

# Policy Learning Platform on environment and resource efficiency

# Workshop brief

PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL HERITAGE IN EUROPEAN REGIONS

22-23 NOVEMBER 2018, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



# **Table of Contents**

Summary	3
Introduction	
Participation	
Sessions	5
Conclusions	11
Annex A: Agenda	13
Annex B: List of Participants	15

## **Summary**

The Policy Learning Platform (PLP) on environment and resource efficiency organised a thematic workshop on protection and sustainable management of natural heritage in European regions. The workshop took place on 22-23 November 2018 in Bucharest, Romania.

The workshop brought together Interreg Europe project partners to discuss the latest developments in the topic and how Interreg Europe projects can contribute to regional efforts towards better protection and management of natural heritage assets. The thematic workshop was the first concrete opportunity for Interreg Europe projects dealing with natural heritage to exchange approaches and practices and discuss ideas and actions for future cooperation.

Representatives of eleven Interreg Europe projects and a representative of EC Directorate-General for Environment participated in the event. Representatives of Interreg Europe's Secretariat contributed with their knowledge and expertise to the discussions.

#### Introduction

The Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform organised a thematic workshop on protection and sustainable management of natural heritage in European regions. The workshop was held in Bucharest on 22-23 November 2018. The aim of the event was to pave the way for synergies between the Interreg Europe projects working on the topic of natural heritage. Consequently, the participating project representatives were invited to discuss and share their good practices and interesting approaches, learn more about the European framework and start a networking and exchange process among projects. They also have the possibility to discuss ideas and actions for future cooperation and how the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform could help them to improve the effectiveness of regional policies with regards to natural heritage.

## **Participation**

Representatives of ten Interreg Europe projects dealing with the topic of natural heritage and one project that falls under the thematic area Research and innovation participated in the event:

CD-ETA Interreg Europe	Collaborative Digitalisation of Natural and Cultural Heritage <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/cd-eta/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/cd-eta/</a>	
BID-REX Interreg Europe	From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: enhancing natural value through improved regional development policies <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/bid-rex/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/bid-rex/</a>	
HERICOAST Interreg Europe	Management of heritage in coastal landscapes https://www.interregeurope.eu/hericoast/	
BIOGOV Interreg Europe	Celebrating Biodiversity Governance <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/biogov/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/biogov/</a>	
Night Light Interreg Europe	Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/nightlight/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/nightlight/</a>	
Green Pilgrimage Interreg Europe	Green Pilgrimage Supporting Natural and Cultural Heritage <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/greenpilgrimage/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/greenpilgrimage/</a>	
Delta Lady Interreg Europe	Floating Cultures in River Deltas <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/deltalady/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/deltalady/</a>	
Islands of Innovation Interreg Europe	Innovation Policies for Sustainable European Islands <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/islandsofinnovation/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/islandsofinnovation/</a>	

PERFECT Interreg Europe	Planning for Environment and Resource eFficiency in European Cities and Towns <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/perfect/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/perfect/</a>
INVALIS Interreg Europe	Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/invalis/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/invalis/</a>
ThreeT Interreg Europe	Thematic Trail Trigger <a href="https://www.interregeurope.eu/threet/">https://www.interregeurope.eu/threet/</a>

#### Sessions

#### Day 1

The event agenda is included in Annex A, and all presentations from the day are available <u>via the Policy Learning Platform</u>.

The workshop started with an official welcome from Mr. Dan Balanescu from the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania who highlighted the importance of interregional cooperation as well as the increased involvement of Romanian regions and organisations in interregional learning. Ms. Marie Guitton from the Joint Secretariat of Interreg Europe Programme joined Mr. Balanescu in welcoming the participants and stressed upon the learning opportunities provided by the Policy Learning Platform.

On behalf of the Policy Learning Platform Mr. Thorsten Kohlisch, Thematic manager of the platform also greeted the participants, presented the services of the platform and gave an update on recently launched services



(matchmaking sessions, peer review). Taking up the call for interregional learning expressed during the welcome speeches, the thematic experts of the platform introduced the audience to the objectives of the event and gave the floor to the participants for an interactive introduction round.

