



**LATVIJAS
UNIVERSITATE**

ANNO 1919



**Institute of
Agricultural
Resources and
Economics**

Trends in permanent grassland cover in Latvia in the period from 2007 to 2016

**Pēteris Lakovskis, Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics
Solvita Rūsiņa, University of Latvia**

14th Eurasian Grassland Conference 2017, Riga

Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Aim

To evaluate changes and trends of permanent grasslands cover

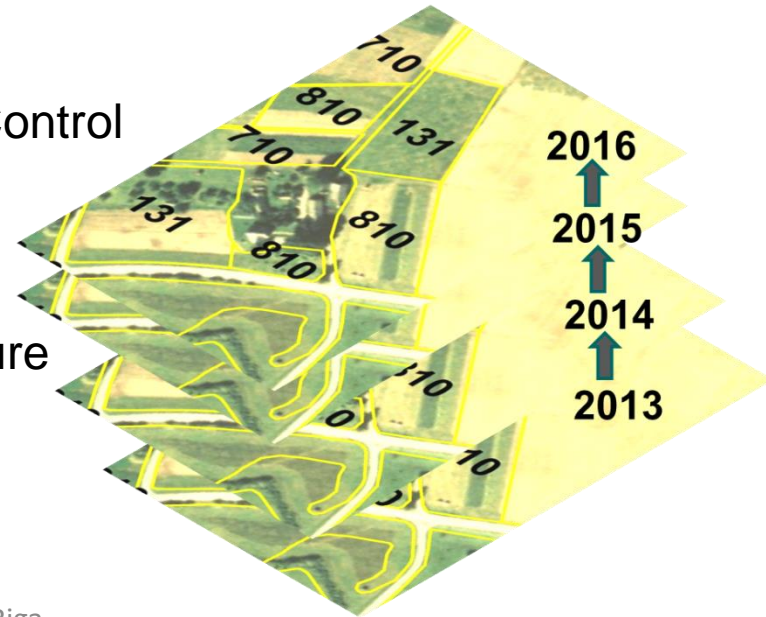
Materials and methods

The spatial data of Integrated Administration and Control System from Rural Support Service:

- Field blocks 2007-2016 (declared areas)
- Field parcels 2013-2016 (supported areas)

Data of semi-natural grasslands habitats from Nature Conservation Agency (2014)

Spatial analysis in GIS



Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Permanent grassland
(semi-natural habitats)



Permanent grassland
(improved grasslands, ...)



