

# 1st Newsletter

Delta Lady  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

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## 1. Floating Cultures In River Deltas

**Delta Lady** focuses on River Deltas in Europe and their potential to develop innovative activities aiming at **utilization of ecosystem services**. The delta regions have rich biodiversity but lack financial resources. To boost the regional economy **Delta Lady** intends to **foster the capabilities** of using ecosystem services in deltas based on local natural and cultural qualities. Good practices from the past will be identified and case studies focused on the potential activities will be realized. **Delta Lady** aims at **improvement of the regional policy instruments on ecosystem services** to boost regional economy in river deltas.

## 2. Partnership

### 9 PARTNERS FROM 6 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

1. University of Twente, Lead Partner (NL)
2. Province of Fryslân (NL)
3. The Regional Natural Park of Camargue (FR)
4. Danube Delta National Institute for Research & Development (RO)
5. ERVET- Emilia-Romagna Regional Development Agency (IT)
6. Po Delta Park (IT)
7. Council of Chambers of Commerce of the Valencia Region (ES)
8. Cork County Council (IE)
9. University College Cork (IE)



Cork  
County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



Consejo de  
Cámaras  
de la Comunidad Valenciana



provinsje fryslân  
provincie fryslân

## 3. Participating deltas

1. RIJN DELTA (Netherlands)
2. DANUBE DELTA (Romania)
3. CAMARGUE DELTA (France)
4. ALBUFERA DELTA (Spain)
5. PO DELTA (Italy)
6. RIVER BLACKWATER DELTA (Ireland)

### PROJECT DURATION

1<sup>st</sup> Phase 36 months  
June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Phase 24 months  
June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2023



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## 4. Kick-off meeting & 1<sup>st</sup> Interregional Learning Event



On 1-2 October 2018, the Regional Natural Park of Camargue (FR) hosted the kick-off meeting and the 1<sup>st</sup> Interregional Learning Event of the **Delta Lady**. 22 participants met in Camargue to exchange experiences on the regional policies and good practices of the delta regions.

During the meeting partners discussed the issues and challenges in their deltas. There is no specific reference to the use of ecosystem services in their regional policies addressed in the project.

Meeting in the Natural Park of Camargue and the study tour to the delta was a success showcasing successful integration of biodiversity and tourism and other ecosystem services and opening the opportunities for the cross-regional learning.



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

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All partners address policy instruments for valorisation of ecosystem services in the deltas for regional economy. Some start from the perspectives on tangible activities (e.g. Po, Danube, Rhone with fishing, reed, rice, tourism, education), whereas others address methods (distribution of benefits, effectuation, collaboration).

*The director of the Natural Park of Camargue and stakeholders' group presented their views on the issues related to the rice farming, reed beds and fishery. Rice in Camargue is the main crop. Higher salinity of soil is a major issue. Balancing of the fishery yield which covers fish, shrimps and mussels is the major issue as well.*

For more information about the event please visit news of the Delta Lady website:  
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/detalady/>

## 5. 1<sup>st</sup> Visit to the Delta

During the 1<sup>st</sup> learning event project partners visited Camargue delta, which is rich in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Cultivation of rice & reed beds, fisheries & salt production are important ecosystem services. Birds, bulls and wild horses are major for tourism. Tourism activities are diverse, from mass tourism on the seashore to cultural & natural tourism in the park area.



Partners visiting rice fields, bulls & horses & moving sea coast line; changing coastline is a major issue as well.

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Camargue is home to wide range of wildlife, bulls and horses, and more than 400 species of birds. Other wildlife includes wild boars, badgers, flamingos, tree frogs (in the picture) and water snakes.



Famous Camargue white horses are ancient horse breeds. They are necessary to move and trek the herds of semi-wild bulls.



The famous pink flamingos of the Camargue's are symbols of the area. They are not hard to spot, but often they remain distant in the sea. Most easily flamingos are to be seen in the Camargue ornithological park.

***Boosting regional economy through ecosystem services in river deltas!***

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## 6. Presenting the project to the Master students

The **Lead Partner** of the **Delta Lady**, University of Twente (CSTM), presented the project to the Master students of the Environmental and Energy Management programme (MEEM) on 13 September, 2018. The presentation was held in Fryslân, in the city of Leeuwarden. CSTM (Department of Governance & Technology for Sustainability) runs Environmental and Energy Management programme which is organized in the province of Fryslân. CSTM specialises in environmental policy & governance, sustainable development, environmental quality & resilience, social inclusiveness & technological innovation. Students expressed interest in the themes covered in the project, in particular ecosystem services, and related issues. The lead partner intends to involve the students in the project.



## 7. Seminars in Dublin

**Delta Lady** among other 3<sup>rd</sup> call projects participated in Communication and Financial seminars in Ireland, Dublin, on 13-15 November 2018, organised by Interreg Europe programme. For more information visit the next link:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/3rdcallseminars/conclusions/>

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## 8. Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) meeting in Italy

### THE FIRST MEETING WITH THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN COMACCHIO



The RSG of Po Delta Park composed of local stakeholders met in Comacchio on 26 November, 2018. The focus of the first meeting was on tourism. About fifteen operators came to the salt pan of Comacchio to learn about the project and the concept of ecosystem services. The presentations of ERVET and the Po Delta Park Director followed the discussion on two main topics: the future perspectives/expectations of the tourism sector, and barriers to their achievements. Operators believe that there is a potential of increasing the number of tourists in the area, but a balance between nature preservation and economic activities must be pursued. Operators identified some

elements that can improve the tourist experiences (i.e. bird watching towers); also some critical issues were identified such as lack of synergies between tour operators and hotel owners. The possibility of collecting funds by taxing the tourists and investing this money in the preservation of ecosystems will be further explored and discussed. Starting from this common work with the local stakeholder of the RSG, the project will try to act on the existing barriers for enhancing and promoting the ecosystem services of the Po Delta Park. Visit the project website news:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/deltalady/news/>

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## 9. Delta Lady in Bucharest

Delta Lady participated in the Interreg *Policy Learning Platform* event on the *Protection and Sustainable Management of Natural Heritage in European Regions*, in Romania, Bucharest on 22-23 November 2018. Good practices in the Danube delta area and the best way to influence the policy makers were discussed during the interactive sessions. More information will be available online on the event page: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearningbucharest/>

## 10. Upcoming Events

Partners will meet in **Spain, Valencia**, on **March 5-6, 2019**, for the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Interregional Learning event. The Council of Chambers of Commerce of the Valencia Region will organise and host the partner meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interregional Learning event. More information will follow.

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