

Workshop 1

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The East Europe steppes of Russia and preservation of flora.

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Steppes of the East Europe - the most transformed landscape of a planet. As a result of activity of the humans in the 20th century, they are irrevocably lost in many areas. There were only fragments of the steppe vegetation kept in unsuitable territories for development. Protection of a specific variety and a genofond of natural flora of steppes - the problem, which is demanding the most urgent measures for decision.

Large achievement in this direction became creation of the first in the south of Russia (the Low Don) State steppe natural reserve "Rostov" (the general area is 9462,8 hectares). It's situated on the subzone of bunchgrass-steppe. The rare kinds of steppe plants are here and this territory is considered by the center of abundance *Tulipa gesneriana* L.

In 2003 our laboratory had been developed the project of creation of one more steppe especially protected natural territory "The Provalskaja Steppe", which situated on stateborder with the Ukraine. The problem of creation of a bilateral steppe reserve is solved now at an interstate level. It represents the unique, stony steppes of the Don's pool kept till now. The presence endemics with close allocation (for example: *Hyacinthella pallasiana* (Stev.) Losinsk, etc.) and unique natural landscapes, which analogues are not present in the world, emphasizes necessity of creation of reserve.

The important direction of the European strategy of preservation of plants should become also creation in the Steppe zone a network of especially protected natural territories with different levels, and it is necessary to declare especially valuable from them **key botanical territories (important plant areas)**.