



BIOGOV
Interreg Europe



BIOGOV uses multi-stakeholder partnerships and participatory governance to improve regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation

www.interregeurope.eu/biogov

An interregional cooperation project for improving natural and cultural heritage policies.

Project Partners

Province of Fryslân (NL)
Flemish Land Agency (BE)
Bulgarian Management Association (BG)
Territorial Studies Institute (Environment and Territorial Planning Ministry) (ES)
Lodzkie Region (PL)
ADEPT Transylvania Foundation (RO)
Mures Environmental Protection Agency (RO)
County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (SE)
Slovenian Forestry Institute (SI)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Action plan
BIOGOV 2020-2022

**BIODIVERSITY
GOVERNANCE**



Projekt: BIOGOV

Partner organisation: Province of Fryslân

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant):

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NUTS2region:

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:
*Provincial Development Framework -
Omgevingsvisie*

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This action plan has been developed with the support of the European Union through Interreg Project BIOGOV 2018-2020.

Biodiversity governance

Improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation through Multistakeholder partnerships and participatory governance

During 2018-2020 the BIOGOV project have started to form a collaboration on biodiversity conservation and sustainable landuse among different stakeholders within the Valle area. The work is done by using a multi-stakeholder partnership process. The plan is to present a long-term cooperation-model (joint working method), by the end of the Biogov project in May 2022.

A regional stakeholder group (RSG) who participates in the project was established on a broad stakeholder meeting in October 2018.

We identified which stakeholder groups to involve and who is to represent each perspective, a collaborative working group consisting of 20 participants was established. The group covers both public and private organisations, business and NGO's, as well as a gender and age balance among them.

From October 2018 to March 2019 the RSG were involved in defining visions, values and what they had at stake regarding future and sustainable land use. The meetings have been characterized by the 7 principles that makes a multistakeholder partnership process efficient. Furthermore, we have been able to describe existing perspectives and core values which are of most importance within the Valle District. These values seem to be able to co-exist and to be strengthened if stakeholders can negotiate their interests taking an integrated and more holistic approach to land and water management in the area

By starting a process of implementing vision and values in concrete landscapes and environments in the area we make stakeholders negotiate and take joint responsibility for the practical consequences of the need for a multifunctional land use approach.

The actions within this action plan are all identified by the RSG as important measures to carry out in the area in order to preserve and enhance bioiversity, green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

This draft of the action plan:

- has been adopted and accepted by the Regional Stakeholder Group

Background

BioGov Policy instrument: The Provincial Strategy on Spatial Planning and the Environment

The Provincial Development Framework (POVI) is an elaboration at regional policy level of the new national law - NOVI – aiming to provide a sustainable perspective for our living environment.

The new law enters into force as of 1-1-2022.

The NOVI approach is based on broad societal involvement and contributions from government, citizens, the private sector, civil society organisations and centres of knowledge. The partners in society will actively contribute to improving the living environment and increasing the sustainability of the way in which we live, work and spend our leisure time. These combined efforts call for a government that cooperates and facilitates where desirable and possible, and directs where necessary. And it calls for a strategic approach to work with stakeholders.