Sown (temporary) grasslands

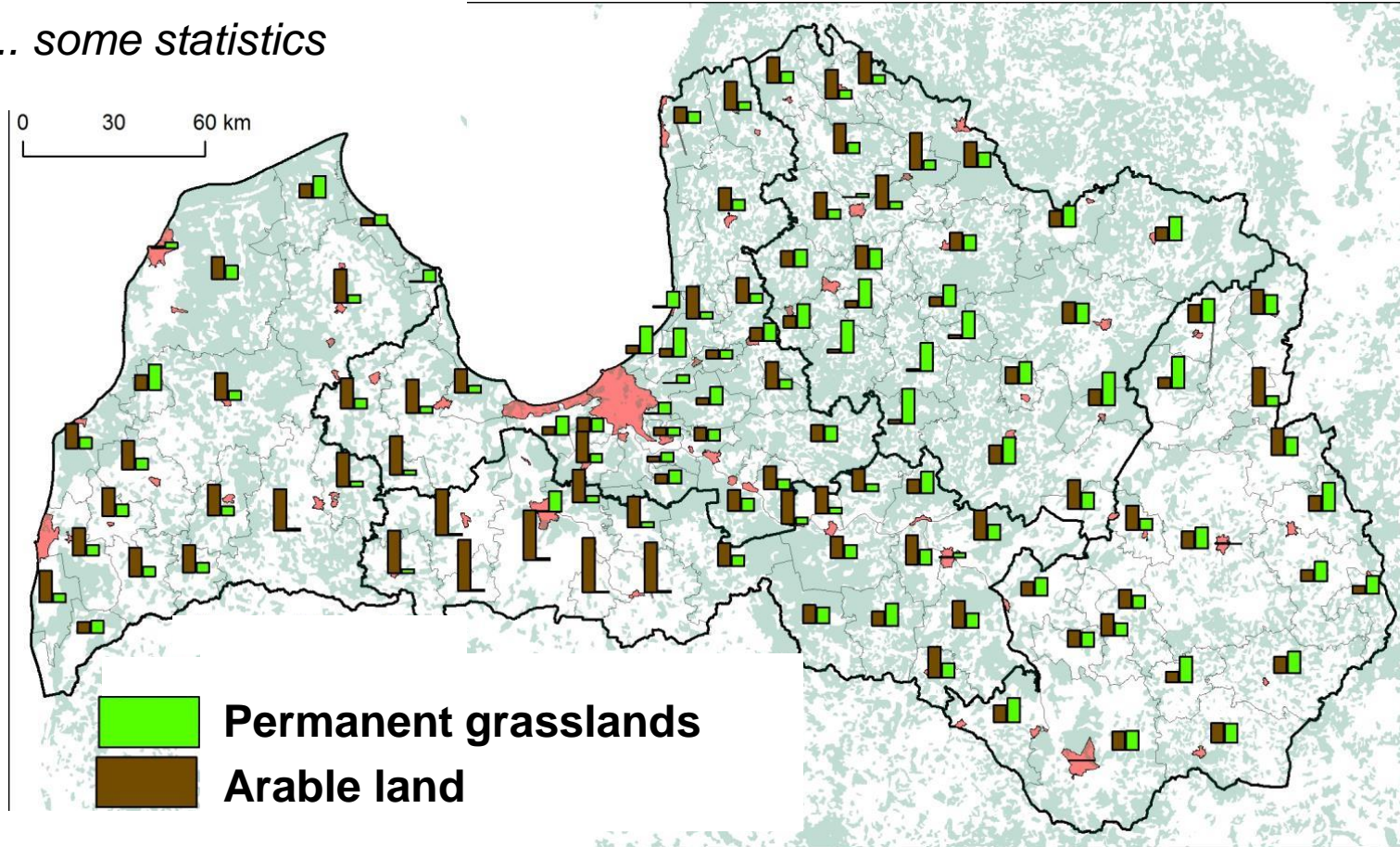


n.d.