#### Overview of thematic issues addressed by Interreg Europe projects dealing with natural heritage

Mr. Ruslan Zhechkov and Ms. Venelina Varbova, thematic experts on environment and resource efficiency presented an overview of the main thematic issues addressed by Interreg Europe projects dealing with natural heritage. In addition, the main EU policy instruments were mentioned and how the topic of natural heritage is covered in the current Cohesion policy and prospects for EU post-2020 Cohesion policy.

Key challenges addressed by Interreg Europe projects dealing with natural heritage:

Balancing nature preservation and development	<ul> <li>New management models for balancing preservation and exploitation of natural heritage assets (IMPACT, SWARE)</li> <li>Cycling as the sustainable mobility option not sufficiently recognised in preserved territories (Eco-Cicle)</li> </ul>
Pressures on natural heritage and biodiversity	<ul> <li>Coastal areas suffer from environmental degradation (Land-Sea, HERICOAST)</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>Infrastructure and tourism threaten natural heritage assets of coastal areas (HERICOAST)</li> <li>Biodiversity loss (BIO-GOV)</li> <li>Invasive alien species threatening biodiversity and ecosystems (INVALIS)</li> </ul>
Policy integration and governance	<ul> <li>Separation of economic policies and environmental policies (Green Pilgrimage)</li> <li>Lack of reliable biodiversity data for policy making (BID-REX, Land-Sea)</li> <li>Lack of solid multi-level governance and fragmented governance structures (SWARE)</li> <li>Natural and cultural heritage dissociated in separate offers (SWARE, HERICOAST)</li> <li>Insufficient coordination among key actors, adjacent municipalities, private sector (OUR WAY, SWARE, IMPACT)</li> <li>Participatory governance (BIO-GOV, IMPACT, SWARE)</li> </ul>
The challenge of valorising natural heritage	<ul> <li>Low recognition of decision-makers on the benefits of sustainable valorisation of natural heritage assets (SWARE)</li> <li>No models and good practices for the protection and maintenance of greenways (ONE WAY)</li> <li>Unexploited potential of regional eco-tourism due to limited intermodal connections (ThreeT)</li> <li>The potential of riversides as tourism spots not sufficiently recognised (STAR Cities)</li> <li>The resources of river deltas not utilized for development of the bio-economy (Delta Lady)</li> </ul>
Education and awareness raising	<ul> <li>Education and networking (IMPACT)</li> <li>Volunteering (IMPACT)</li> <li>Education on sustainability and conservation issues (SWARE, OUR WAY)</li> </ul>
Digital knowledge	<ul> <li>Lack of digital knowledge (Green Pilgrimage)</li> <li>Low penetration of digital approaches (CD-ETA, HERICOAST)</li> <li>Lack of organisational capacity and understanding for benefits from digital solutions (CD-ETA)</li> <li>No common approach or standard on digitisation of heritage (CD-ETA)</li> <li>Insufficient habitat mapping and heritage inventories (SWARE, BID-REX)</li> </ul>

Latest trends and developments at European level in the field of nature protection, *Presentation by Mr. Vujadin Kovacevic, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission* 

Mr. Kovacevic put in the spotlight two EU guidance documents under development in the framework of the EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020 and the EU Action plan for nature, people and the economy, namely:

- Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making (Q4 2018)
- Guidance on a strategic framework for further supporting the deployment of EU-level green and blue infrastructure (Q4 2018)

He also presented the <u>EU Pollinators initiative</u> adopted on 1 June 2018 which sets strategic objectives and actions to be taken by the EU and Member States to address the decline of pollinators. The initiative establishes an integrated EU approach to tackle the problem and sets actions under three priorities:



- improving knowledge of pollinator decline, its causes and consequences;
- addressing the causes of pollinator decline;
- raising awareness, engaging society and promoting collaboration.

The role of regional authorities in meeting the objectives of EU Pollinators initiative was also discussed.

#### Good practices from Interreg Europe projects

This session included short presentations of good practices identified by four Interreg Europe projects highlighting the advantages and innovative elements of each practice, impact, factors for success as well as limitations. In line with the objective of the workshop to foster thematic exchanges between natural heritage experts and policy-makers, the presenters focused on the features and results of the presented good practices. The presentations were followed by a discussion with the audience. The following practices were presented:

Use of biodiversity data in decision making: the SITxell project (Spain) delivered by Ms. Núria Pou Àlvarez, Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), BID-REX project

SITxell is a free territorial analysis system that aims at aims at studying and evaluating the ecological and socioeconomic values of natural areas and apply the results of this analyses in land use policies. On a technical level it is a cartographic database of ecological and socioeconomic values. An important advantage of SITxell tool is its applicability in land planning processes, on both local and regional level. Sitxell has helped inform spatial plans and regional planning for biodiversity conservation in the Metropolitan region of Barcelona. All these features of the tool contributed to its success, wide use and international recognition as a good practice. The SITxell tool can be easily transferred to other regions due to its flexibility and adaptability and some participants expressed interest to share the tool with their partners and stakeholders.