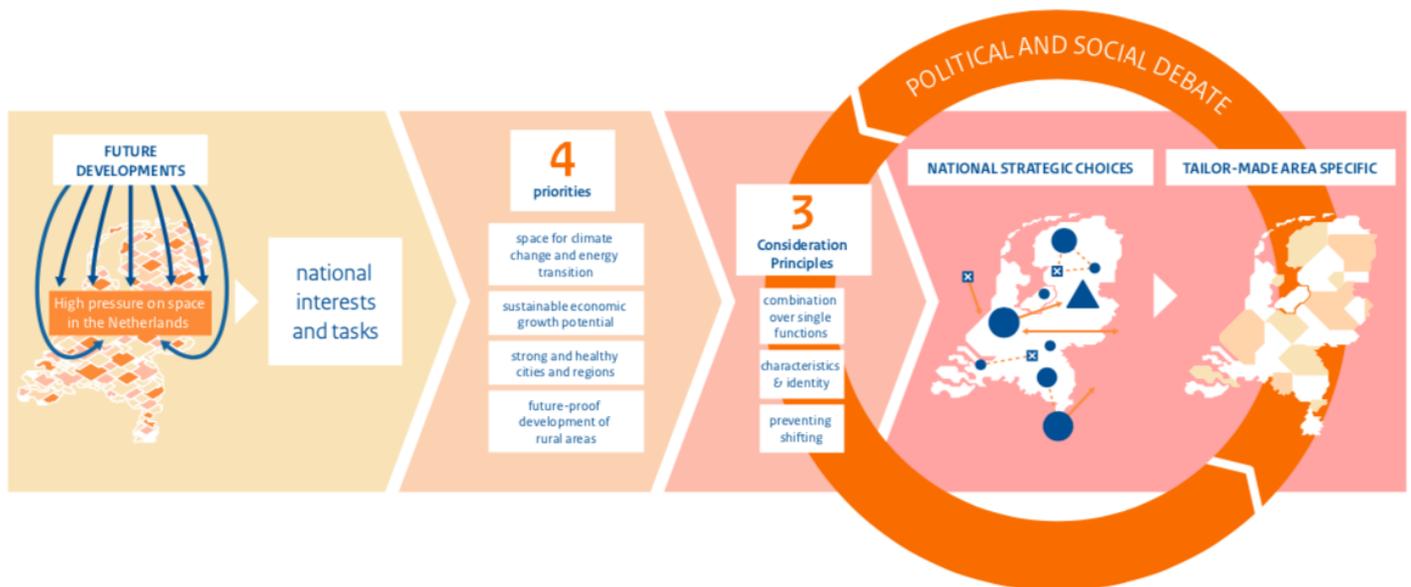


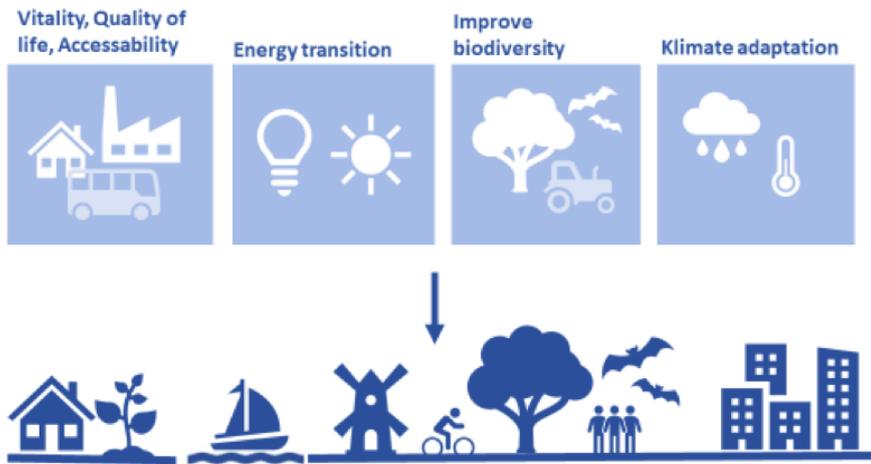
Figure: Consideration within the NOVI.

The national strategic choices are translated in to tailor-made, area-specific solutions which allows for more aligning to regional specificities and what stakeholders in a specific region agree upon. The municipality is the lowest level of government.

Environmental Development Framework Fryslan

In Fryslan, the regional (provincial) policy instrument is called the Provincial Development Framework. It has to align both with the national law and the local municipality rules and procedures. The Provincial Development Framework of province of Fryslan addresses 4 big challenges:

Which choices have to be made? 4 big challenges



BioGov addresses the provincial challenge 'Improve biodiversity'.

The law will change a lot for the rural areas.

