

16th Eurasian Grassland Conference

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

Austria and Slovenia, with Graz as conference venue

29 May – 5 June 2019

First call



Grasslands in the Palaeartic biogeographical realm are exceptionally species rich; they are a treasure of nature. However, their values are often neglected in man's thinking, either from the perspective of management of natural resources or policy measures. The **aim** of the 16th annual Eurasian Grassland Conference is to highlight the ecosystem values Palaeartic grasslands deliver to the world, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on how we effectively ensure their sustainability. 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.

The conference will take place from **29th May to 5th June 2019**, jointly hosted by the universities of Graz, the capital city of the province of Styria (Austria), and Maribor, the second largest city of Slovenia. The academic part of the conference will be held at the Institute of Biology, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Graz, in the heart of Austrian Styria.

Two excursions are planned. The mid-conference excursion (**31 May**) will focus on species rich *Arrhenatherion* grasslands in a "**hay-milk**" region in the western part of Styria (Austria). Moreover, a three-day post-conference excursion will take place in Slovenia (**2–5 June**). On the first day, we will visit the **Goričko Landscape Park** with dry grasslands on acid non-carbonate substrate (NE Slovenia). During the second day, we will visit the wooded (dry) grasslands (the remains of an ancient cultural landscape) along the **Drava River**, the low tertiary **hilly Haloze region**, which

has the highest density of orchid-rich *Mesobromion* meadows. The third day will take us to the **Slovenian Dinaric** (sub-Mediterranean Illyrian) dry meadows (alliance *Scorzonerion villosae*) and **karst** pastures (alliance *Saturejion subspicatae*).

As in previous years, there will be:

Technical workshops, dedicated to actions on grassland management and networking

IAVS travel grants, available for those who fulfil the grant allocation criteria

Young Investigator Prizes, for young scientists for the best oral or poster presentations to the conference

Conference publications, in the form of Special Features (SFs) with selected contributions from the conference and published in international, peer-reviewed journals, guest-edited by EDGG members

Important dates

Early Bird registration deadline – 28 February 2019

Late registration deadline – 29 March 2019

Abstract submission deadline – 29 March 2019

Preliminary programme

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| 29 th May | Welcome in Graz, registration 16:00 – 20:00 |
| 30 th May | Talks and posters |
| 31 th May | Mid-conference excursion (Styria, Austria), optional technical workshop, in the evening: grassland party |
| 1 th June | Talks and posters; EDGG General Assembly |
| 2 th June – 5 th June | Post-conference excursion (Slovenia), optional, max. 40 participants |

Registration

The conference web page with the possibility to register and upload your abstracts will be launched in January 2019 (all EDGG members will be informed by e-mail when the website is available). Further information (fees, detailed schedule) will be announced in the Second Circular (*Palaeartic Grasslands* 39, December 2018).

Organizers

The Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) (www.edgg.org)
 The University of Graz (<https://www.uni-graz.at/>)
 The University of Maribor (<https://www.um.si/en/Pages/default.aspx>)

Contact persons

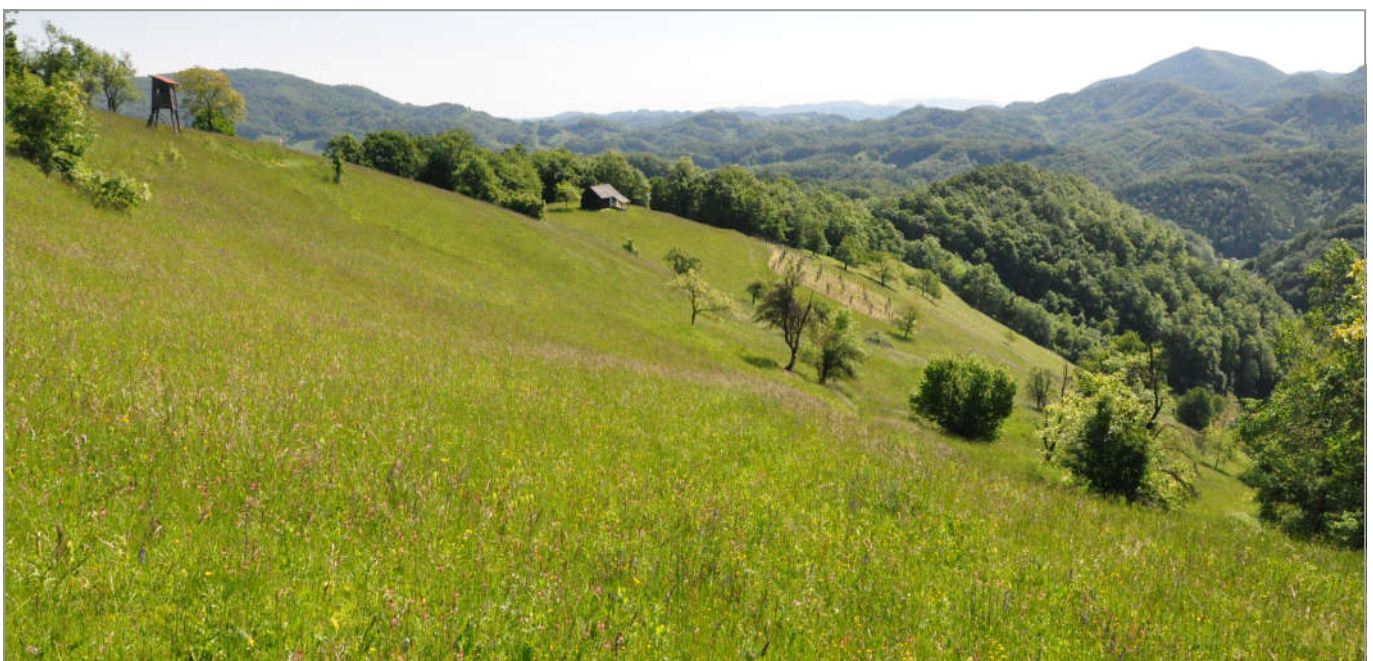
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Hayfield near Neumarkt/Styria, Austria.
Photo: M. Magnes.



Sub-Mediterranean Illyrian Grasslands, association *Danthonio-Scorzoneretum*. Photo: N. Pipenbaher.



Orchids-rich *Mesobromion* meadows in Haloze region, NE Slovenia. Photo: S. Škornik.