

4th Newsletter



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Dear Reader!

In this edition, the latest news about the events and activities of **Delta Lady** over the past six months (from 01.12.2019 till 31.05.2020) are presented. Covid-19 related crisis prevented project partners to operate in a usual way. Due to that, activities from the period of March 2020 onwards were held online in a virtual mode. The main event of this semester was organised online. Enjoy the read!

DELTA LADY AT A GLANCE

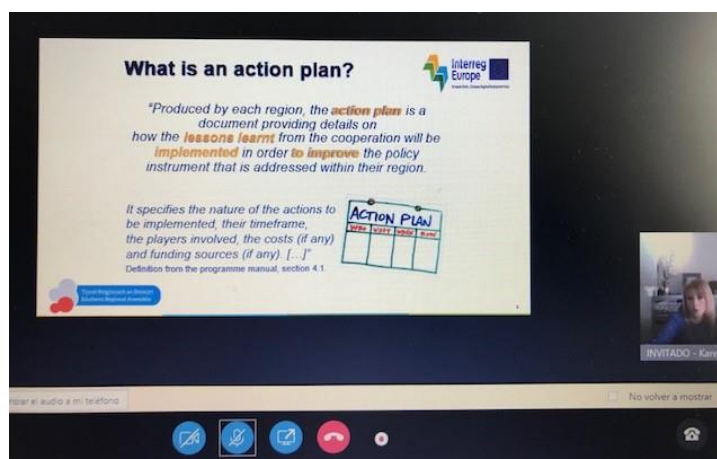
Delta Lady is about improving the regional policy instruments on ecosystem services for sustainable nature, culture and economy in river deltas.

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1. The 4th Interregional Learning Event & Partner Meeting Online

On 1-2 April 2020, partners met Online amid Covid-19 outbreak which prevented the planned meeting in Cork, Ireland, to be hosted by **CORK COUNTY COUNCIL** and **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK**. The **main focus** of the meeting was around the **development of action plans** for delta regions. 25 participants joined the two-day virtual meeting. The **1st day** was dedicated to the **partners' presentations** highlighting the main issues and activities to be included in their regional action plans. An **expert** from the **Southern Regional Assembly** was invited for the **2nd day** to present **what is expected from a regional action plan**. This was followed by the **Steering Committee meeting**. Consequences of Covid-19 for the project were discussed, partners were encouraged to organize web meetings with the regional stakeholder groups (RSG).



The Regional Natural Park of Camargue (FR) highlighted two issues to be addressed in the regional action plan: the reed beds exploitation and pesca tourism development in Camargue.

Cork County Council (IE) emphasized preferred actions inspired by interregional learning and good practices observed. Selection will be through collaboration with project group, RSG members and other relevant stakeholders in the region.

ART-ER and Po Delta Park (IT) aim to include Payments for Ecosystem Services schemes in the policy instrument which is Po Delta Park Territorial Plan. The questionnaire will be used to quantify the values of the ecosystems for decision making processes and to quantify the value of cultural services.

Towards developing action plans for regional development policies in river deltas!

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Province of Friesland (NL) intends to address two actions: the first one is to consider inclusion of the delta and its characteristics into a policy documents, and the second one is development of innovative tool, a tipping wheel, and an evaluation tool to value the nature, in cooperation with the University of Groningen.

Council of Chambers of Commerce of Valencia (ES) emphasized the actions for the regional action plan, such as regulation of boat trips, as a sustainable tourist activity in the Albufera Natural park linking it to other activities (i.e. restaurants, bird watching, culture and environmental education).

The Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (RO) highlighted envisioned actions related to the improvement of reed beds management in the Danube Delta, the integration of the environmentally friendly and locally oriented elements in tourism infrastructure and development of associated activities for inclusion in the Regional Operational Program and Management Plan.

University College Cork (IE) presented results of the study on the valuation of ecosystem services in the River Blackwater delta, with the aim to diversify the supply of benefits obtained from the ecosystem services.

The two-day online meeting was successfully concluded with identifying further steps and activities for continuation of the project and preparation for the next meeting. The next **5th Interregional Learning Event and Partner Meeting** is planned to be held in **September 2020 in Tulcea, Romania** with the hope that the situation will improve and the meeting will take place as planned. For more information visit the [news](#) on the project [website](#).

2. The 3rd Regional Stakeholder Meeting in the Netherlands

PROVINCE OF FRYSLÂN organized the **3rd RSG meeting** on **January 15, 2020**. The meeting took place in Groningen in the Water Tower. Stakeholders attending the meeting were from the Province of Fryslân, from the University of Groningen, from the Investment and Development Company for the Northern Netherlands (NOM), from House of Design (which is a social design lab which develops products in co-creation with Frisian crafts and landscape) and representative from the Fish Migration Project. The development of Action Plan was stressed with actions for new sustainable projects in the area. Read more [here](#)