It focuses on an integral bottom-up approach of stakeholders balancing their interests through negotiation with a healthy and safe (rural) environment for all as the leading principle. The aim is to speed up formal decision-making on activities in the environment, decrease rules and procedures, and integrate functions to meet challenges such as a sustainable economy, climate change, energy transition and improve biodiversity. This is a radical change from the current policy framework, which is a top-down policy framework ('in Dutch called 'Bestemmingsplannen'). 'Bestemmingsplannen' prescribe what can be done in rural areas with no room for integration of functions (e.g. nature and agriculture), nor room for regional adaptation and modification based on stakeholder consultations.

The Environment and Planning Act should bring opportunities and chances

- Flexibility in case of changes
- Room for initiative from society (bottom-up)
- Solve challenges **regionally (territorial)**
- Shorter procedures (26 → 8 weeks)
- Digitale availability: all information in one url (information houses)

BioGov pilot municipality: Noardeast Fryslan

Noard-East Fryslân is the pilot municipality for BioGOov. It is a new municipality that formally started in 1-1-2019 by combining 3 municipalities: Dongeradeel, Ferwerderadiel and Kollumerland. Noard-East Fryslân has: 45,000 inhabitants, living in 1 regional city (Dokkum) and 51 villages on around 400 km² with landscape variations from woody meadows in the southern part mainly for dairy farming towards open clay soils for arable farming close to the Waddensea.



All Dutch municipalities anticipate a new national law called 'Environment and Protection Act' by drafting a vision document.

Nature and biodiversity

In Fryslân, there are several policy measures agreed upon for securing nature values inside and outside farmers' lands. These are

- Natura 2000-areas;
- Farmers Collectives, areas in farmers' lands, where farmers collectively agree to support specific birds in their field (provincial government policy);
- Ecological connection zones, areas to connect nature areas (provincial government policy);
- National Ecological Network - NEN or EHS in Dutch (provincial government policy);
- Areas for goose toleration (provincial government policy).

In Noard-East Fryslân municipality, there are three Natura-2000 areas and national landscapes: Lauwersmeer, Waddensea and Noardlike Fryske Wâlden. In winter time, migratory goose feed on meadows and farmers are compensated for the loss of productivity.

