



Programme 1st RIWET Exchange of Experience Event (EEW) & Kick-off

The RIWET Kick-off meeting and Exchange of Experience Workshop-1 (EEW-1) will take place in Drenthe, NL 24th – 27th June 2024.

The Lead Partner, the Province of Drenthe, has developed a stimulating programme at various locations which includes:

- Project introductory sessions
- A keynote speech on the European Peatland Initiative (TBC)
- Field visits to the Hunze Valley and peatland areas in Drenthe
- Discussions and exchange of Good Practices with stakeholders
- Shared experiences with Theory of Change

Locations: Emmen | Bargerveen | Hunzedal

Monday June 24

Arrival at Fletcher Hotel By Zoo, Emmen and informal dinner (optional). (20 min walk from Emmen Station or 5 min by bus 3 or 4) <https://www.fletcherhotelbyzoo.nl/en/>

19:00 Informal dinner (optional).

Please indicate on the registration form if you will join us for dinner.



Tuesday June 25

- 08.30** Departure by bus hotel to Wollegras
- 09.00** Walk-in with coffee and tea
- 09.20** Welcome by LP Drenthe and introduction to the programme of the day
- 09.30** Natural Countryside Programme (2022-2027) (Programma Natuurlijk Platteland) – what is it and what would we like to improve? +Q&A
**See Annex 1 for background information on the Natural Countryside Programme*
- 10.00** Good practice 1, (presented by a stakeholder) Q&A
- 10.30** **Coffee break**
- 11.00** Good Practice 2, Bargerveen (Gert Jan van Duinen, Foundation Bargerveen)
- 11.30** Peer review and co-creation with all partners
- 12.30** **Lunch and visit to local sheepfold**
- 14.00** Official Kick-off by Henk Jumelet, Regional Minister of the Province of Drenthe
- 14.30** Guided cycle tour & Good Practice 3
- 17.00** **Drinks & bites & networking**
- 17.30** Return to hotel
- 19.00** **Dinner in the city of Emmen**
- 21.00** Return to hotel

Wednesday June 26

- 09.00** Bus trip to Zuidlaardermeer, the northern part of Hunze Valley in Drenthe
- 09.45** Good Practice 1, Introduction of the Hunze Vision & Programme Team and the role of private landowners.
- 10.45** Good practice 2: Site visit Noordma and Tusschenwater
- 12.15** Departure to 't Keerpunt, Spijkerboor.
- 12.30** **Lunch**
- 13.30** Walk along the Hunze river.
Good practice 3: Annermoeras – Waterboard Hunze & Aa's.
- 15.00** **Coffee break**
- 15.15** Peer review co-creation session
- 16.15** Departure to LOFAR, Exloo
- 16.45** Good Practice LOFAR agricultural land changed into nature and private company/research organisation Drents Landschap ASTRON (space telescope).
- 17.15** Departure to Dinner (location tbc)
- 17.30** Drinks & dinner
- 21.00** **Return to hotel**

Thursday June 27

- 09.00 – 12.00** Steering Committee Meeting (only for partners), Hotel Fletcher byZoo.
- Theory of Change workshop
 - Update workplan
 - Programme EEW2
 - Programme 1st webinar
 - Communication
 - Reporting
- 12.00** Buffet lunch
- 13.30** End of meeting and departure

Annex 1

Natural Countryside Programme (2022-2027)

The Natural Countryside Programme focuses on physical measures creating a robust Nature Network Netherlands (NNN), Natura 2000 restoration measures, agricultural nature management and Water Framework Directive (WFD). If necessary, additional initiatives are taken aimed at specific species. Initiatives through partnerships at local and regional level are encouraged.

Because of the interaction between the functioning of the NNN and water and environmental conditions and natural values in the area, it is important that there is more cohesion between nature within and outside the NNN. Agricultural nature management is an instrument that contributes to the international obligations under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the WFD as well as to the attractiveness and experience of rural areas. Together with the waterboards, the Province of Drenthe is looking for maximum synergy between the Natural Countryside Programme, the WFD, the Future-Oriented Agriculture Programme and the revised National Environment and Planning Act.

The recreation sector is one of the economic pillars of the Drenthe countryside. Nature is of great value in this respect. Recreational shared use is possible as long as nature objectives are not compromised. Sustainably strengthening nature contributes to climate objectives. For example, Drenthe retains water in stream valleys such as the river Hunze. Where possible, the principles of the climate strategy is combined with the design of nature reserves.

The Natural Countryside Programme has been running for a number of years now. Many developments influence the programme and the nature tasks it contains. The necessary nitrogen measures, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and developments in agriculture (the agricultural transition) ask for more attention. This all adds up to a different and more broad policy implementation, involving more and earlier involvement of other parties and tasks. E.g. can nature development and restoration of the stream system be done with residents, and landowners/users? Can the capacity for drinking water extraction be increased while increasing natural values?

The Province of Drenthe wants to improve the Natural Countryside Programme in such a way that it is more in line with the introduction of the National Environment and Planning Act. It is necessary to think about participation and forms of cooperation at an early stage.

1) New projects: projects including early collaboration with farmers and other landowners/users and the local community, involving parties in the design and realization of new nature reserves and cooperation with landowners. In RIWET Drenthe will experiment and develop knowledge by carrying out projects in the various sub-areas 'Hunzedal' and 'Bargerveen'. In Bargerveen this could be the

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development of paludiculture, connecting water buffer zones, or improving internal quays which contribute to further recovery as well as improved water level management. In the Hunze river catchment area, the aim is to enhance local cooperation in order to create high-quality nature together with Nature trust organisations, waterboards and private landowners.

2) Management of the instrument. Themes are related and effect each other, and have to be executed in a more integral way. E.g. integrated development with farmers. In addition, the Province is working on broadening the nature task by combining it with agricultural development (nature-inclusive agriculture). It is also looking at possibilities to increase the quality of nature in combination with increasing the water extraction capacity.