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European Union
European Regional
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E-newsletter

WLE Interreg Europe Newsletter #2

Welcome!

This bi-annual newsletter is dedicated to sharing news, events and updates about the WLE project.

A screenshot of a GoToMeeting online session. The top bar shows 'Talking: Erwin Christis' and 'View Everyone'. Below the bar is a grid of participant video thumbnails. The main content area displays a slide titled '2. Hiking Research (province wide)' with a 'SWOT' analysis. The slide features a 2x2 matrix with 'Te onderhouden' (To maintain) in the top-left, 'Sterktes' (Strengths) in the top-right, 'Lagere prioriteit' (Lower priority) in the bottom-left, and 'Verbeterpunten' (Improvement points) in the bottom-right. The y-axis is labeled 'Tevredenheid' (Satisfaction) ranging from 2.5 to 5.0. The x-axis is labeled 'Verbeterpunten' (Improvement points) ranging from 2.5 to 5.0. Data points on the slide include: 'Ruig project, niet te dicht' (Rough project, not too dense), 'Overvloedige wandelpaden' (Overabundant walking paths), 'Enkel wandelaars' (Single hikers), 'Ruutbanken en/of gidsloopsporen' (Rut banks and/or guide tracks), 'Mogelijkheden voor sanitaire stop' (Opportunities for sanitary stops), 'Veiligheid overdekkingszones' (Safety covered zones), 'Keuze tussen diverse soorten' (Choice between diverse types), 'Geen geleidelijke doorverkeer of beweging' (No gradual flow or movement), 'Aantrekkelijk landschap' (Attractive landscape), and 'Vulhoeken' (Fill-in areas). The bottom of the screenshot shows meeting controls: Mic, Camera, Screen, and Leave. A status bar at the bottom left indicates 'Buresu BUITEN is presenting'.

Online partner meeting

Normally, all partners were going to travel to Lapland Sweden to take part in the Steering Group and Partner meeting. Arrangements were made, the hotel was booked and flights were scheduled. Due to the Corona crisis unfortunately everything had to be cancelled.

Instead, all partners joined in an online meeting during which information was exchanged and challenges were discussed. All partners expressed their thoughts on how to move on with the project despite the difficulties concerning

[More info on WLE project website](#)



Value of nature during the Corona crisis

The regional Landscape Kempen and Maasland in Belgium counts the number of hikers in the different hiking areas in Kempen~Broek. The number of hikers during the lockdown, in the period from 15 March to 15 April of this year, was a lot higher than the number in the same period in 2019. Nearly 4,000 extra hikers were counted, representing an increase of 28 percent. The University of Antwerp also investigated the extent to which people visited nature (more) during the corona lockdown and what effect this had on their general health and well-being. Nearly all respondents visited nature regularly during the corona crisis, more than one third even several times a day. More than half did this more often than before the crisis. They claim nature made them feel fitter, more positive, more relaxed, less anxious and happier. This proves that it is important that people have access to nature. Continuing to invest in landscape and nature closeby is now more than ever an absolute must, which again can be beneficial for entrepreneurs.



Wildlife Economy contributes to Innovative management of Swedish Lapland's fisheries

One of the many things the County Administration Board will be delving deeper into through their part in project Wildlife Economy is the connection between an increasing or decreasing natural resource in the form of wild salmon and its effect upon the number of visitors coming and economic value created within the Swedish Lapland region.

Not so many years ago salmon was a threatened species in Lapland's rivers, and they have over many years worked hard to change to more modern river specific management techniques. They have already several fish counters in their region and can through these ultra-modern acoustic counters get a good idea of the number of salmon returning to our rivers to spawn. Within the project Wildlife Economy they will now be following the number of salmon returning to the rivers and through the number of sold river fishing licenses they will be measuring to see how increasing or decreasing numbers of fish effects the number of anglers who visit our region. Eventually they would like to see exactly how much of an eco-system service salmon brings to the Lapland regions rivers.



Study visitis

All partners plan to do a study visit which is useful for their specific situation. The people from Oder Delta aim to go to Danube Delta where they want to learn more about wetland restoration, hides construct & management and visitor marketing & management. The representatives from Norbotten also want to visit the Danube Delta but in their case the key learning topics are management strategies, governance, fisheries management and reinvestment in nature. Maasvallei/Kempen~Broek find Knepp or New Forest the most interesting location to visit. They want to learn more about nature and health, the transition from agro factory to holistic farming, river restoration, tourism, supply chain and meat business.

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Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland - Winterdagstad 07 - 06/11/2020 - Belgium