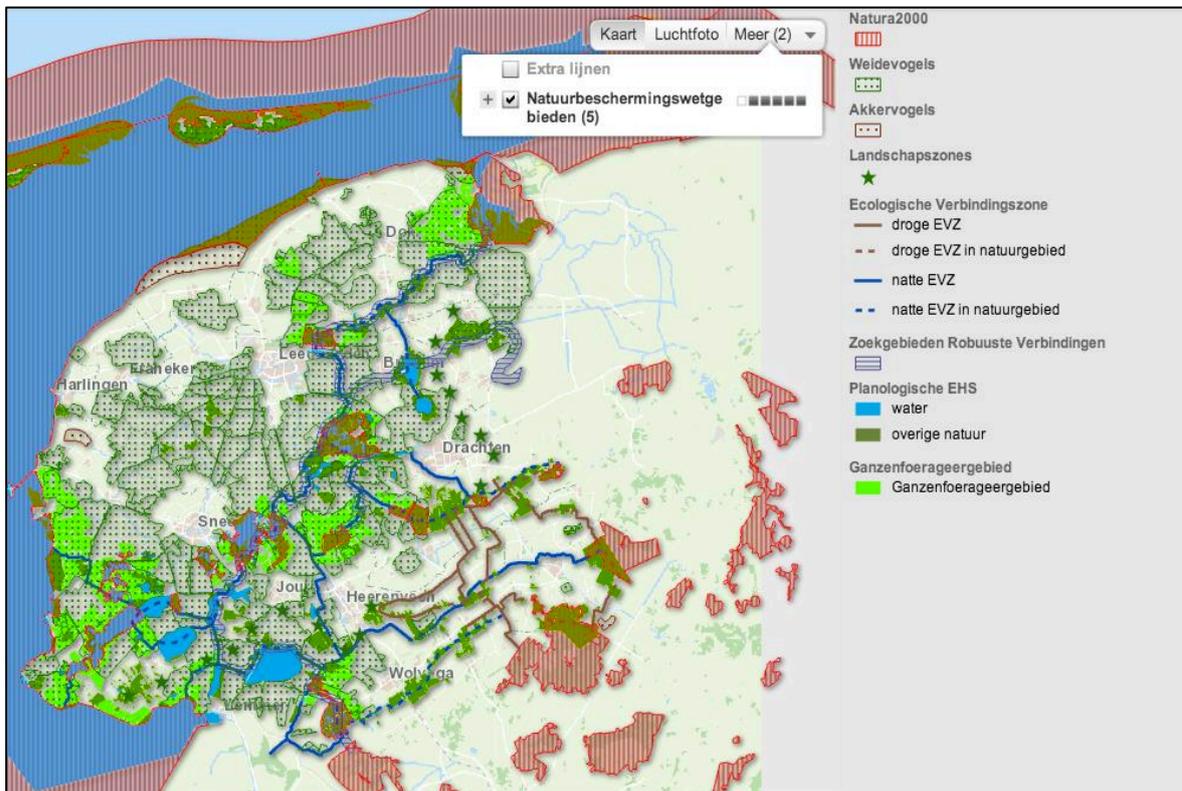


Figure: The different nature areas and landscape zones in Friesland. Also showing where birds are located – meadow birds – green dots; arable birds – red dots. Dark Green areas = N2000.

BIOGOV in Fryslan

The overarching goal of BioGov in Fryslan is to demonstrate how stakeholders jointly address challenges concerning biodiversity conservation as a model of participatory governance.

The outcome will be a proposal for biodiversity conservation, which can be shared with other municipalities.

How the action plan will affect the policy document

The Environmental Development Framework has been approved by the Provincial Government in May 2020, through a long consultative process and political decision making. The Environmental Development Framework states that it will implement the Interreg Europe project Celebrating Diversity, i.e. the BIOGOV project (page 74), as a part of the provincial ambition to stimulate nature-inclusive farming through projects focusing on improving insect life and (soil) biodiversity.

1. Based on Action 1, a document will be produced to inform policy staff of the POVI how the Regional Stakeholder Group (Twirre) functions as a territorial model for participatory governance with lessons learned in practice on biodiversity conservation.
2. Action 2 will yield a specific experience detailed in the Environmental Development Framework, the Omgevingstafel, dedicated to biodiversity conservation.
3. Through Action 3, the province of Fryslan will support the development of a **digital storymap** involving the stakeholders in the future work through a

collaborative process. The storymap will include mapping of the green infrastructure in a specific pilot area, focusing on partridge as an indicator species and address biodiversity management, planning and future work. This action will be an example how stakeholder cooperation and territorial actions contribute to green infrastructure and preservation of biodiversity.

DRAFT

Action plan

BIOGOV 2020 - 2022

The following actions are planned for 2020-2022 to improve regional policies for biodiversity conservation in Fryslan

Strategic level – addressing the Environmental Development Framework on biodiversity conservation

Action 1

A territorial model of participatory governance

1

Strengthen the local stakeholders to advocate as a territorial collective for improved biodiversity in the municipality of noardeast Fryslan as a model of participatory governance to implement the basic requirement of the Provincial Development Framework on participation of stakeholders.

- *Develop the Twirre – Waadrane Regional Stakeholder Group into a sustainable model of collaboration and joint working between citizens, landowners, nature organisations and policy makers to implement the new policy Provincial Development Framework, focusing on a nature-inclusive and healthy rural environment..*
- *Regular inspirational meetings with citizens, landowners, nature organisations and (municipal and provincial) policy staff – Twirre events.*
- *Identify and apply compensatory schemes, such as Result-Based Payments, to enable citizens to support biodiversity conservation efforts of nature-inclusive farmers – Bloeiend Boerenland.*

Action 2

Omgevingstafel - A dialogue session to fit stakeholder initiatives within the policy framework.