Beam Parklands (UK) delivered by Mr. Henry Smith, Town & Country Planning Association, PERFECT project

The good practice is about the transformation of a deprived area by restoring its original flood protection functions and turning it into a multi-functional public space. Beam Parklands is a 53-hectare park in east London and part of the legacy of the Ford factory. It is on the floodplain of the River Beam, a tributary of the River Thames, floods regularly and is one of the most deprived areas of the UK. The practice demonstrates how an investment in green infrastructure brings economic and environmental benefits to the community and helps to address social challenges. The practice proved to be successful and gained recognition for the positive outcomes that it brought. An important feature of the project is the financial scheme that includes a blend of EU, private and national funds.

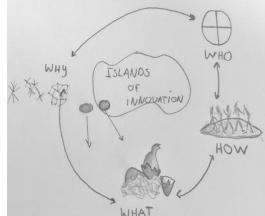
It was highlighted that there were no competing development interests as the Greater London Authority set the frames in the beginning and there was a political will to implement the



project. It was also mentioned that municipal funding for green spaces is often problematic as there is no statutory requirement to maintain green spaces.

Natural heritage as a driver for economic development (the Netherlands), delivered by Mr. Simon Tjisma, Islands of Innovation project

The practice has been identified by Interreg Europe Islands of Innovation project which falls under the thematic area Research and innovation but has linkages to natural heritage as well. Specifically, the practice was about **Lab Vlieland** in the Netherlands, that has become a catalyst of sustainable innovation. Lab was founded to catalyse sustainable and circular transition on Wadden island Vlieland and tries to achieve this by storytelling and inspiration, advice, consulting and providing ready-to-implement solutions; product and concept development. Connected to a festival which is organized on an island, the practice raised awareness about environmental considerations. Representatives of the quadruple helix are participating in the initiative (municipal governments, universities), enterprises on the islands and non-profit organisations.



Astro-tourism/dark sky tourism in Triglav national park (Slovenia) delivered by Ms. Helena Cvenkel, Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska, Night Light project

The presentation underlined the importance of the prevention of light pollution, preservation of dark skies and the sustainable exploitation of dark sky places. Specifically, it was discussed how to unlock the potential of dark sky as a local asset that is important for the development of alternative forms of tourism (e.g. stars and culinary, stars and hiking, stars and events, etc). It was also mentioned that interregional exchange and learning helped the Slovenian authorities to expand their knowledge on the topic and take action to reduce light pollution. New innovative lighting instalations are being placed in order to reduce light pollution and innovative lighting solutions are becoming important part of the local community's energy action plans. The activies helped to raise awareness of the importance of darkness for biodiversity and foster research in the field.



The first half day of the thematic workshop concluded with a networking cocktail.

#### Day 2

The second half day of the workshop started with an introduction the working groups and their focus.

#### Session on specific thematic issues (in-depth discussions in small working groups)

The session included facilitated group discussion on needs and potential synergies between Interreg Europe projects addressing natural heritage, modes of cooperation, and on the role of the Policy Learning Platform in assisting cooperation. The participants were split in three thematic groups according to the following topics:

- Governance (Group 1);
- Landscapes and green infrastructure (Group 2) and
- Natural heritage of coastal and fluvial regions (Group 3)

Each thematic group started with a short introduction from project representatives to present the projects and ignite ideas for synergies and cooperation.

Key points from the discussion:

#### Group 1: Governance

The working group included representatives of BIO-GOV, INVALIS, BID-REX and Three T projects. The discussion was facilitated around the main challenges to governance of protected areas, namely:

- Separation of economic and environmental policies;
- Lack of data for quality policy making;
- Multi-level governance; and
- Coordination between actors

#### Key points from the discussion:

BIO-GOV project presented a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) methodology including seven principles: systemic change; conflict solving; collaboration leadership; communication; and mutual learning. It was emphasised that green infrastructure can link all of this together. The scale is mainly regional and linked to Natura 2000 areas.



