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Ecosystems + Policy News #5 - Autumn 2022

PROGRESS advances evidence-based policies to protect biodiversity and connects ecosystem services to markets for a more sustainable and equitable economy, prosperity, and quality of life.



partners from Latvia, Spain, Ireland, Italy, and Hungary presenting the project.

PROGRESS Action Plans available and ongoing

The Action Plans of each PROGRESS partners are now available [at the web-library](#).

The **Action Plan** is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt and exchange of experience from the interregional cooperation will be exploited to improve the regional policy instruments. The Action Plan specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their time frame, stakeholders involved, the costs and funding sources.

[Read the full news on PROGRESS Action Plans.](#)



New PROGRESS videos for you

Since the last newsletter we were doing some work, and we happily inform you that you have four sets of new videos.



NEW VIDEOS FOR YOU

Check out the videos at [Interreg Europe Progress](#), Youtube channel:

1. [MyFarm Harta](#) is the Good Practice video #6 and it explains to us their community-supported agriculture model, which consists in a subscription that allows participants to get weekly regular boxes of veggies and other farm goods, which include eggs or smoked goods. It also explains to us the relation we can find between environmental services and the way farms can properly manage these services to bring us the goods nature has to offer.
2. The 31st March 2022 took place the [4th Interregional Training Workshop of Interreg Europe PROGRESS project](#), held in Florence (Tuscany, Italy). The event tried to respond to the next question: “How to achieve landscapes in balance with the services of their ecosystems?”. The details of the debate are explained in the news that follows below. (set of 4 videos, [check them all at the playlist](#))
3. [Introducing Interreg PROGRESS](#) and [What is Interreg PROGRESS?](#) are a set of videos in which you can find illustrate the program in the languages where the Good Practice videos take place, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Spain, and Latvia. (set of 5 videos, [check them all at the playlist](#))
4. Good Practice video #7 introduces [VivaGrass Tool](#), an integrated planning tool designed to ensure the viability of grassland areas. Enables the integration of grassland ecosystem services into planning and decision-making while introducing farmers and local communities into this kind of ecosystem.

4th Interregional Training Workshop Florence, 31 March 2022

The 4th Interregional Training Workshop of Interreg Europe PROGRESS project

speakers and presenters tried to answer the main question: “How to achieve landscapes in balance with the services of their ecosystems?”.

The event has been dual, with around 100 in-person and remote participants and speakers. If you are interested in watching the whole event, check the link below.



Marina Lauri (ANCI Toscana) opened by explaining the policy debate towards the inclusion of the ecosystem services concept in the forthcoming Italian law on mountain areas. The [MyFarm Harta video](#) completed the opening. From here, the event was divided into three blocks of workshop: Analysis, agreements, and actions for landscapes, and ecosystem services:

- The video that introduced the first block was [Red Faith](#), a methodology from Hungary using airborne technologies to improve efficient generation of forest data to be used for decision-making.
- [Forest for Water in Catalonia video](#) introduced the second block, a catchment-wide agreement process with a wide array of stakeholders, to create a payment for ecosystem services towards sustainable forest management to generate a quality water cycle in the catchment and reservoir. This block also hosted two presentations on dialogue process towards agreements for more sustainable landscapes.
- The workshop ended by the hand of Enrique Doblás (CREAF) with two examples. The first one from Ireland, [All Ireland Pollinator Plan](#), an extensive island wide approach to restoring good practices on access to flowering plants to reverse the decline of pollinating insects. The second one, that concluded the event, came from Hungary, [The Green Office](#), an approach to integral action on nature based solutions in cities.



Partner's meeting in Ireland to close Phase 1 of #PROGRESS

On the 13-14th of June **PROGRESS** partners and regional stakeholders met in Dún Laoghaire (Ireland) to conclude the 1st Phase of Interreg Europe PROGRESS, thus ending the exchange of experience phase and starting the action phase of the project.

The Mayor (An Cathaoirleach) of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Councillor Lettie McCarthy welcomed the project participants and provided the opening address. Then formally launched the technical report of the project **Pilot Action**. The new PROGRESS project presentation video was realised for the occasion.

The event was divided in two frames:

- Presentation of the **Pilot Action** to transfer **SITxell** Good Practice from Catalonia to Ireland.
- Presentation of the **6 PROGRESS Action Plans** in all participating regions.

In the first frame of the meeting was explained that the Pilot Action is based on how the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and CREAM, working with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council tested the transfer of the **SITxell tool** (an early PROGRESS Good Practice) used by Barcelona Provincial Council for landscape planning and analysis to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.



*PROGRESS partners at **Fernhill Park and Gardens** (Ireland) with local stakeholders. June 2022.*

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to visiting some of the peri-urban and natural areas of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and specifically, some of the sites mapped for the Pilot Action mentioned above. The first stop was at **Fernhill Park and Gardens**, where the tour focused on the nature-centered approach to the design and management of the park for biodiversity, species protection and nature conservation.

The second and final stop of the day was at **Ticknock Forest**, one of the nine forests in the Dublin Mountains included in the **Dublin Mountains Makeover**, one of the identified Good Practices of the PROGRESS project. The Dublin Mountains Makeover will see an area of over 900 hectares transitioning from commercial forestry to being managed for recreation, biodiversity and climate. This visit was led by Karen Woods, Operations Manager at Coillte Nature and Clodagh Duffy, Recreation Manager, Dublin Mountains Partnership.

Link [HERE](#) for more detailed information about the event.

A PROGRESS Pilot Action presented at Dublin's meeting

The Pilot Action was implemented to approach ecosystem service mapping in

It started thanks that **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC)** provided **CREAF** team with all key datasets to be integrated into the **SITxell methodology**. Professional input was provided along the process by the hand of the Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer from DLRCC, a Senior Executive Planner from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and the EU Project Officer, helping with the testing and evaluation phase of the Pilot Action.

The successful implementation of the SITxell model for mapping ecosystem services and in consultation with local land use and biodiversity experts gave as a result a set of land value indicators that were prepared on the basis of biodiversity conservation value, functional value and population proximity, mapped for the full administrative area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

If you want more information related with the Pilot Action click [HERE](#).

Save the date for the **Final PROGRESS event: Barcelona, March 2023**

CREAF (Ecology and Forest Research Centre, Catalonia-Spain) is now starting the preparation of the final and closing event of **Interreg PROGRESS**, planned in Barcelona the second half of March 2023.

The results on policy improvements of all partners will be presented, and future plans for networking and partnership in ecosystem services will be discussed between project participants, stakeholders and other interested parties.

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PROGRESS partners visiting the Garfagnana Food Community (Italy). April 2022.

This is InterregEurope **PROGRESS**

PROGRESS is a 2019-2023 InterregEurope project funded by the ERDF with 1,4 M €. Its aim is to tackle Operational Plans at regional or national level and other strategies dealing with the protection and valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services. The approach is based on policy learning and capacity building of the partner organizations and relevant stakeholders of the concerned policy subsystems under 4 strands: measurement of cost & benefit of ecosystem services, Integration into policy and Planning, innovative payments for ecosystem services and landscape sustainability governance.

[PROGRESS Linktree](#)



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