2

Organise a Dialogue session (Omgevingstafel) in which stakeholders present their plan for improving a specific habitat for specific Red List species from the provincial policy document (i.e. Partridge) within the context of the municipal and provincial Environmental Development Framework.

- *Identify stakeholders who have a plan for habitat improvement: farmers (owning land), citizens (supporting farm land biodiversity) and municipal authority (public lands)*
- *Organize an Omgevingstafel to get feedback from ecological*

perspective, especially from Green Infrastructure policy perspective (lessons from Sweden and Spain. to identify feasibility of proposed actions and align this feedback to the policy instrument in terms of feasibility of project getting formal approval

- *Apply the Schetsschuit tool (from Belgium) for map-based local dialogues on habitats and ecological corridors as part of an 'Omgevingstafel'*
- *Co-organise a meeting with municipal civil servants to share and identify lessons learned for the policy instrument*

Best Practices level – from interregional learning

Action 3

Digital Storymap

3

Develop an interactive digital storymap as a tool for bottom-up planning of biodiversity management and ecological corridors.

In Phase 2, the municipality will start mapping the green infrastructure in part of the municipality of noardeast Fryslân. It will be implemented into a digital storymap combining maps with narrative text, photos and videos in an interactive way where we will involve stakeholders and work in a collaborative process.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Stamp of the Organisation:

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

<p>Action 1</p>	<p>A territorial model of participatory governance</p> <p>Strengthen the regional stakeholders to advocate as a territorial model of participatory governance for improved biodiversity in the municipality of noardeast Fryslan.</p>
<p>1. Background</p>	<p>The Regional stakeholder Group has formulated a proposal (2021-2022) for the provincial Biodiversity Programme in which it proposes to organize dialogue events between citizens and farmers on biodiversity conservation in the municipality. This will allow the Twirre – Waadrane Regional Stakeholder Group to develop into a sustainable model of collaboration and joint working between citizens, landowners, nature organisations and policy makers.</p> <p>This action thus addresses a basic requirement of the Provincial Development Framework on participation of stakeholders.</p> <p>The anticipated results are new projects, increased knowledge shared and more mutual understanding and appreciation between citizens and farmers, focusing on a nature-inclusive and healthy rural environment.</p>
<p>2. Activities</p>	<p>2.1 Regular inspirational meetings with citizens, landowners, nature organisations and (municipal and provincial) policy staff – Twirre events.</p> <p>2.2 Identify and develop compensatory schemes, such as Result-Based Payments (Bloeiend Boerenland), to enable citizens support biodiversity conservation efforts of nature-inclusive farmers.</p>
<p>3. Players involved</p>	<p>The different stakeholders in the municipality: farmers' collective Waadrane (150 farmers), Twirre as a citizen's working group linking farmers and citizens, nature organisations, policy makers.</p>
<p>4. Timeframe</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>
<p>5. Cost</p>	<p>24.500 Euro</p>
<p>6. Funding sources</p>	<p>To be covered by the Biodiversity Programme of province of Fryslan.</p>
<p>7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV</p>	<p>The insights and dynamics for involving stakeholders strategically has emerged from the experiences gained from the visits in the Sweden, Spain, Romania. More specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How IET Galicia strategically links the formation of local stakeholders into an association to align with the regional policy framework on Green Infrastructure (Law). - How ADEPT in Romania connects biodiversity with socio-economic development and thereby generates high reliance for their work. - How county Västtra Gotaland Sweden has created a model for stakeholder cooperation to address the national policy SEPA.