- BID-REX was introduced the main objective being proposing a data management tool for better
  regional policy making in the biodiversity sector. The problem with data is compatibility, comparability,
  usability and filling in data gaps. For example, SITXELL is one such instrument very suitable for small
  administrations. Data integration between sectors is a key issue. BIO-GOV was interested in the issue.
- INVALIS was introduced. The focus is on incorporating the invasive species issue in ESIF funds.

As the result of intensive exchanges between the participants the following potential synergies were identified:

- The representative of Marche region expressed interest in the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) methodology presented by BIO-GOV. One of the biggest challenges is to reach out all stakeholders and interact between regional and municipal level of governance.
- Three-T project was introduced and expressed interest in MSP methodology of BIO-GOV especially because of lack of coherence and integration of policies and conflicting issues. Three T was also very interested in the data management methodology of BID-REX.
- With regards to INVALIS links were made with other projects and methodologies namely concerning
  the lack of data and data reliability. The stakeholder outreach issue is also of relevance for INVALIS.
  For example, this could be done through using citizens in mapping data.

#### Group 2: Landscapes and green infrastructure

The working group included representatives of BID-REX, PERFECT, Night Light and Green Pilgrimage projects.

Key points from the discussion:

- Green infrastructure is often seen as a luxury in urban areas and its potential to bring multiple benefits is not fully recognised and explored.
- Partners from PERFECT, Green Pilgrimage and BID-REX agreed that further efforts are needed to demonstrate the benefits of investments in biodiversity. The representative of Green pilgrimage stressed upon the economic and environmental benefits of green pilgrim tourism.
- Several tools/good practices were mentioned and there was interest expressed from other projects to learn more about these tools. Specifically, BID-REX talked about the Sitxell webtool and another web tool that was used to improve coordination across departments. PERFECT introduced the game cards



that was useful in creating a forum for policy makers and encourage innovative solutions on how green infrastructure can be integrated in schools, hospitals, train stations, etc. and how such interventions contribute to growth and jobs. An expert paper from PERFECT on valuing green infrastructure was also mentioned. Interest was expressed in both outputs presented by PERFECT.

There is a need to coordinate different levels of government, accessibility of data for the planning process.

- As result of the discussion the following themes of mutual interest needs were identified:
  - Decision-makers need to create a vision on how to create good quality of life place;
  - Coordination across departments and between different levels of governance needs to be
  - Access to quality data is essential for sound planning process
  - The need to link public and private sources of funding was also highlighted.
- Thinking also about the further development of the platform services, the group shared the following suggestions with the moderator:
  - The search tools for the Interreg Europe database of Good practices can be improved;
  - Webinars were highlighted as useful service for interregional learning especially for projects addressing similar thematic issues;
  - Finally, the suggestion of developing a database of good project outputs was put on the table. The database could be similar to the database of good practices but for interesting deliverables developed by Interreg Europe projects.

#### Group 3: Natural heritage of coastal and fluvial regions

The working group brought together representatives of HERICOAST, Green Pilgrimage and Delta Lady/Islands of innovation projects. The following key points were highlighted during the discussion:

- Looking at the environmentally sensitive nature of river deltas, policymakers have to find the right balance between economic development and environmental protection. Tourism was confirmed as one of the key sectors which can trigger sustainable economic development and reduce the risk of "brain drain". This is one of the foci of Delta Lady project.
- Bringing in a good practice from the Islands of
- innovation project, Simon Tijsma addressed the topic of locally oriented nano-tourism ("tourists should bring something to the destination") as an alternative to conventional tourism.
- Unlocking the local entrepreneurial potential is key but this requires tailor-made policy and financial instruments enabling community-led developments. One of the questions is how policy making processes reach local communities and avoid the absorption of available funds by large companies. An important aspect is stimulating local communities to act as influencers. Well-known personalities such as athletes can play a key role in this context.
- It was emphasised that policy learning encourages learning from each other: policy makers and research institutions. Possibilities for further exchange and how this could influence the policy making level were also discussed.

A summary of the outcomes from the group discussions was presented in the plenary.





