



GrassLIFE: LIFE16NAT/LV/262

Request for consultant services for producing a desk study on grasslands, biodiversity and business, project action A.6



The study will form the backbone of GrassLIFE work in developing and promoting grassland-related products. We want to focus on products that are coming from semi-natural grasslands. Products originating from cultivated grasslands may also be covered, but in such case indications should be given as to the quality of the product being higher if coming from the semi-natural grasslands. With our project work we intend to support the general knowledge that products that come from semi-natural and species rich grasslands are of a higher quality, higher nutritional value etc. We will use this study to select particular products that could be further tested in the field, to support our message and further promote the products that originate from semi-natural grasslands.

The consultant should deliver the following:

Sub-task 1 – a scoping study and a case study

The desk study should identify at least 20 different grassland-related products with high added value in terms of biodiversity and their quality. This task should be done as a desk study, based on the information available in literature. The consultant would assess the availability of the scientific data, and literature in English and determine gaps, consensus, disagreement, and what types of claims are being made and whether they can be supported or should be explored as starting points. Based on the results of the scoping study, the consultant could suggest some deviations from the study plan described below, but it should be agreed with the project manager.

Case study should be made for each of the suggested products. The study should focus on Boreal biogeographical region, but it is acceptable to feature also cases from other EU and global regions, if necessary. This sub-task would be done on a more general level, without focusing on individual farms but rather on groups of products, e.g. farmed meat, dairy products, honey, wild foods, etc.

Sub-task 2 – methodology for assessments

Description of the methodology for assessment of grassland-related products with a high added value (in terms of either a nutritional content/composition or embedded values (social, environmental, animal welfare)). For example, if one of the potential products indicated in sub-task 1 is grassland meat, this sub-task should provide a description on the latest experience in pinpointing the high added value of meat that has been grown on semi-natural grasslands by addressing the following aspects:

- 1) What kinds of tests could be conducted to identify potential differences in quality between natural grassland-based products and similar products from non-grassland sources or cultivated grasslands;
- 2) What kinds of tests could be conducted to identify and measure the potential “embedded values”, including non-tangible social and environmental goods (e.g. ecosystem services), of grassland-produced products.
- 3) How can these be compared/measured against similar products from non-grassland sources or cultivated grasslands?

This section should provide Latvian Fund for Nature with sufficient guidance on what tests and measurements could be taken on our grassland products to test their quality, added value, or nutritional value.

Sub-task 3 (optional)

Identify the most appropriate products for 2-5 project farms, based on a description of the project sites to be provided by the Latvian Fund for Nature. If necessary, a site visit and farmer interviews could be done in selected project farms. If the consultant deems this necessary, a budget for such a visit should be included in the price quotation, as a separate entry.

The mandatory products that need to be assessed in the desk study are:

- Grass products (biomass, grass as fodder etc.) – grass content;
- Meat – meat quality and content;
- Dairy – quality and content;
- Honey – micro-elements (but this might be more connected to the soils rather than grassland type and quality), or pollen diversity in honey;
- Wild medicinal plants from semi-natural grasslands and their qualities.

As noted above, the list of products could be adjusted, upon agreement between the consultant and project manager.

Deadline for completing the study: 15 March 2019

Requirements for the consultant:

- At least 10 year experience in the tasks related to farming products and their quality, ecosystem services, assessments for the quality of products and their added value
- Experience working in the Boreal Biogeographic region
- Citizen of a permanent resident in one of the EU countries
- Track record of scientific publications related to the topic of this study

Consultants are asked to provide the following documentation when applying with the bid:

- CV confirming the experience of the expert in the field
- Short description of the proposed methodology to undertake the study (including sub-tasks 1-2 as obligatory component, and sub-task 3 as optional)
- Price offer

The most cost-efficient bid will be selected, based on the following criteria, with the maximum of 100 points to be granted:

- The proven experience of the expert in the field of assessments for the quality of products and their added value (based on the assessment of the submitted CVs) = 20 points
- The quality of the proposed methodology = 40 points
- The price = 40 points

Deadline for submitting the bids for providing services: 5 September 2018

Please apply by e-mail to inga.racinska@ldf.lv. In case of any questions and clarifications, please contact project manager Inga Racinska at inga.racinska@ldf.lv or +37167830999. When applying, please include the subject "GrassLIFE: expert application for A.6 study" in the e-mail.