonia officinalis* (right) (photos N. Pipenbaher).



*Stipa eriocalis* dominated karst grassland (photo M.  
Kaligarič)



Sub-Mediterranean Illyrian grassland, association  
*Danthonio-Scorzoneretum* (photo I. Paušič)

Accommodation will be in two places. The first one will be in the second-largest city of Slovenia, Maribor (NE, Drava) (2-3 June). The city has the oldest vine in the world. The second accommodation will be in the Istrian coast of the Adriatic Sea at the hotel Belvedere (3-5 June) near the city of Izola.



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The oldest vine in the world  
(photo [www.visitmaribor.si](http://www.visitmaribor.si))



View from Belvedere Hotel & Resort  
(photo <http://www.belvedere.si/sl>)

## Keynote Lectures

The 16th EGC is pleased to welcome three keynote speakers.

Maintenance of species-rich grasslands by traditional farmers: diversity, practice, knowledge, subsidies and future.

Zsolt Molnár & Dániel Babai, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

In his keynote, Zsolt will summarize field experiences and management recommendations related to species-rich mountain hay meadows in the Eastern Carpathians. Some of these advanced and well proved techniques are suitable also for maintaining species rich grasslands in other parts of Eurasia. (you can freely download their published book on the traditional ecological knowledge of the local 'Csángó' community (Hungarian with a lot of English comments)

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271823187\\_Ahogy\\_gondozza\\_ugy\\_veszi\\_hasznat\\_Hagyomanyos\\_okologiai\\_tudas\\_es\\_gazdalkodas\\_Gyimesben](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271823187_Ahogy_gondozza_ugy_veszi_hasznat_Hagyomanyos_okologiai_tudas_es_gazdalkodas_Gyimesben) Traditional ecological knowledge and land use in Gyimes Eastern Carpathians

Zsolt Molnár, botanist, ethnoecologist, head of the „Traditional Ecological Knowledge” Research Group at the MTA Centre for Ecological Research in Hungary, member of the IPBES Indigenous and Local Knowledge Task Force and a Coordinating Lead Author in the IPBES Global Assessment.

His main research focus is traditional, indigenous and local ecological knowledge of herders and farmers in Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Mongolia and Iran.

One of his key research methods is knowledge co-production with locals in order to avoid and decrease conflicts with conservation and foster traditional land management, e.g. by improving conservation and agri-environmental practices and policies.



Sustainable pasture management in Slovenia: balancing productivity and biodiversity.

Matej Vidrih, University of Ljubljana, Department of Agronomy



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Grazing can be the most intensive utilization of grasslands and has, therefore, often a poor reputation in nature conservation. In fact, grazing is the most original and the oldest use and has strongly shaped the Eurasian semi-natural grasslands.

Matej Vidrih (PhD 2006, University of Ljubljana) is assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy at the Biotechnical Faculty.

His main object of research is pasture management and forage production. He gives also lectures on this topic.

His research is oriented towards management of marginal grasslands in less favoured areas with the mean of grazing management. He also focuses and develops mitigation measures on livestock-carnivore conflicts. His latest research orientation is toward soil-plant-animal interactions on karst pastures.



Semi-dry grasslands of Central and Eastern Europe - syntaxonomic and biogeographical aspects.

Wolfgang Willner, VINCA and University of Vienna, Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research

The semi-dry grasslands of Central and Eastern Europe, including the so-called meadow steppes, belong to the most species-rich vegetation types of the northern hemisphere and form an important part of the forest-steppe zone. In my talk, I will present results of a syntaxonomic revision, based on a large supra-national dataset. Moreover, I will discuss the biogeographical setting of semi-dry grasslands in the context of recent paleobotanical and phylogeographic findings. There is growing evidence that the European semi-dry grasslands represent an ancient species pool of forest-steppe vegetation which has existed continuously for several glacial circles.

