



ACTION PLAN

Samsø





NIGHT LIGHT PROJECT

“Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies”

ACTION PLAN OF Samsø

Samsø
December 2019



Part I – GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: NIGHT LIGHT –

“Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies.”

Partner organization concerned: Samsø Energy Academy

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): -

Country: Denmark

NUTS2 region: Central Region Denmark

NUTS3 county: Samsø

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Date: 31.01.20

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Samsø Energy Academy - Denmark



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:

Regional Growth and Development Strategy 2015 - 2025, Central Denmark Region (Vækst og udviklingsstrategi 2015-2025)

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instrument:

Originally it was the objective only to work on the regional level, but it quickly became apparent that it was necessary to work with different policy instruments on a local, regional, national and international level at the same time. And very important to start off from the very scratch with tangible results.

The action plan will be adapted into the Samsø Plan Strategy and Agenda 21 Policy, which have to be agreed upon at the latest primo 2020. This will lead to the overall municipal plan by the end of 2020. These plans have to be introduced at the regional level in the Regional Growth and Development Strategy.

The inspiration to elaborate the Action Plan has been generated on the basis of good practices identified and presented in the project by the other partners, and the main findings of the peer reviews and especially the one held on Samsø in May 2019:

- Good Practice “Astrotourism in the Basilicata region” – Matera, Italy
- Good Practice “Turn the light off and turn the stars on” - La Palma, Spain
- Good Practice “Good Lighting Guideline” – Our, Luxembourg
- Good Practice “Quick Scan Light pollution WaddenSee” - Netherlands
- Recommendation of peers from reviews, mainly from Samsø in May 2019

Good practice “Astrotourism in the Basilicata region”

Lessons learnt from Basilicata Region, based on good practice defined in GP Directory and experienced during the Peer Review in Matera in 2018 and the interregional policy learning event in 2019

In Basilicata, sky observation on winter and summer solstice have been organized: in cooperation with the National Research Group “Pedagogy of the sky”, they organize a night tour of the park along with *theatrical performances*, both for adults and children, aimed at mapping the stars and revive either the *ancient mythologies* and the *popular traditions* connected to the position of the stars. Ancient mythologies and popular traditions connected to the position of the stars is also part of the Samsø

Viking history (DK: Vinter og sommer solhverv - winter and summer solstice). The Energy Academy and the RSG plans to take the benefit of this, to build the story in its actions.

This Good practice **“Astrotourism in the Basilicata region”** has inspired us in especially **Action 1 – Dark Sky Samsø** and **Action 2 – Dark Sky Activities**

Good practice “Turn the light off and turn the stars on”

Regarding Lessons learnt through the good practice defined by La Palma in the GP Directory and experienced in La Palma during the Peer Review event in 2018

There are several inspirational examples implemented in La Palma in connection with dedicated astro-tourism offers. La Palma’s tourist development must be linked, not only with the sun and the beaches, but also with its exceptional dark sky. Involving all 14 municipalities of La Palma to turn off the light for one hour in a specific place in each municipality where to carry out a sky observation activity. Musical concerts or theatrical performances accompanied the explanation of the night sky.

This idea by turning of the light for one hour inspired the representatives of the RSG to link different values and potentials of dark sky and traditions/culture, sustainable tourism, energy savings, light pollution and protecting bio diversity, to make the citizens and visitors on Samsø aware on these values in a clearly understandable way.

The aim is to switch of the lights for one hour every year on Samsø, also in connection and cooperation with the Earth Hour by WWF.

This Good practice **“Turn the light off and turn the stars on”** has inspired us in especially **Action 1 – Dark Sky Samsø** and **Action 2 – Dark Sky Activities**

Good practice “Good Lighting Guideline”

Lessons learnt through the Peer Review event in Naturepark Our, Luxembourg in 2018

Although the concrete law is still missing in Luxembourg, but there were significant preliminary preparations done to develop and publish good lighting guidance (Leitfaden „Gutes Licht“ im Außenraum für das Großherzogtum Luxemburg, 2018).

Based on this practice, relevant local policy making actors has made it clear that they are open to start new improvements in this field and consider the document as a baseline for a similar local guidance or handbook on Samsø. The changing of all streetlights on Samsø to LED and downwards lights are the first example of this.

This Good practice **“Good Lighting Guideline”** has inspired us in especially **Action 3 - Dark Sky policy**

Good Practice “Updating policy to include light pollutions”

Lessons learnt through the Peer Review event in Debrechen, Hungary in 2017

A professional and well-organized nature quality plan must thus form part of the foundation for the administration of the nature administration. The plan will at the same time be of crucial importance for the prioritization and organization of practical nature care, there are many places needed to maintain or improve the quality of nature. The planning must take place in dialogue with relevant interest groups such as agricultural organizations, the Danish Society for Nature Conservation, The Outdoor Council, as well as tourism actors and others who have interests in nature's conditions on Samsø.

Collecting the basic data, performing the quick scans and then discussing the findings with the right contact persons at the organizations involved, turned out to be more complex than had been estimated in advance.