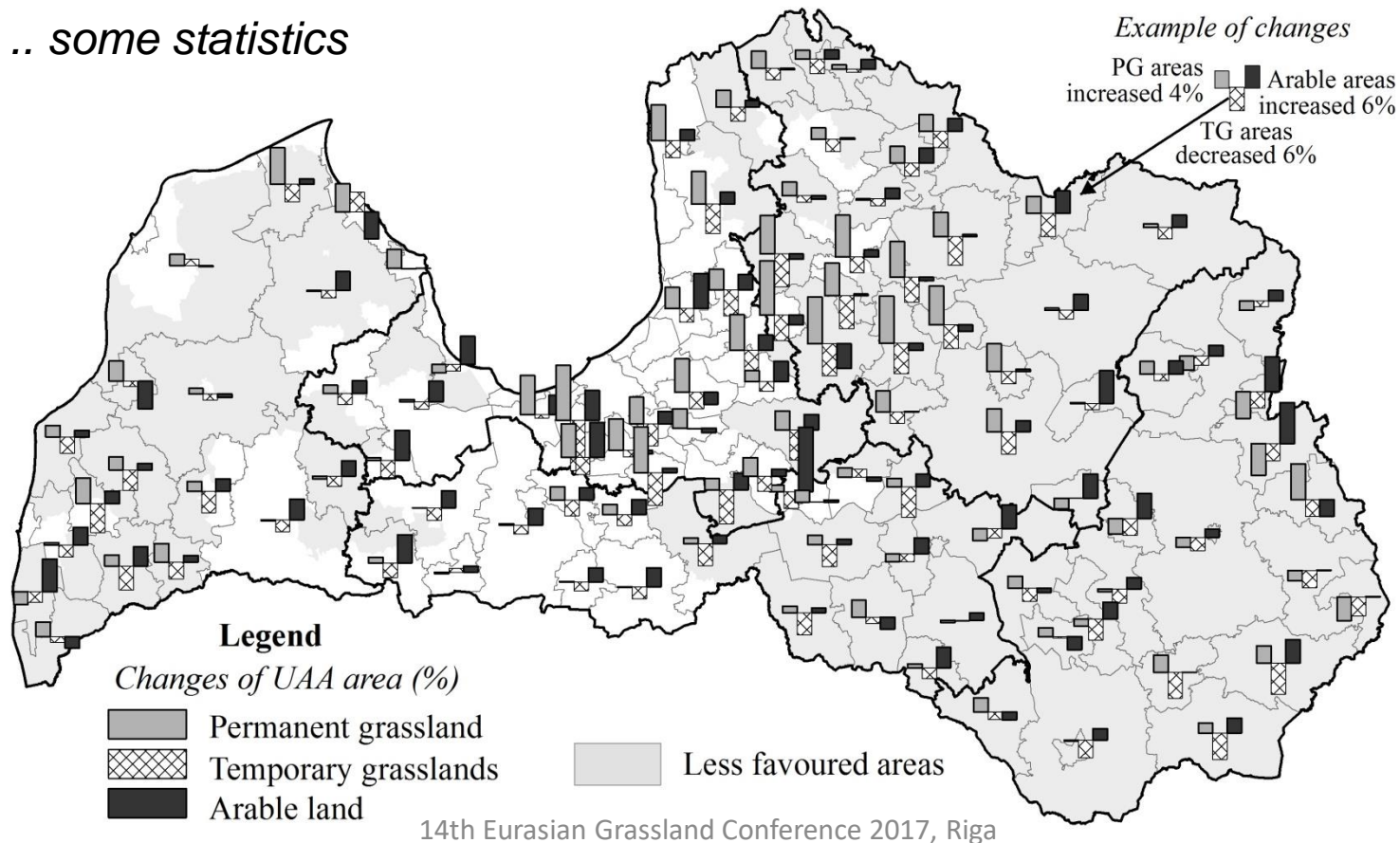
Permanent grasslands in Latvia

.. some statistics



Permanent grasslands in Latvia

.. some statistics



Permanent grasslands in Latvia

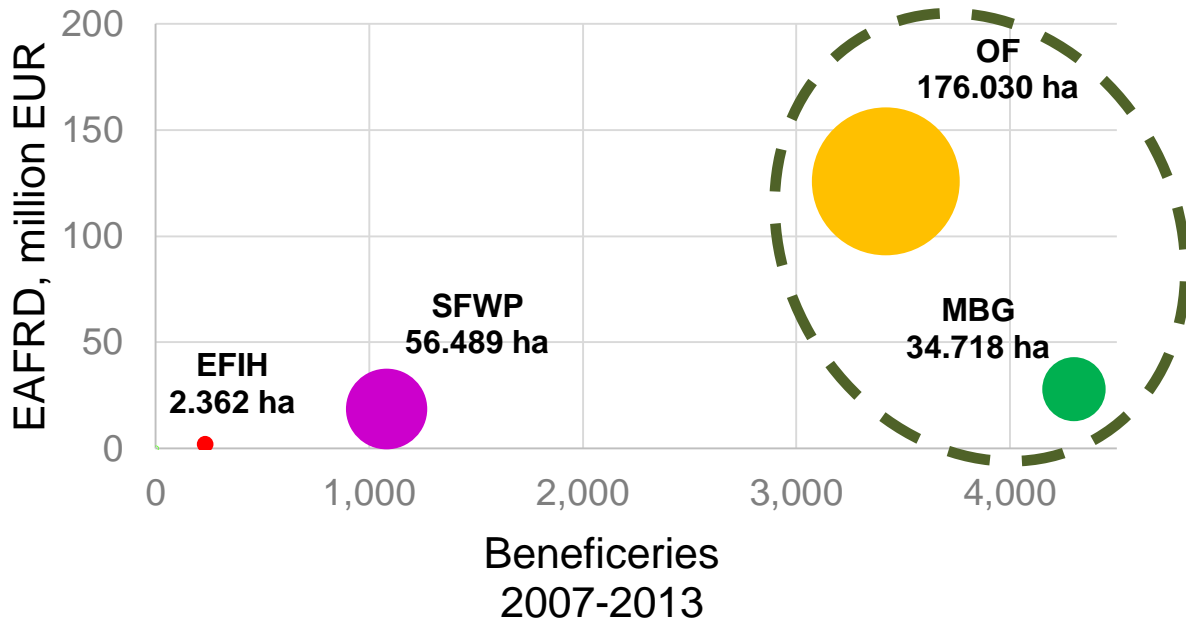
.. some statistics

M10.1: Agri-environment

payments