**Wolfgang Willner** is managing director of the private research institute VINCA (Vienna Institute for Nature Conservation and Analyses) and lecturer (PD) at the University of Vienna (Dep. of Botany and Biodiversity Research). His research has mainly been focused on Central European vegetation, with special emphasis on forests (PhD thesis: Phytosociological revision of the beech forests of southern Central Europe) and dry grasslands. He also contributed to the methodology of vegetation classification. In a recent project, he investigated the syntaxonomy and biogeography of steppe grasslands in Central and Eastern Europe. He is a chief editor of *Phytocoenologia* and member of the steering committee of the IAVS working group for phytosociological nomenclature. Moreover, he has been engaged in numerous applied projects for nature conservation, including mapping and monitoring of EU habitat types. Besides 59 publications in international peer-reviewed journals he is editor (and author of many chapters) of "Die Wälder und Gebüsche Österreichs" (2007).



## Workshops

Effective writing for international peer-reviewed journals (31 May, 8.30 – 14.00), min 5 participants, led by Jürgen Dengler

For many researchers from more traditional scientific cultures, writing manuscripts for peer-reviewed international journals remains challenging. In this workshop you will learn that writing successful manuscripts (in the sense that they are accepted in the intended journal and get many citations) has nothing to do with witchcraft, but a lot with techniques – which can be acquired.

The workshop will familiarize you with the IMRaD (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion) structure of standard research papers and showcase the key aspects that make up good Introduction,



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Methods, Results and Discussion sections. You will learn how to optimize the presentation of results through a wise combination of figures, tables, appendices and text. We will deal with formal aspects of citing and listing references. You will also learn how to write an effective Abstract and how cleverly selected titles and keywords can contribute to the success of your article. As the majority of participants likely will not have English as their mother tongue, we will also briefly address the appropriate style when writing a scientific article in English.

If time allows, there is the option to provide some insights into the peer-review process, the meanings of bibliometric indices or how to find appropriate journals for manuscripts. The course will consist of lectures, interactive and practical parts. The program is flexible and can be adjusted spontaneously to the needs and wishes of participants. In addition to the three-hour class, the lecturer is also available for individual coaching of participants in the afternoon on the basis of concrete writing problems and manuscript drafts they bring with them. If you are interested in this, please indicate this with your registration, including a short summary of the problem you have/support you wish.

Jürgen Dengler is Professor of Vegetation Ecology at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) in Switzerland and co-founder of EDGG. He is chief editor of *Phytocoenologia*, Deputy Chief Editor of *Palaeartic Grasslands*, member of the editorial boards of *Applied Vegetation Science* and *Tuexenia* and has led the guest editor teams of about 20 Special Issues/Special Features in various international journals (*Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment; Journal of Vegetation Science; Biodiversity and Conservation...*). He authored more than 250 scientific publications, including 78 papers in the Web of Science, and has extensive experience in teaching the art of scientific writing.



Introduction to Bryophytes, (31 May, 8.30 – 14.00), min 10 participants, led by Christian Berg

Christian Berg (2008 habilitation in habitat and landscape ecology) is the head of the Botanical Garden and Senior Scientist at the Institute of Biology of the University of Graz. He is author of more than 100 scientific papers and monographs, mostly in the areas of vegetation science, vegetation and flora change, conservation, red lists, mapping of bryophytes and vascular plants, neophytes, plant physiology and molecular ecology.



Introduction to Lichens (31 May, 14.15-18.00), min 10 participants, led by Peter Bilovitz

Peter Bilovitz is lecturer at the Institute of Biology of the University of Graz. Besides numerous publications about the lichen flora of the Balkan peninsula he is co-author of "The lichens of the Alps - an annotated checklist", published in 2018.