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

Action 2	<p>Omgevingstafel - A dialogue session to fit stakeholder initiatives within the policy framework.</p> <p>Organise a dialogue session (Omgevingstafel) in which stakeholders present their plan on maps for improving a specific habitat for specific Red List species from the provincial policy document (i.e. Partridge) within the context of the municipal and provincial Environmental Development Framework</p>
1. Background	<p>The omgevingstafel is a tool suggested by the national policy instrument NOVI to adres complex complex spatial initiatives with several stakeholders with possibly conflicting interests. The format of an Omgevingstafel includes that there is an independent chair, (representatives from) the initiative, technical experts and civil servants aware of the policy instrument.</p> <p>It is a new tool that has not yet been piloted in Fryslan. There no examples available on Omgevingstafels dealing with biodiversity conservation. The Schetschuit methodology from Belgium fits the tool with the presentation of the habitat improvement through dialogue and maps.</p>
2. Activities	<p>2.1 Identify stakeholders who have a plan for habitat improvement: arable farmers (owning land), citizens (supporting farm land biodiversity) and municipal authority (increase biodiversity on public lands)</p> <p>2.2 Organize a dialogue session - Omgevingstafel - to get feedback from the ecological perspective, especially from Green Infrastructure policy perspective - inspirations from Sweden and Spain - to identify feasibility of proposed habitat improvements and align this feedback to the policy instrument in terms of feasibility of project getting formal approval</p> <p>2.3 Apply the Schetschuit tool (from Belgium) for map-based local dialogues on habitats and ecological corridors as part of an 'Omgevingstafel'</p> <p>2.4 Co-organise a meeting with municipal civil servants to share and identify lessons learned for the policy instrument</p>
3. Players involved	<p>- Regional stakeholders: representatives from farmers, nature organisations and citizens</p> <p>- Ecological experts</p> <p>- Municipal civil servants</p> <p>- Provincial civil servants</p>
4. Timeframe	2012-2022
5. Cost	5.000 euro
6. Funding sources	<p>Staff time from civil servants to be covered from provincial and municipal regular bodies;</p> <p>Meeting costs and ecological experts from Biodiversity Programme of Province of Fryslan.</p>

7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	During the per review from PP2 (VLM, Flanders) to the stakeholders in Fryslan, the Schetschuit methodology was shared as a methodology and it was translated how this could fit the context of BioGov Fryslan.
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Part III – Details of actions envisaged

Action 3	Digital storymap Develop an interactive digital storymap as a tool for bottom-up planning of biodiversity management and ecological corridors.
1. Background	The municipality is developing a so-called Landscape Biography. This is a document that highlights how the landscape has developed over centuries and what can still be seen today in the landscape. Several other municipalities in Fryslan have also developed a Landscape Biography. In order to make the Landscape Biography more interactive, the municipality has a desire to link local stories and future visions on biodiversity conservation to the history of the landscape. This can be done with storymaps. Digital storymaps combine maps with narrative text, photos and videos in an interactive way. Based on experience in Sweden, the aim is in Fryslan to develop storymaps towards visualizing green infrastructure (core areas, buffer zones and ecological corridors) in noardeast Fryslan and also address biodiversity management, planning and future work.
2. Activities	<p>2.1 Develop the online connections between the storymaps and the Landscape Biography</p> <p>2.2 Detail how the storymap can develop visualize the desired green infrastructure of the area with core areas, buffer zones and ecological corridors in noardeast Fryslan</p> <p>2.3 Develop a communication plan to inform citizens about the the possibility to upload local stories and future visions on biodiversity conservation through storymaps</p> <p>2.4 Uploading local stories and future visions on biodiversity conservation through storymaps</p> <p>2.5 Explore how the province can facilitate that the experiences with the storymap for Green Infrastructure from noardeast Fryslan can inspire other municipalities.</p>
3. Players involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional stakeholders - Ecological experts translating - Municipal civil servants - Provincial civil servants, especially GIS experts

4. Timeframe	2012-2022
5. Cost	10.000 euro
6. Funding sources	Staff time from civil servants to be covered from provincial and municipal governmental budgets; Meeting costs and ecological experts from Biodiversity Programme of Province of Fryslan.
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	During the per review from PP2 (VLM, Flanders) to the stakeholders in Fryslan, the Schetschuit methodology was shared as a methodology and it was translated how this could fit the context of BioGov Fryslan.