



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



MINUTES
WLE Stakeholder meeting,
Boundary Park Kempen~Broek
Thursday 23/1/2019
NMC De IJzeren Man Weert

1. Introduction

Since not everyone knows each other, everyone is asked to introduce themselves.

2. Explanation Wildlife Economy by Raymond Tilmans, Province of Limburg (NL)

- It is important to exchange knowledge and experience in order to gradually set up a knowledge bank.

- Ultimately, the intention is to influence policy and thus work on a sustainable economic policy.

- Questions:

o Is there a perimeter delineated? The application referred to the border area. In the end, it was agreed to choose the Meuse valley and Kempen~Broek. In these areas Belgium and the Netherlands can cooperate well.

o Couldn't cross-border cooperation cause problems, since legislation and subsidy rules are often different? This is an Interreg project which involves cooperation between different European partners. Perhaps this is also an opportunity for influencing policy.

3. Regional Action Plan Kempen~Broek by Erwin Christis

- The aim is to gather ideas, work out projects with entrepreneurs and develop a strategy for influencing policy.

- Clarify who else wants to participate in the project.

- The initiatives must come from the entrepreneurs but in cooperation/inspiration with the organisations in this meeting. Which entrepreneurs are best involved?

- The intention is to achieve a balance between economy and ecology, it is not the intention to bring a lot of people to the region without thinking.

- Two themes have been chosen: tourism and agriculture

- The social aspect is also important. In some regions there is a migration from the countryside to the city, even by people who would prefer to stay in the countryside. Good initiatives could prevent this.

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4. 'Symbiosis in the wildlife economy: example of how nature and economy can strengthen each other' by Bert Smits, Breda University of Applied Sciences.

- Developing an experience that is attractive and yet contributes to the sustainable development of the region.
- Symbiosis is important: creating a win-win situation that works for both parties.
- People often pay more for a service or experience than for a product.
- Searching for diversity and niches: specialized products, but there is more entrepreneurial risk in this.
- Bringing supply and demand together in a smarter way: shortening the chain!

5. Questions and remarks:

- What should the project deliver? The intention is to draw up regional action plans, initiate exemplary projects and exchange knowledge. It is not the intention to use the project money to subsidise concrete projects. On the contrary, the aim of the project is to develop ideas that are self-sustaining. We have to start from the demand and take into account the capacity of the area. We will investigate the possibility of submitting new (European) projects, with which concrete realisations are possible.

Rewilding Europe also offers funding opportunities through its Rewilding Europe Capital department.

- In 2021, the theme year will be 'Ode to the Landscape'. Are there perhaps opportunities for cooperation here? It is important to seek connections with other projects and initiatives.

- What is the relationship between this project and the intention to have Kempen~Broek become MAB? This project can be an extra foundation for becoming MAB, The two reinforce each other.

- Will a meeting also be organised for entrepreneurs? The project has already been presented during the IVN course for entrepreneurs. They already worked on initiatives and cooperation arrangements in the area.

- Idea: Organize a Market Place: bring entrepreneurs together and let them present their products or ideas.

- Perhaps there is an opportunity in this project to give an overview of the barriers in regulations, especially at a time when government subsidies are decreasing. This is part of the project and our task is to convince the government that nature is valuable and also economically useful.

- Entrepreneurs should also invest in the ecosystems that provide ecosystem services (not just the government).

- The EU's 'New Green Deal' provides opportunities, perhaps also for this project. For example, all EU funds will have to undergo an ECO test and more attention will be paid to climate, short chain, circular economy,....