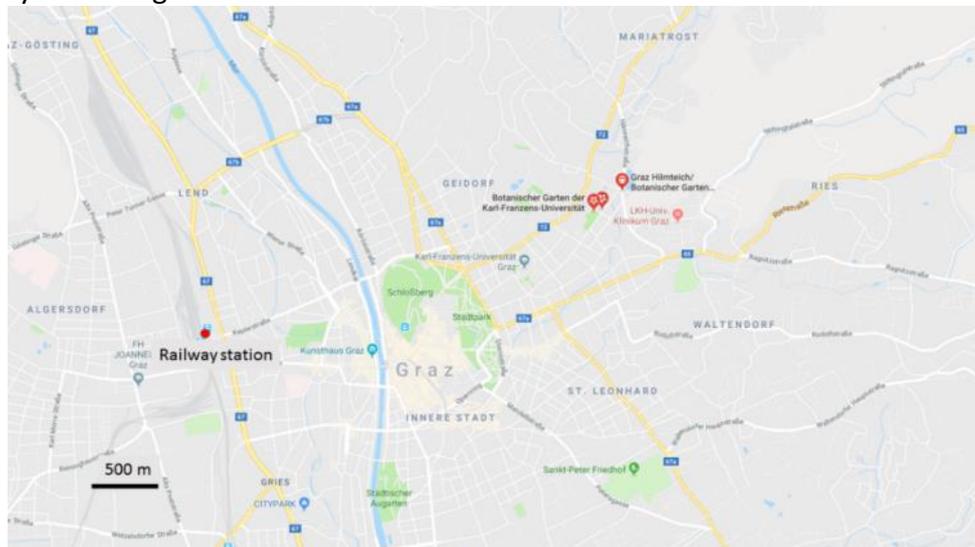
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## Venue and Accommodation

### Conference Venue

The conference will be held in the Botanical Garden (map 2) of the Institute of Biology, Department of Plant Sciences of the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz. There are two main entrances: Schubertstraße 51 and Holteigasse 6. The area can easily be reached by tram or bus (stations: “Graz Botanischer Garten” with bus number 63 Graz Hilmteich/Botanischer Garten with tram number 1, both starting at Graz railway station. You can reach Graz centre from the Graz airport by bus (nr. 630) or railway. The reception is planned in the foyer of the greenhouses.



Map 2: Venue location (Botanical Garden of the Karl-Franzens-University)



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Botanical Garden with the greenhouses from south west (photo C. Berg)

Graz, the second largest city of Austria (after Vienna) counts at about 280.000 inhabitants and is the capital of the province Styria. The six universities (the oldest is the Karl-Franzens-University, founded in 1585) have more than 60.000 students. It is a very beautiful town with a well-preserved medieval city centre (<https://www.graztourismus.at/en>). You can get a fantastic view from the top of the Schlossberg hill.

The Graz tourism agency (GrazTourismus, [af@graztourismus.at](mailto:af@graztourismus.at), [www.graztourismus.at](http://www.graztourismus.at)) reserved a contingent of nice hotels for our conference, from less expensive to high level, all in the centre of Graz. You can use the link up to the 17 April:

[https://www.graztourismus.at/kongress/en/16th-eurasian-grassland-conference\\_kongressformular-10257](https://www.graztourismus.at/kongress/en/16th-eurasian-grassland-conference_kongressformular-10257)

## Travelling

In case you will come by plane, often the best connection to Graz is via Vienna airport, even Graz airport is also a destination of many airlines. There is a good connection between Vienna and Graz with railway ([www.oebb.at](http://www.oebb.at)) or by buses ([www.flixbus.at](http://www.flixbus.at)). You will get better prices when you book at least one week in advance.

## Visas

In case you need an invitation, please contact Martin Magnes ([martin.magnes@uni-graz.at](mailto:martin.magnes@uni-graz.at)), and If you plan to participate in the post-conference excursion to Slovenia, please contact Nataša Pipenbaher ([natasa.pipenbaher@um.si](mailto:natasa.pipenbaher@um.si)).

## Co-organizers

- The University of Graz (<https://www.uni-graz.at/>)
- The University of Maribor (<https://www.um.si/en/Pages/default.aspx>)



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### **Organizing comitte - Contact persons**

Martin Magnes / University of Graz, Local Organising Committee, [martin.magnes@uni-graz.at](mailto:martin.magnes@uni-graz.at)

Nataša Pipenbaher / University of Maribor, Local Organising Committee, [natasa.pipenbaher@um.si](mailto:natasa.pipenbaher@um.si)

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