



# Newsletter #2 July 2020

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of Newsletter series of the OptiWaMag!

The Interreg Europe programme, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is designed to support policy-learning among the relevant policy organizations with a view to improving the performance of regional development policies and programmes. Interreg Europe programme has approved the OptiWaMag interregional cooperation project for supporting to protect the environment and promote the resource efficiency.

In the following pages, you will find an editorial describing the overall context and objectives of the project as well as information on the latest developments and upcoming events.

The OptiWaMag Newsletters are published in every six months. Through our project website and this periodic newsletter, we will keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes.

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PROJECT AT A GLANCE

OptiWaMag involves 6 EU regions with a shared ambition to accelerate the scaling up of waste management innovation that can support active and innovative environment and resource efficiency and secure the triple win of economic growth, more sustainable ecosystem services and improved well-being of Europe's citizens.

### The OptiWaMag project team



## Second Interregional Meeting in Budapest



Due to the outbreak of the Corona virus disease (COVID-19) in Europe, the team have decided to cancel the interregional partner live meeting in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting was held via Skype instead. The virtual meeting was attended by 15 expert colleagues from the partner countries.



One of the key milestones of the Interreg Europe project is to conduct a situation analysis on waste management. Part of the analysis is to fill out a carefully composed questionnaire with organizations specialized in waste management.

improvement the respondent sees in waste management

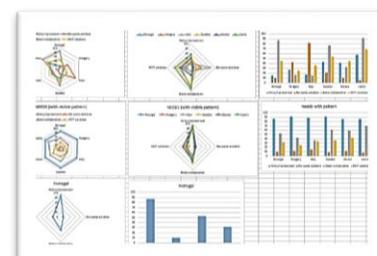
In the first part of the two-day virtual partner meeting, the representatives of the six participating countries presented the results of the questionnaire, providing a comprehensive picture of the current state of waste management, highlighting the positives, and highlighting areas for future development.



In the second half of the interregional event, the work continued on how best to present the results to the stakeholders.

Even though the partners were hundreds of kilometers from each other, the professional meeting was held in a good mood, with unbroken commitment.

The questionnaire contains professional questions about the waste management system, which asked about the present system, its advantages and disadvantages, and what further areas for



During the interactive workshop, it was discussed, which areas would be highlighted and how they would be presented. The event, even though, it was virtually held, was rich in discussions and proved as effective as having a personal meeting.

The next meeting is expected in Sept and also likely to be held online due to the crisis caused by the coronavirus.

The international meeting organized within the framework of the Interreg Europe project was successful, the online arena did not hinder the joint work.



## Interview with Region of Thessaly



We have decided to make an interview series in order to introduce the partners of the project OptiWaMag.

**The first interviewee is Region of Thessaly (RoT).**

### **1) Please introduce your organization and your region**

**RoT:** The organization was established as a public authority in 2011 (Law N. 3852/2010), after the merger of the

area's four Prefectures (Larissa, Magnesia, Trikala and Karditsa) and among other things is responsible for the design and implementation as a Managing Authority of ERDF Regional

Operational Programme 2014-2020 in the area.

**2) What is the main challenge in your region related to waste management that you want to address through the OptiWaMag project?**

**RoT:** There are investments so far in terms of infrastructure (waste treatment units etc), nevertheless there is a lack of intervention in waste management and innovation, both in terms of design and implementation. Consequently we believe that more focus should be on this issue, based

on one single action for whole region and not individual activities organized at local level that will promote issues like eco-innovation in order to boost green growth, and to maximize its benefits, both in terms of environmental preservation and economic development

**3) What is your expectation for the output of the project?**

**RoT:** Activities during the project have the aim of elaborating an action plan for integrating specific, more efficient, achievable and

measurable actions into the ERDF ROP of Thessaly 2014-2020 to ensure a change of attitude and increased energy behaviour of local governments and citizens.

Region of Thessaly expects to gain experience from the cooperation on how to improve governance of its policy instrument, develop schemes to create awareness and provide incentives for achieving improved waste management.

[Read more](#)



## Project Partners

Six partners from Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Portugal and Sweden are working on the OptiWaMag project

The partnership is led by the County Administrative Board of Östergötland from Sweden.

1) County Administrative Board of Östergötland



2) Development Organization



3) Municipality of Lousada



4) Riga Technical University



5) Municipality of Casalgrande



6) Region of Thessaly



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**Next OptiWaMag event:** The third Interregional Meeting will be in Portugal on 13th – 14th October 2020. The event will cover a review of the Portuguese waste management system, a progress assessment and a site visit.

**For more information about the waste management project, visit our website:**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/optiwamag>

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