#### Collaboration between INTERREG Europe projects and the Policy Learning Platform

Facilitating the interregional learning process through the services of the platform has been brought up as a topic during the group discussions. It was highlighted that as a result of the group discussions, several topics and policy challenges were identified as interesting for deepening the thematic exchanges between the INTERREG Europe projects. The team of the Policy Learning Platform is committed to facilitate these processes.

A discussion was held about potential synergies and how the platform can facilitate exchange and mutual learning. Some project outputs and good practices were highlighted as particularly interesting for other projects and opportunities for interregional learning via webinars was discussed. One of these examples is the game cards applied by PERFECT partners in policy-making regarding green infrastructure development. It was added that in the exhibition area of future networking events a special space for gamification techniques could be considered. A follow-up webinar on the issues that have been discussed was suggested. Projects were also encouraged to launch webinars themselves. A question was raised about participation of the platform's experts at project events. Projects were encouraged to communicate with platform's experts if they identify a specific role for the platform at future events. However, it was noted that attendance of representatives of the platform and JS is possible if there are clusters of projects.

The workshop concluded with final messages from the Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat and the thematic experts of the Policy Learning Platform.

### Conclusions

Participants had the possibility to learn more about the services of the Policy Learning Platform and expressed interest in the opportunities that the platform provides to Interreg Europe project partners to interact, access knowledge, and showcase good practices, while at the same time build the critical mass needed to generate an impact with policy makers.

Local and regional authorities have a key role in protection and sustainable management of natural heritage assets. Enabling factors include political will, stakeholder engagement and support, strengthening the knowledge base and improving planning, as well as adequate funding. Thematic exchange and can provide useful insight and inspiration in this regard.

From the exchanges and debates, it became clear that at regional level:

- There is a need to mobilise political support for actions focused on natural heritage including in the next programming period.
- Natural heritage has links to other thematic areas such as social inclusion, sustainable (eco) tourism, innovation. Good examples on these links already exist and interregional learning can facilitate sharing and promoting such experiences.
- Natural heritage has the potential to activate joint action. Partnerships between businesses, academia, citizens, and local and regional authorities can play a key role in these processes.

• Further efforts are needed to raise awareness of policy makers, planners, private sector and society of the contribution of ecosystems to socio-economic objectives. The role of local and regional authorities in providing the right messages is essential in this regard.

#### Other relevant information:

- Policy Learning Platform, Policy brief on <u>protection and sustainable management of heritage in</u> coastal and fluvial regions
- Policy Learning Platform, Article on EU Action plan for nature, people and economy
- Policy Learning Platform, Policy brief on protection of biodiversity and natural heritage
- Policy Learning Platform, Policy brief on <u>ecosystem services: Interregional cooperation for</u> sustaining the European natural capital
- Policy Learning Platform, Policy brief on Development of green infrastructure in EU regions
- Relevant ongoing ESPON projects:
  - o MSP-LSI on maritime spatial planning and land-sea interactions
  - GRETA Green infrastructure on enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services for territorial development
  - LinkPas on linking networks of protected areas to territorial development

# Annex A: Agenda



# Protection and sustainable management of natural heritage in European regions

#### 22-23 November 2018, Bucharest

Address: National Library of Romania, Unirii Blvd. no. 22, district 3, Bucharest

#### **AGENDA**

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

14:00 – 14:15	Registration and coffee
14:15 – 14:30	<ul> <li>Mr. Dan Balanescu, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania</li> <li>Ms. Marie Guitton, Joint Secretariat of Interreg Europe Programme</li> </ul>
14:30 – 14:50	Welcome from the Policy Learning Platform, overview of the workshop objectives and agenda and information on the services provided by the platform  • Mr. Thorsten Kohlisch, Thematic Manager Policy Learning Platform  • Mr. Ruslan Zhechkov and Ms. Venelina Varbova, Thematic experts - Environment and resource efficiency
14:50 – 15:20	Let's get to know each other - interactive introductory exercise
15:20 – 15:40	What are European regions doing to protect their natural heritage assets? How can interregional learning help policymakers to run their natural heritage policies more efficiently?  Overview of key thematic areas and challenges addressed by Interreg Europe projects addressing natural heritage policies  • Mr. Ruslan Zhechkov and Ms. Venelina Varbova, Thematic experts - Environment and resource efficiency
15:40 – 16:10	Coffee break
16:10 – 16:30	<ul> <li>What are the latest trends and developments at European level?</li> <li>Mr. Vujadin Kovacevic, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> </ul>
16:30 – 17:30	Let's get practical - presentation of selected good practices from Interreg Europe projects and facilitated discussion
	<ul> <li>Use of biodiversity data in decision making: the SITxell project, Spain</li> <li>Ms. Núria Pou Àlvarez, Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), BID-</li> </ul>