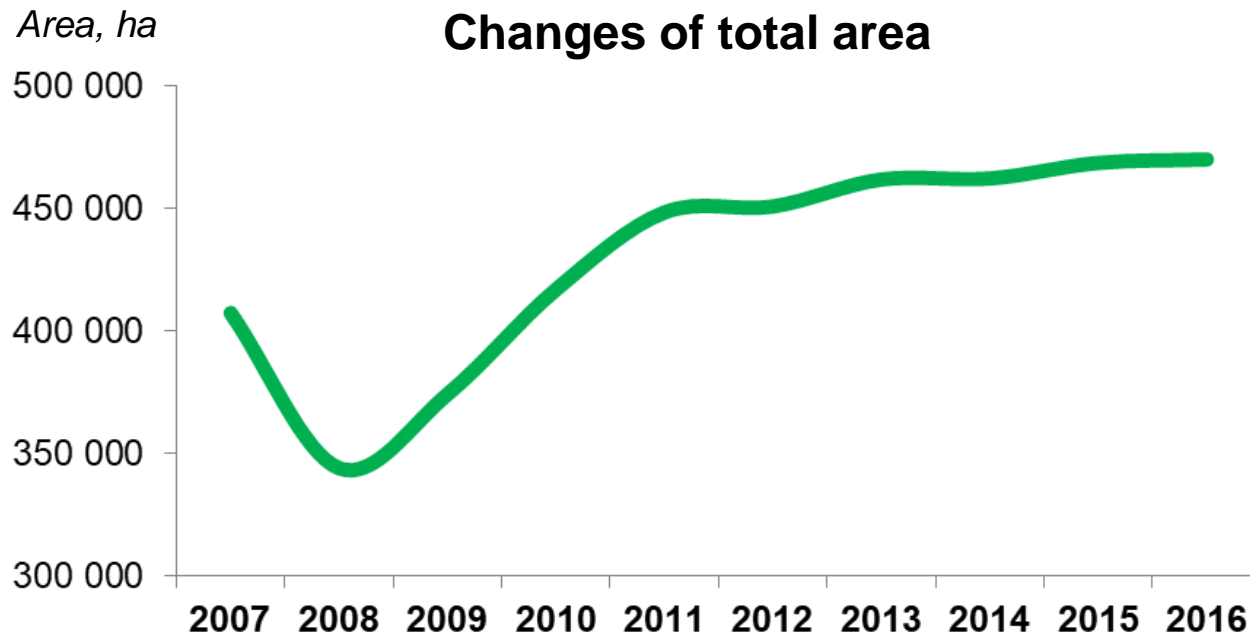
- ☐ M10.1.1: Maintaining Biodiversity in Grasslands (MBG)
- ☐ M10.1.2: Environmentally friendly integrated Horticulture (EFIH)
- ☐ M10.1.3: Stubble field in winter period (SFWP)
- ☐ M10.1.4: Environmentally friendly nectar plant growing