The work therefore took more time (1,5 year in total), but in the end discussions were held with all parties involved and concrete agreements were made by all stakeholders about the measures (quick wins) to be taken.

This Good practice “**Updating policy to include light pollutions**” has inspired us in especially **Action 1 – Dark Sky Samsø and Action 3 – Dark Sky Policy**

Main findings of the Peer Review, Samsø, May 2019

Recommendations of

Province of Fryslân, Netherlands:

- Femke van Akker (province of Fryslan) leader of the team review
- Sjon de Haan (Wadden Sea World heritage)

La Palma, Spain:

- Ana Castañeda (Cabildo Insular de La Palma)
- Stefanie Frank

Hajdú-Bihar County, Hungary:

- Zsuzsa MIHALIK (Hajdú-Bihar County Government)
- Istvan Gyarmathy

Avilla, Spain

- Roberto Rodriguez-Pindado

Matera 2019 Foundation and Basilicata region, Italy:

- Daniela Talamo (Matera 2020 Foundation)

Gorenjska, Slovenia:

- Tamara Mravinec (Business Support Center Kranj)
- Janez Grasic (Triglav National Park) –
- Helena Cvenkel

Nature Park Our, Luxembourg:

- Nicolas Differding (Nature Park Our)
- Laurent Spithoven (Nature Park Our)
- Roger Zanter

- Bernard Greischer
- Romain Braquet

Conclusion from the Peers from the meeting on Samsø May 2019:

Samsø has the right papers to develop a strong dark sky product. It is dark, there is already a start with the March of the Crowes area. Dark sky and nature tourism are strongly connected, as nature is already one of the pillars of tourism on Samsø it should be easy to connect Darks sky with it. At the same time darks Sky is related to sustainable energy, especially to energy savings, so with the story of dark sky one can also tell the story of sustainable Samsø, and Vice-versa. Culture wise the connection is also very strong. Using the history of the Vikings as part of the narrative for Dark sky Samsø makes sense.

Samsø is already very dark, by systematically looking at the sources of light pollution one can further increase the darkness. By documenting this progress, it can become part of the story of dark sky Samsø.

In order to achieve this, we advise to develop a strategy based on our advice in Chapter four. All the pillars should be developed. The guiding principles should be ownership and Bottom up approach.

As defined by Peers above, we quickly recognizing the value of these recommendations, and started both on a local - and national level to implement these measures.

Part III – DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS ENVISAGED

ACTION 1. Dark Sky Samsø

1. The background

In the Night Light peer report that was written for Samsø the review team acknowledges the special position Samsø has achieved as "Denmark's renewable energy island".

The island has a good experience from the VEØ project (Renewable Energy Island) to stand together and implement large joint projects. One of these could be to develop a potent Dark Sky Area on the island.

Furthermore, the island has many assets that could be developed for products and experiences like artisans, performing artists, its cultural heritage, history and many other resources. Samsø Municipality is ready to take on the role as a co-player when ideas and innovative processes must be initiated.

Therefore, the project team is also aiming at a local municipal level and have started to implement some of the learning's from the other partners in the Peer Reviews - that can be applied into the action plan.

It is recommended that Samsø continue the work already initiated by the selection of the Marsh of the Crowes as the upcoming epicenter for the future development of the Dark Sky Place on Samsø, together with the Civic Association of Nordby and the Municipality of Samsø.

2. Action

The actions and activities related to establishing a Dark Sky Samsø:

- Clarification of prioritisations
- Identification of the tourist potentials together with the Municipality
- Elaboration of an outline proposal/ master plan for the Marsh of the Crowes including physical infrastructure
- Presentation of the action plan to the regional stakeholder group and the public.
- Funding opportunities - in cooperation with the Municipality
- Clarification of the requirement for applying the International Dark Sky Association
- Selection of what kind of IDA accreditation
- Sky Quality Measurements in the target area
- Writing of the IDA accreditation application
- Communication – Dark Sky Samsø, Home page and Facebook

3. Players involved

As mentioned in the peer review report it is crucial to create ownership among the stakeholders and the Civic Association of Nordby and the Municipality of Samsø will play a central role in the development and implementation of the actions.

4. Timeframe

This development of Dark Sky Samsø will go on until 2022

5. Costs (if relevant)

Physical infrastructure and certification costs – 20.000€

Funding sources (if relevant):

Private and public funding - The work hours are to be funded by the municipal fiscal budget in terms of economy to the municipal tourist office, and the Environmental and technical committee on Samsø, and the municipal Nature department. Samsø Energy Academy will contribute man hours for monitoring during phase 2 of *Night Light* (2020-2021).



ACTION 2. Dark Sky Activities

1. The background

One of the recommendations of the peer review report was to focus on storytelling to connect people from outside and the island citizens with their own roots. The island could benefit from its reputation as a center for green transition to develop strong dark sky touristic products.

