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Estonian Nature Observations Database and its place in Estonian environmental information system

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Estonian Nature Observations Database

(*Loodusvaatluste andmebaas* or LVA)

<http://loodusvaatlused.eelis.ee>

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WELCOME TO THE NATURE OBSERVATIONS DATABASE

We invite everyone to insert their observations to this database. We welcome all sightings, e. g. I saw the first Hepatica in spring or roe deer in forest. In addition to living individuals you can also report observations of traces of activity or died individuals.





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Estonian Nature Observations Database (LVA)

<http://loodusvaatlused.eelis.ee>

- It has principle of Citizen Science – LVA is public database where everyone can insert own observations about species.
- Due to IT security simple registration is still needed.
- After registration user can take [registration form](#) and commence entering observations to the database.





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You can enter observation even you have not capability to identify species.

Then you must take photo and add it to the observation's data.

Thereafter your observation goes to the [forum](#) where other users can look photo, identify species and help you.



When you identified species and inserted observation to the database, what happens next?

- Observation has unconfirmed status at first. It means editor of species group has to look it over (not in the nature but in the database).
- If it is truthful the observation gets confirmed status.
- If observation is not truthful editor will ask specific questions from user or marks that this observation was wrong.
- Confirmed observations are visible for everybody on the public map application.

Distribution of species 

Map Layers 

Inserting data 



N: 6572035 E: 714100
N: 59.23277 E: 27.75245

Choose group of species

Mammals

Choose species (LAD | ENG)

-- All species --

Description of location

Time on observation

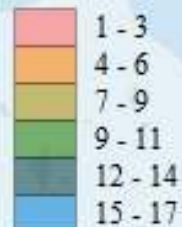
01.01.2008

Location of observation

Habitat

Status

Number of species



Aluskaart: Maa-amet



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The History of Estonian Nature Observations Database

- Plan to create a public database where every people can add own observations and to see all entered data on the public map arose about 10 years ago.
- The idea came at the same time in Estonian Environment Information Centre, which was state institution, and in Estonian Naturalists' Society, which is NGO.



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The History of Estonian Nature Observations Database

- After 3-4 years developing LVA has been functional for public use since 2008.
- Today the technical side of the Nature Observations Database is not the same what it was 6 years ago: Webpage and public map application are new and database itself is one part from database of EELIS.
- All these developings and LVA current situation are mainly a result of cooperation between Estonian Environment Information Centre (now Estonian Environment Agency) and Estonian Naturalists' Society.



Author: Aarne Tuule



Author: Silja Kana

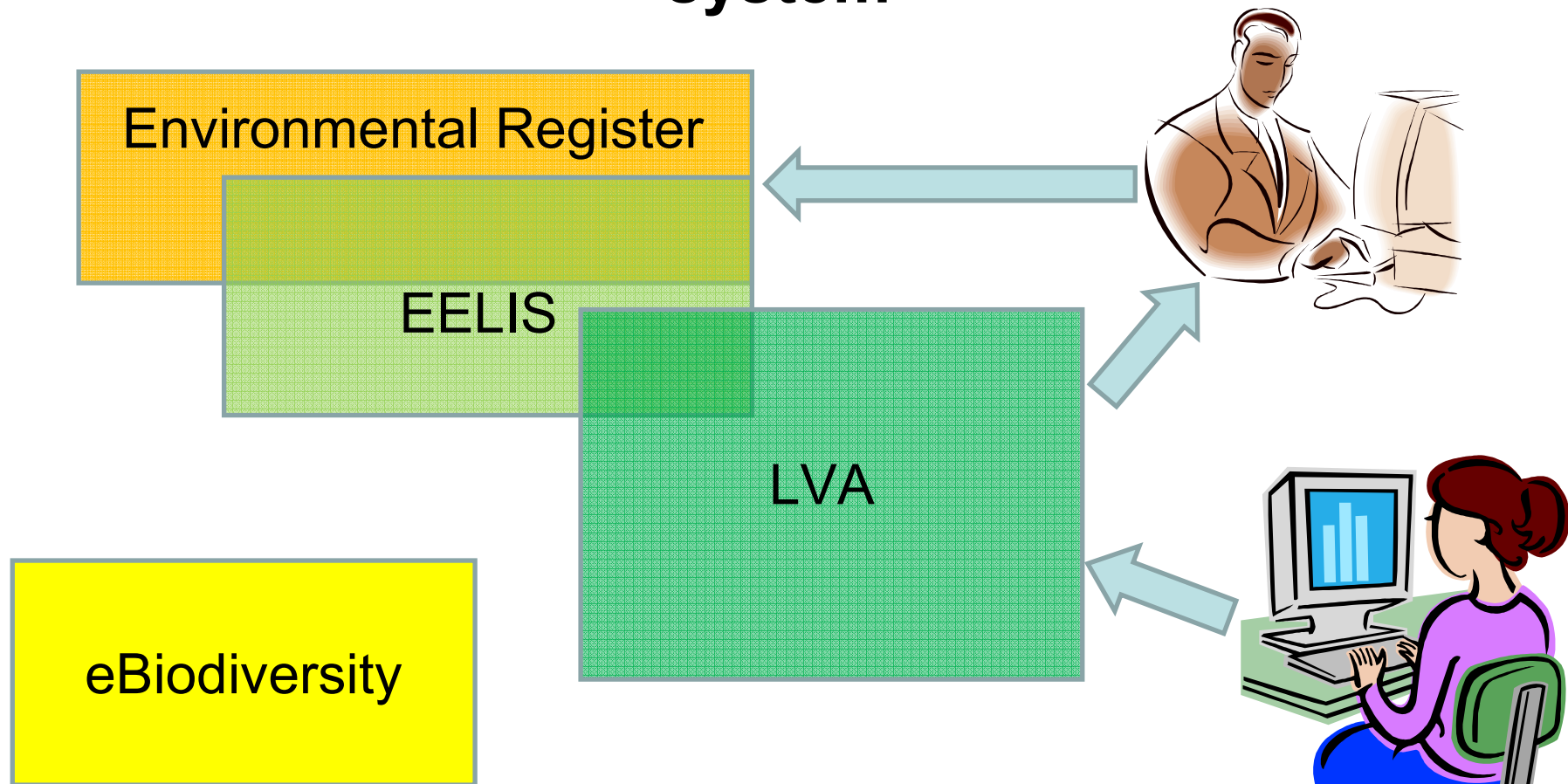
- At the moment there are over 185 000 observations in Estonian Nature Observations Database (LVA). But it includes also:
 - 1) data from distribution atlas of birds
 - 2) data from distribution atlas of mammals
 - 3) data about observations of butterflies and moths which has been previously collected by Estonian Lepidopterology Society.
- LVA has about 770 users.





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LVA place in Estonian environmental information system





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Plans for Future

Close cooperation with eBiodiversity:

- 1) Smartphone application for nature observations – one application for both databases (LVA and eBiodiversity)
- 2) Charing observations data from one to another. Goal is to achieve opportunity making queries from both databases using only one of them.



Thank you for your attention!