M11: Organic Farming (DOF)



Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Results



Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Results 2013-2016

**658 734 ha - total
area of permanent
grasslands in 4
years**

**465 581 ha -
total area in
2016**

71%

**286 544 ha - total
area of permanent
grasslands all 4
years**

43%

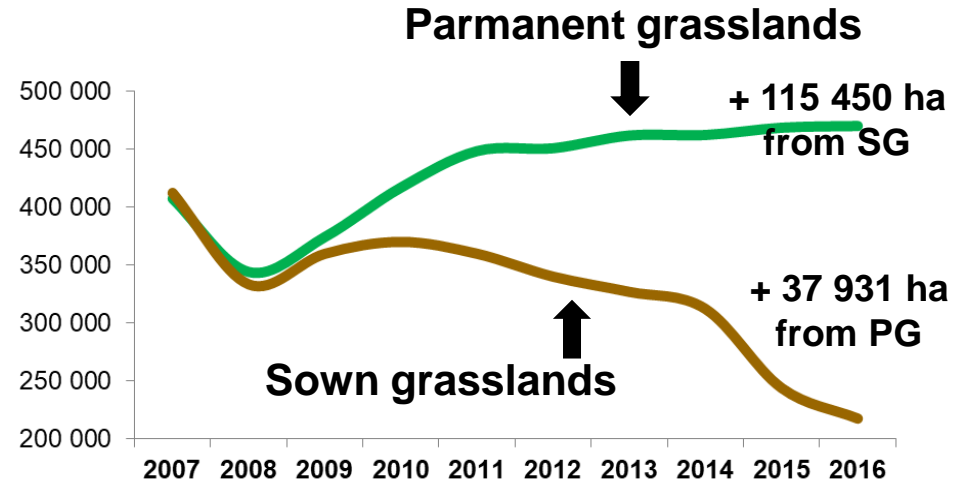
**31 022 ha - total
area of supported
semi-natural
habitats**

5%

Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Results

- The total areas of permanent grasslands is «confused» due to dynamic changes even in last 4 years. Important changes are related to – grassland abandonment, improving of grasslands and transformation into arable land.
- Most part of permanent grasslands areas formed from sown grasslands