2. Action

The actions related to developing dark sky activities and products on Samsø will follow the recommended checklist from the Peer Review report:

1. Look for true stories
2. Identify enthusiastic entrepreneurs
3. Incorporate Dark sky into existing products
4. Develop / strengthen Branding of Samsø to focus on the broader 'Green' profile and integrate eco touristic products
5. Define your target group
6. Involve people of all ages
7. Define what is specific for Samsø
8. Connect the story with the Viking history
9. Create a group of Dark sky ambassadors
10. Train guides for Dark sky tourism
11. Setup a certification scheme



12. Get outside tourism experts to advise on the whole tourism sector

Furthermore, the project will take contact to the producers of local products in order to develop a strategy for new Dark Sky products.

3. Players involved

Also, here the Civic Association of Nordby together with the Municipality of Samsø will play a central role in developing the touristic products. Specifically, the Dark Sky activities have to be linked with the existing tourism on the island. In order to spread the activities to the whole Region, it's the plan to involve experts and strategic institutions on the mainland.

4. Timeframe

Elaboration of the plan 2019, starting activities 2020-2022.

5. Costs

Approximately 10.000 €

6. Funding sources

The work hours are to be funded by the municipal fiscal budget in terms of economy to the municipal tourist office, and the committee of business and settlement on Samsø. Samsø Energy Academy will contribute man hours for monitoring during phase 2 of *Night Light* (2020-2021).



Meet the Vikings under the Full Moon

ACTION 3. Dark Sky Policy

1. The background

As mentioned in the peer report the light pollutions issues in Denmark are something completely new and except from the island of Moen there aren't hardly any experiences working with protecting the dark sky.

Originally it was the objective to work on the regional level, but it quickly became evident that it was necessary to work with different policy instruments on a local, regional, national and international level at the same time. And very important to start off from the very scratch with tangible results.

Therefore, the project team is aiming at a local municipal level and have started to implement some of the learning's from the other partners in the Peer Reviews - that can be applied into the action plan.

The action plan will be adapted into the Samsø Plan Strategy and Agenda 21 Policy, which have to be agreed upon within 2019. This will lead to the overall municipal plan by 2020. These plans have to be introduced at the regional level.

2. Action

The lessons learned from the Dark Sky activities on Samso will be tried disseminated to the whole Central Region Denmark. Here the strong Regional Stakeholder Group developed through the lapse of the project will play an important role. Many of the stakeholders have shown great interest in the topic and are on their way to work with light pollution issues.

One of them is the island of Anholt, also situated in the Central Region Denmark. The island is already the darkest spot in Denmark and wants to learn from the project and Samso.

Therefore, network meetings on Anholt as well as on Samso are in the planning with the mutual goal of disseminate the experiences to the whole region.

Furthermore, the municipality has gained substantial experience with changing to LED street lighting and are developing guidelines for future municipal projects in new buildings, refurbishing old buildings and renovating the 5 harbors on Samso.

These experiences will be disseminated to Region and its 18 other Municipalities.

3. Players involved

The Regional Stakeholder Group and the players described above.

4. Timeframe



Elaboration of the plan 2019, starting activities 2020-2022.

5. **Costs** – approximately 5.000 €

6. **Funding sources** (if relevant):

The work hours are to be funded by the municipal fiscal budget in terms of the municipal plan, and development of guidelines in new municipal projects. Samsø Energy Academy will contribute man hours for monitoring during phase 2 of *Night Light* (2020-2021).



Join us when we measure the dark in the hills of Nordby

Part IV – MONITORING PROCESS

Monitoring activities

Samsø Energy Academy (SE) will monitor the implementation of the actions defined in this Action Plan to see the progress and determine the impact of the collaboration.

SE will check how the actions introduced are actually implemented and what results are experienced when actions completed.

Partners will continue the mutual learning process during the implementation phase of the action plan.

SE will stay active during the monitoring phase:

- ✓ regular check of different actions will take place
- ✓ regular contact and common work will be ensured with involved stakeholders in the case of each action
- ✓ relevant events organized within an action will be documented
- ✓ final monitoring report will be compiled by the end of Phase 2
- ✓ at the end of each year SE will take part in interregional project meeting to discuss all regions' achievements.

NIGHT LIGHT (Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorize dark night skies) project (2017-2021) brings together two significant challenges: the need to preserve dark skies and to utilize the potential they have in a sustainable way.

The project was planned to introduce packages of regional policy measures for each of the partner regions that will result in a lasting reduction of light pollution, the designation of nature areas where dark skies are protected and the introduction of new services and facilities to attract eco-tourism to these dark sky areas.



Partners

- ❖ Province of Fryslân- Lead Partner
- ❖ Hajdú-Bihar County Government (HU)
- ❖ Avila County Council (ES)
- ❖ Nature Park Our (LU)
- ❖ Samsø Energy Academy (DK)
- ❖ BSC, Business support centre Ltd. (SI)
- ❖ Basilicata Region (IT)
- ❖ Matera-Basilicata 2019 Foundation (IT)
- ❖ Island Government of La Palma (ES)



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For further information about the NIGHT LIGHT project please visit:
<http://www.interregeurope.eu/nightlight>

For further information about the Danish NIGHT LIGHT project please visit:

<https://energiakademiet.dk/projekter/night-light/>

<https://www.facebook.com/darkskysamsoe/>

<http://grib-stjernerne.dk/2019/03/21/dark-sky-og-fuldmaane-paa-samsoe/>