



Experience exchange meeting
Project INTERACTIVE GARDENS meeting
Protocol

Date: 10th July 2024

Time: 12:00 – 18:00 (CET)

Meeting place: Kreutzwaldi 5, Tartu, Estonia

12:00 – 12:30	Welcome, registration and coffee
12:30 – 13:00	Introduction of the Department of Horticulture – Leila Mainla
13:00-13:20	Project visualization and publicity rules – Ilze Lujāne
13:20-14:00	Project meeting
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
15:15 – 16:15	Rõhu Research Centre Õunaaia tee 5, 61409 Rõhu küla, Tartu
16:30 – 17:30	Timuti community garden visit, meeting with associated organisation Tartu Gardening and Beekeeping Society Timuti 56, 50115 Tartu
19:30	Joint dinner in Tartu at Gunpowder Cellar Lossi 28, 51003 Tartu https://pyss.ee/?lang=en

Date 11th July 2024

Time: 9:00 – 15:30 (CET)

Meeting place: Lai 20, Rakvere, Estonia

9:00	Leaving from Tartu to Rakvere
11:00 – 11:30	Welcome, registration and coffee
11:30 – 12:00	Tour in the municipality smart building
12:00 – 12:30	Meeting with associated organization Lääne-Viru Senior Society
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch with salad and sandwiches
13:00 – 14:30	Inspiration from the greenery of Rakvere, walk from the City centre to Vallimägi
15:30	Farewells. Participants leaving for airports etc.

Meeting participants:

LUKE/Elonkierto – Leena Puura and Pertti Marnila

Rakvere municipality – Kärt-Mari Paju

EMU – Leila Mainla

Dobele county municipality – Liene Laurinoviča and Taiga Gribuste

Institute of Horticulture – Daina Feldmane, Dzintra Dēķena, Natalija Nitavska, Baiba Skrebele

Vidzeme University - Arnis Cīrulis

Klaipēda PPS - Laura Fukumoto, Mindaugas Radušis

Tartu Gardening and Beekeeping Society – Lembit Kaarna

Aukštaitija Regional Park - Kęstutis Baronas

Biržai district municipality - Jurgita Bruniuvienė, Inga Maskoliūnienė, Irena Kleivienė

Zemgale Planning Region - Sigita Šilvjane, Ilze Lujāne

Aizkraukle municipality – Inese Rupenheite-Skeranska

Jēkabpils municipality – Madara Lasmane, Anita Vanaga

Bauskas municipality – Allija Dzidruma, Ilze Tijone

Jelgava municipality – Inga Romašjonoka

Lääne-Viru Senior Society – Tiiu Alavere

Protocolists: Leila Mainla, Kärt-Mari Paju

On the 10th of July, Leila Mainla introduced the Department of Horticulture to the participants. Ilze Lujāne reminded everyone the visualization and publicity rules of the project. She pointed out important rules when using project related logos and how to make references to the project in social media postings. Using an interactive web tool Mentimeter participants could report their thoughts on demonstration garden, related challenges and positive aspects. The meeting participants visited Estonian University Rõhu Research Center and met the associated organisation Tartu Gardening and Beekeeping Society in the Timuti community garden. In the garden, the

chairman of the society Lembit Kaarna and the meeting participants talked about the difficulties and challenges of getting younger generation interested in gardening.

On the 11th of July meeting was held in Rakvere municipality building. The participants took a tour, led by Rakvere city deputy major, in the municipality's smart building. The associated organisation Lääne-Viru Senior Society chairwoman Tiiu Alavere talked about the difficulties and expectations of seniors living in the city. After the meeting, an inspiration tour in the greenery of Rakvere was taken.

Summary of experience exchange

Rõhu Research Centre was founded in and has been a part of the Estonian University of Life Sciences's Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences since March 2007. Rõhu has a total 60 ha of land, of which 36 ha are arable, 9 ha are under experiments (e.g. energy crops, apple-tree, grapes, etc.) and 15 ha is miscellaneous (e.g. buildings, road, hedges etc.). Rõhu is the main base for field experiments. The activities of the station are mainly focusing on plant breeding and on various agricultural field trials. Although the research center is mainly used for science, it is occasionally open for other horticultural or agricultural events like different presentation days. This year, on 16th and 17th of August 69th World Ploughing Championships will be in Rõhu.

The **Tartu Gardening and Beekeeping Society operate the Timuti community garden**. The area of the community garden is 1ha. A maximum plot per person to use to grow vegetables, berries or ornamentals is 200m². The community garden users must be also members of the Tartu Gardening and Beekeeping Society. At the moment, there are 39 person that use the community garden. The Tartu Gardening and Beekeeping Society was founded in 1870. In the history of the society there have been better and worse periods. Paradoxically, the better times were during the last century when the society had thousands of members. In 2024, there are only a little over 70 members. The big problem in the society and in the community garden is the high age of the members. The average age is 76. The challenge is to make the society attractive to young or younger people. Young or younger means people after 30ies. How to achieve this? The main goal is to make the society visible in the Internet (new updated website <https://tams.ee/>) and on social media platforms (new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/people/Tartu-Aianduse-ja-Mesinduse-Selts/100089982836558/>). The other step that has been taken, is organizing events like Estonian Perennial Flower of the Year. The gardening is popular among families with children and events like that are suitable for families. The meeting participants proposed also to have some interactive games for children in the community garden. Also, to have a seating area or place to spend time together to bring the youth closer to nature and gardening again.



Fig.1 Meeting participants in the Timuti community garden. Foto: Ilze Lujāne.

On 11th of July Kärt-Mari Paju introduced Rakvere Municipality and the developmental trends concerning green and blue areas of the city. Rakvere's deputy major Neeme-Jaak Paap introduced municipality's almost zero energy Smart Building. A member of **Lääne-Viru Senior Society** Tiiu Alavere spoke about Senior Societies activities and difficulties that are faced by them in the city and seniors expectations. The main problem for the elderly people is that the information is found only in smart phones and/or in computers. Elderly people also need information on paper or on information boards that are easily noticeable. She also pointed out the importance of seating places, clearly marked borders and handrails (of the stairs).

The second part of the day was filled with inspirational walk through Rakvere city – **Central square, Tuleviku street meadow, Vallimägi Open Air Festival Arena**. Main interest was held on biodiverse low maintenance natural areas and how they have been introduced to the citizens again and maintained. Two large building sites were also visited (Pärdi Music House with large underground parking lot and Kastani boulevard reconstruction).



Fig. 2 Meeting participants in the Vallimägi Open Air Festival Arena. Foto: Ilze Lujāne.