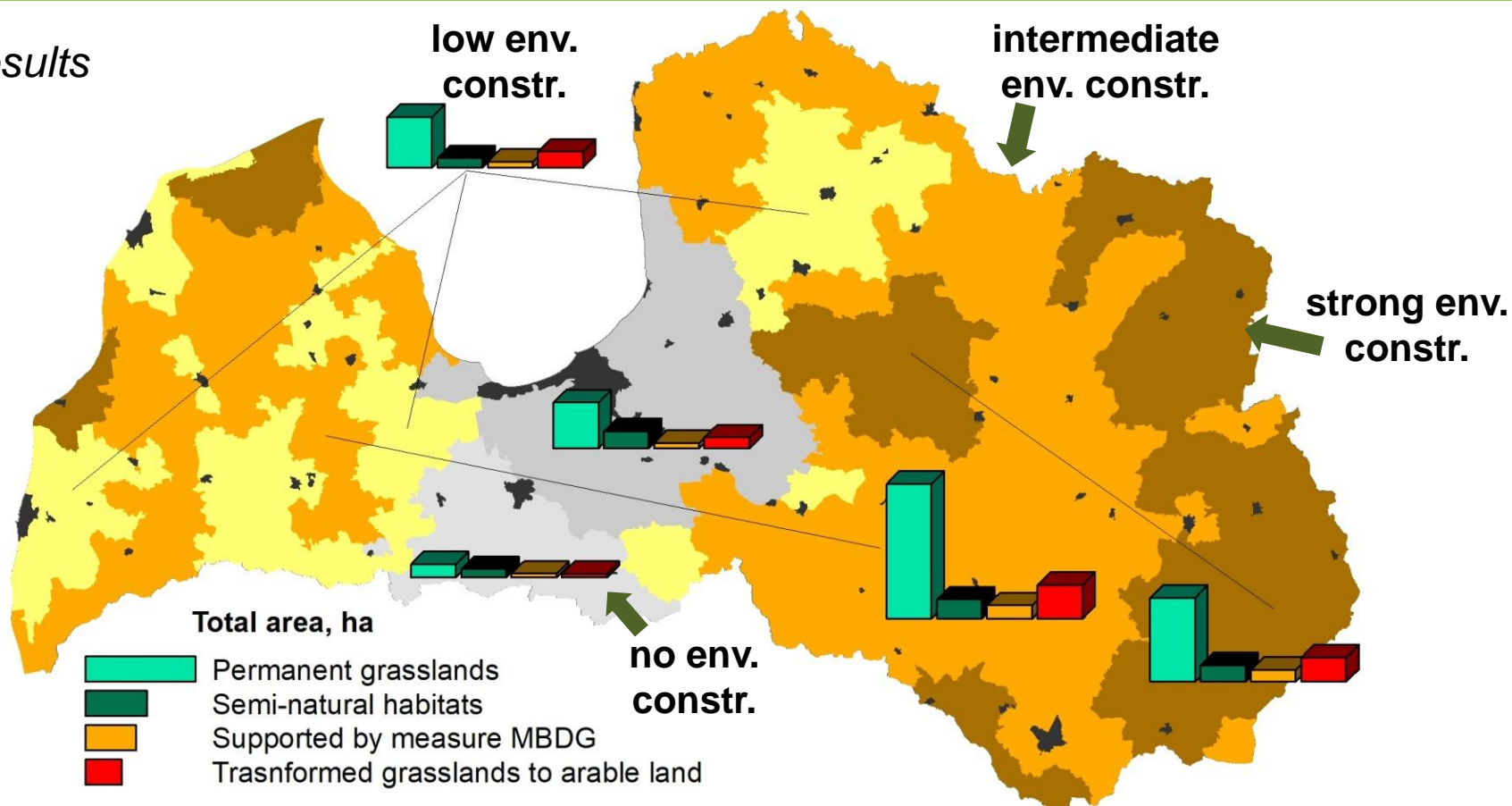
Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Results/Cognitions

- The second most important form of permanent grasslands transformation for last years was fallows (in 2015 – 22 598 ha!, average in 2014 and 2016 - 5 914 ha)
- The results show that permanent grassland is short intermediate stage before transformation to arable land (153 943 ha; 23%)
- 1 390 ha (2.6%) of semi-natural grasslands was transformed to arable land in last 4 years
- Spatial analysis show that grasslands transformation to arable land are evenly typical for all Latvia