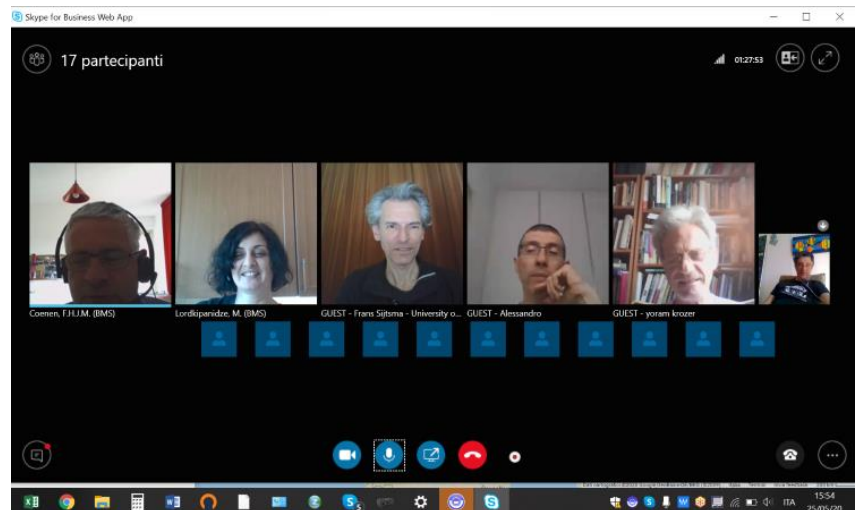
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3. The 4th Regional Stakeholder Group meeting in Ireland held Online

On 21st of May 2020, the 4th RSG meeting of Irish partners, CORK COUNTY COUNCIL and UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, was held online. The meeting was attended by key regional and local level policymaker stakeholders and was policy focused. The regional level policy objective on Ecosystem Services of the RSES for the Southern Region was discussed in addition to an update on the Cork County Development Plan review (local level policy) and appropriate procedure for participating in same. An interesting discussion also developed on the research methodology for the site analysis in Youghal being undertaken by Master Student of the University of Twente in cooperation with the University College Cork. The research is to gather the opinions on the importance and potential of specific ecosystem services and to formulate policy recommendations to enhance ecosystem services in the area. Read more [here](#)

4. The Online Academic discussion on evaluation of Ecosystem Services.

On Monday 25th of May 2020 Delta Lady partners met Online to discuss **monetary evaluation of Ecosystem Services**, as a start of a series of academic and action plan discussions underlying the project. The 4th Online Partner Meeting on 1-2 April 2020 raised some interesting issues which gave a motivation to organise a follow up online meeting with the idea for further academic collaboration. Important questions were raised during the discussion: *How to underpin the European policy instruments with PES assessments?* Or *How to incorporate PES in the policy instruments?* How can we use certain approaches and methods in the policy process evaluation of ESs' economic value of different areas, as decision making tools? **Frisian partners** raised an issue that most policy makers do not want to invest in nature because it does not fit in the economic development. The **Irish partners** aim to get ecosystem services recognized in the mainstream policy. The **Italian partners** want to put people's perception of nature in decision making processes. There seems to be some common ground for an exchange of methods and approaches. Read more [here](#)



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Boosting regional economy through ecosystem services in river deltas!

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5. The Online discussion on Action Plans

Another Online meeting of **Delta Lady** partners was held on Thursday **28th of May 2020** to discuss the progress with the action plans development. Partners shared the latest developments regarding their action plans and potential points of attention. This was based on the information already shared during the Cork Online meeting mentioned above in this newsletter. The lead partner prepared a list of reminders what kind of elements to put in action plans in a short presentation. Actions should clearly link to the lessons learnt during the 1st phase of the project and should be inspired by interregional learning transforming learning from other regions into actions. Partners discussed options of sharing information among each other regarding inspiration and links. Read more [here](#)

6. Good Practices identified so far

Good practices identified by **Irish partners** in the **4th Semester** are in the validation process.

Good practices identified in the previous semesters by **Italian, Spanish and French partners** are published on the project website under [good practices](#). Out of 9 good practices identified so far, 4 are included in the **Interreg Good Practice (GP) [database](#)**.

- **Contrat de Delta Camargue** - The Delta Contract action program for a balanced and sustainable management of water and aquatic environments ([in GP database](#)).
- **Identification of agroecological practices and organization of field exchange days and training** - aims at reducing pollution and preserving ground functions without additional financial cost for the farmers.
- **Asociación de Guías de Birding de la Comunitat Valenciana** - Union of companies linked to nature and ornithological tourism that carries out a large part of its activities in the Albufera Natural Park.
- **Tancat de la PipaPark of l'Albufera** - public-private management of a protected area; includes training activities, visits and acts as an interpretation center of the Albufera Natural Park ([in GP database](#)).
- **Extensive Fishing in Comacchio lagoon**- Reinvestment of revenues from traditional fishing activities into habitat/species conservation: the case of Po river Delta Park fishing in Comacchio lagoon ([in GP database](#))
- **Hunting for wildlife conservation in the river Po Delta**- Hunting in the Po river Delta Park is regulated by hunting permits and the related incomes are reinvested in wildlife and habitat conservation ([in GP database](#))
- **Rice of Albufera**- Example of promotion of a quality brand of rice that develops different business activities related to the cultural and natural values of l'Albufera.
- **The BRIDE Project** (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment) – it is an innovative agri-environmental project that adopts a results-based payment approach to conserving, enhancing and restoring biodiversity (in a validation process).
- Good Practice on **LAWPRO model** is in a submission process.

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7. Participation in the Policy Learning Platform (PLP) event

Delta Lady participated in the Policy Learning Platform **Peer Review** “Implementation and Governance of a Natura 2000 Management Plan” on 4-5 March 2020 hosted by Nature Park Our in Luxembourg. [PLP](#) is established by Interreg Europe programme to boost EU-wide policy learning. [Peer Review](#) is a services provided by PLP to help regions all over Europe make changes to regional policies. **Delta Lady** project was represented by peer expert from the **UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE**, to share experiences on stakeholder coordination, conflict management and innovative financial instruments for income generation in nature areas. See more [here](#)



8. Upcoming events

The next **Partner Meeting** and the **5th Interregional Learning Event** is planned to be organized in **Romania, Tulcea**, in **September, 2020**. More information will follow on the project website [events](#).

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DELTA LADY?

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