**REX** project

Mr. Henry Smith, Town & Country Planning Association, PERFECT project

- Natural heritage as a driver for economic development, the Netherlands
   Mr. Simon Tjisma, Islands of Innovation project
- Astro-tourism/dark sky tourism in Triglav national park, Slovenia
   Ms. Helena Cvenkel, Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska, Night Light project

17:30 – 19:00 Networking cocktail

#### 23rd November 2018

09:15 – 10:15 Diving deeper: in-depth discussions in small working groups

A moderated discussion in parallel working groups on needs, potential solutions, approaches, good practices from Interreg Europe Projects. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how other regions and cities are tackling specific challenges related to the protection of biodiversity and natural heritage and start the exchange and networking process.

- Working group 1: Governance (Suggested projects: BID-REX, BIO-GOV, INVALIS)
- Working group 2: Landscapes and green infrastructure (Suggested projects: Night Light, Land-Sea, PERFECT)
- Working group 3: Natural heritage of coastal and fluvial regions (Suggested projects: Delta Lady, Green Pilgrimage, HERICOAST)

10:15 - 11:15	Continuation of parallel groups session.
11:15 – 11:35	Coffee break
11:35 – 11:50	Reporting back from the break-out groups
11:50 – 12:10	Thoughts and suggestions for future collaboration between Interreg Europe projects and the Policy Learning Platform. Facilitated discussion.
	Roadmap of project synergies. Planning next activities and how the platform can support interregional exchange process.
12:10- 12:30	Concluding session – what's next?
	How to optimise natural heritage protection measures – conclusions for local and regional policy-makers
12:30 -13:30	Networking lunch

# Annex B: List of Participants

Surname	First Name	Organisation	Project	Country
A atafana aiai	Dayona	National Institute for Research and	Green	
Astefanoaiei	Roxana	Development in Tourism	Pilgrimage	Romania
Carlogea	Alina	INCDT	Green Pilgrimage	Romania
Cvenkel	Helena	BSC Kranj, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF GORENJSKA REGION	Night Light	Slovenia
Stefanescu	Danut Marin	Environmental protection agency Mures	BIOGOV	Romania
Federiconi	Lorenzo	Regione Marche	BID-REX	Italy
Fieth	Jessie	Town & Country Planning Association	PERFECT	United Kingdom
Guitton	Marie	Interreg Europe	N/A	France
Guset	Tudor	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration	N/A	Romania
Hanganu	Jenica	Institutul National de Cercetare Dezvolare Delta Dunarii	Delta Lady	Romania
Hiemstra	Wim	Province of Fryslân	BIOGOV	The Netherlands
Ioana	Baciu	EPA Mures	BIOGOV	Romania
Kohlisch	Thorsten	Interreg Europe/ Inno TSD	N/A	France
Kovacevic	Vujadin	EC	N/A	Belgium
Laura	Todoran	EPA MURES	BIOGOV	Romania
Leonid- Silviu	Artamon	Tulcea County Council	HERICOAST	Romania
O'Loughlin	Eilish	Interreg Europe	N/A	France
Opra	Andrea	Environmental Protection Agency Mures	BIOGOV	Romania
Owen	Tim	Kent County Council	Green Pilgrimage	United Kingdom
Pou Àlvarez	Núria	Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (www.ctfc.cat)	BID-REX	Spain
Smith	Henry	Town and Country Planning Association	PERFECT	United Kingdom
Smith	Diane	Town & Country Planning Association	PERFECT	United Kingdom
Tijsma	Simon	Province of Fryslân	Delta Lady/Islands of Innovation	The Netherlands
Toma	Raluca	Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform	N/A	France
Varbova	Venelina	Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform	N/A	Bulgaria
Zabaglia	Claudio	Marche region	BID-REX	Italy
Zhechkov	Ruslan	Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform	N/A	France
Kovacs- Nagy	emilia	Harghita County Council	CD-ETA	Romania
Cornel	Negrea	Brasov County Council	THREE T	Romania
Dan	Balanescu	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration	N/A	Romania