

## Green week 2007 - Past lessons Future challenges



*Photo from Green Week poster (2007).*

Learning from past successes and failures to ensure that current and future environmental challenges are addressed most effectively was the goal of this year's Green Week, the European Commission's annual conference and exhibition event dedicated to the environment. Tying in with the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, Green Week 2007 has taken place at the Charlemagne building from 12-15 June under the slogan: *Past lessons, future challenges*. About 4000 participants have visited the event during these days. Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Vice-President Margot Wallström were speakers at the opening session on 12 June and regional affairs Commissioner Danuta Hübner has spoken at a session on regions and environmental sustainability. Lot of other interesting sessions and discussions took place during these days and that was a really successfully event to visit.

Latvian Fund for Nature was among these few LIFE projects, which have been invited to have an own project's information stand (invitation was made in form of initial contest internationally among other projects. Every body were able to argument the motivation of participation and capacity to share with others some innovative ideas or best practices). We have been there 2 persons – the project leader Ms. Inga Račinska and project awareness-coordinator Mr. Andris Klepers. There were about 75 stands in exhibition area of the Charlemagne building all together. That was a great chance to have lot of active discussions about floodplain management methods and also promote Latvian nature values, advising internationally to nature conservation problems in our region at the same time. Stand was equipped with three posters with content from LIFE-Nature project “Restoration of Latvian floodplains for EU priority species and habitats”. We have developed an active method, how to prove, that Great

Snipe *Gallinago media* really need a floodplain for feeding, and not any other open grassland. All the visitors have taken the chance to stick with a wooden tool in two samples of Latvian soil – from River floodplain and from cultivated dry grassland. It was shown very clearly, that wooden stick the same as the bill of Great Snipe don't get through dry hard soil. We have shown the presentation of project activities and results done until that particular period and have shared the brochures about project's sites.

All together more then twenty different sessions and numerous side events were on agenda during three active days. Those brought together leading decision-makers and experts from Europe and around the world to discuss how best to meet a range of environmental challenges which also have major economic and social implications. Linked to that, main topics were climate change, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable production and consumption patterns and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. We participated in numerous sessions, which were with main focus to our topics – biodiversity and nature protection.

Now it was seventh year, when Green Week provides a unique opportunity for the exchange of experience and best practice between representatives from governments, business, international institutions, non-governmental organisations and the scientific and academic communities. It is the biggest annual international event focusing on EU environment policies. That has given so much good inspirations and ideas for future have made great experience exchange and we got lot of good contacts that we really will look to participate at Green Week sessions some other year once again.

More information about the event you can find in Green Week's website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek>

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