Permanent grasslands in Latvia

Results

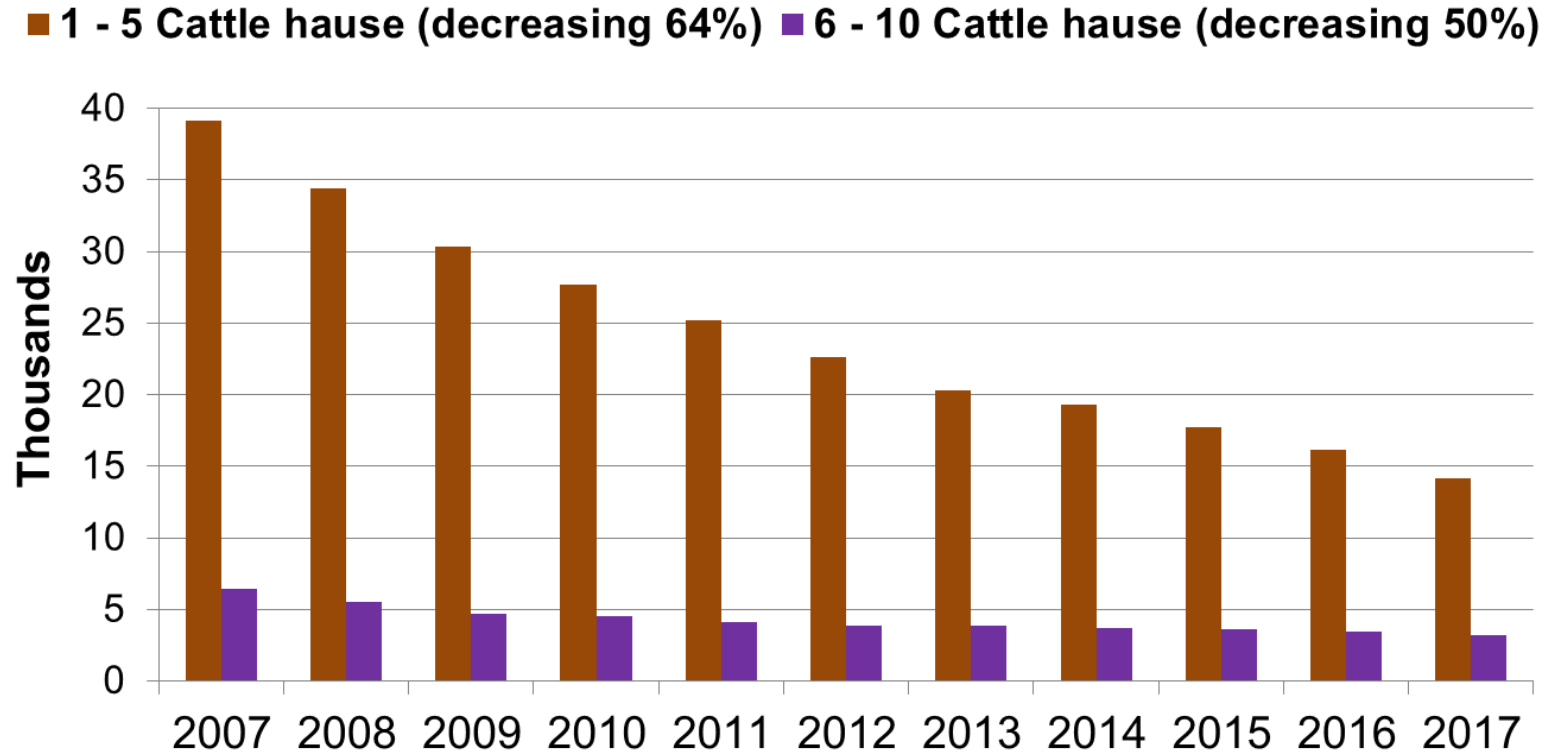


Permanent grasslands in Latvia – influencing factors

Cognitions/Conclusins

- Since 2008, it is required to ensure a minimum livestock density (LU/ha) and a defined revenue threshold (EUR/ha) to receive the area payments.
- From 2015 greening conditions have been introduced. Significantly that due to implementation of *greening* conditions permanent grasslands were not protected from conversion into the fallows.
- Important changes in the management conditions of permanent grasslands (incl. semi-natural habitats) from 2015: mulching/shcreding not allowed any more, no mowing start date, higher LU/ha etc.
- Targeted policy (support) for economically most competitive (intensive) farms in the crop sector, respectively, an increase in demand for arable land.

Permanent grasslands in Latvia – influencing factors





Thank you for attention!