

6th Newsletter



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Dear Reader!

This last 6th edition of Phase 1 highlights the latest events and activities of **Delta Lady** over the past six months, from 01.12.2020 till 31.05.2021. In the face of Covid-19 crisis, meetings and activities in this period were held online and some were delayed or postponed. The main event of this semester, the 6th Learning Event & Partner Meeting, is postponed to September 2021. Activities and events are presented in a chronological order. 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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May 2023

1. The 6th Interregional Learning Event & Partner Meeting Postponed!

This last **Learning Event** and **Partner Meeting** of Phase 1 was planned in April 2021, however, due to travel restriction it is postponed to **September 14-15, 2021** and **will be organised in Friesland, Leeuwarden**, by our Dutch partner **PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND**. After the last semester being in an online mode, partners hope to finally meet in September in Friesland, if the situation allows, to finalize the Phase 1 of the project. More information on the event will follow in due course.

2. The 5th Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting in the Netherlands

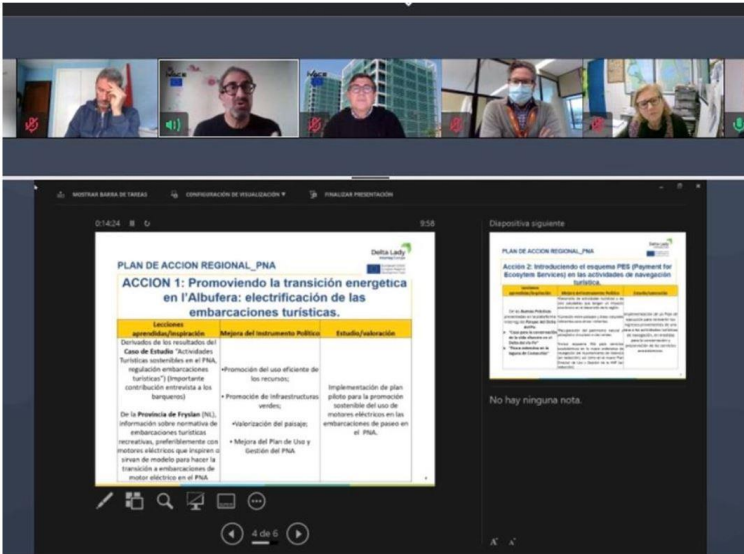
PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND organized the 5th RSG meeting online on 6th of January 2021. The topic of discussion was related to the **development of a tool "nature investment and value for money"**. 8 participants attended the meeting. The **mission-based approach** which entails a new method of working, adopted from another Interreg project, was **translated into the Blue Delta mission**, and the **Blue Delta mission** was subsequently **divided into 3 sub-missions** inspired by **water, circularity, and exploring rural societies**. To fulfill these sub-missions, a **dance floor is needed** where a portfolio of projects must be developed. For the evaluation and monitoring component, the intention is that projects are assessed in a different way. For that, **a tool is being developed that can be easily applied and linked to mission-based approach** and (1) is focused on project development taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals; and (2) is aimed at project evaluators. The tool provides an overview of the aspects that project evaluators should consider. The stakeholders are enthusiastic about the tool. For more information read [here](#)

An interregional cooperation project for improving natural and cultural heritage policies in delta regions.

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3. The 5th Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting in Spain



VALENCIA REGION COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE organised virtually the 5th RSG meeting on 15th of February 2021. The aim was to evaluate and analyse the Regional Action Plan. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the regional and local authorities and experts. The draft of the **Action Plan for the Albufera Natural Park** was discussed along with the evaluation of the two actions proposed. Moreover, **recommendations for the policy improvements** were discussed as well as **collaboration with other projects** in progress at the regional level. For more info visit the project [website](#).

4. Project Partners' Progress Meeting

To discuss the ongoing **progress** and the possibility of the **extension of the project**, Project Partners met online on the 24th of February 2021. Covid-19 crisis caused **delays of the activities** and due to that the **6 months extension** of the project was **approved by Interreg Secretariat**. Partners can realize delayed and additional activities till the end of November 2021.



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

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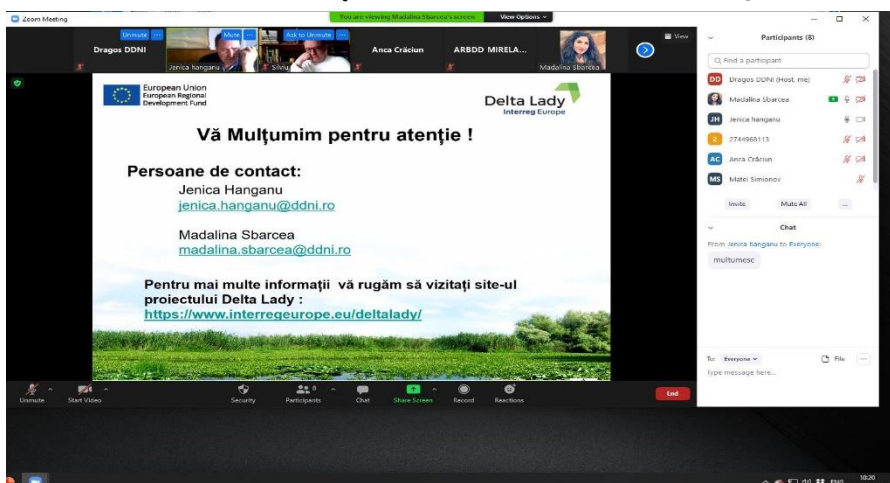
5. The Mid-Term Review of Delta Lady

On March 10th, 2021, the mid-term review meeting of the Delta Lady project was organised online by INTERREG JS to have a discussion with the Lead Partner (UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE) on the project progress and to analyse the performance of the project before Phase 1 activities are finalised, to discuss the expected achievements for Phase 2, and to evaluate the different services provided by the programme. Mainly, the discussed elements were: (i) the state of play of the project in relation to action plan preparation and policy improvement in each participating region; and (ii) the state of play of the project in relation to budget spending. The overall progress implementation of the project has been affected by the Covid-19 crisis. The 6 months extension of Phase 1 (till Nov 2021) has been discussed to finalise the exchange of experience activities: study visit in Friesland and Stakeholder Group meetings; and also, to reduce the overall project's underspending delayed activities of Phase 1 are allowed to be implemented in the first months of Phase 2. There is a possibility for pilot actions to be carried out during Phase 2 or additional activities related to the implementation of the Action Plans. The Lead Partner will define these additional activities to be submitted together with the 6th Progress Report in September 2021; the activities might be financed through the underspending.

After the mid-term review, partners received individual feedback from JS on their Action Plan outlines. Bilateral meetings of the Lead Partner with French, Romanian, Italian and Dutch partners were realised in the period of March-May 2021, to discuss further the project progress, the Action Plan revisions and possibilities for pilot actions. Updates on possible pilot actions will follow in the due course. Moreover, on March 11th, 2021 partners also discussed Co-Branding idea suggested and initiated by Frisian regional stakeholder. The idea entails to focus on networks of river deltas which may have a post project life. The idea is to be further discussed and developed. The update will follow.

6. The 4th Meeting of Stakeholders in Romania

THE DANUBE DELTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (RO) organized the 4th RSG meeting online on the 25th of February 2021. The focus of the meeting was on the Action Plan supporting regional development policy in the Danube Delta, also on Business Models in the Deltas and the Case Study with the focus on the management of reed resources in the Danube Delta. 8 stakeholders attended the meeting: from DDNI, ANTREC Tulcea, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, and ITI Danube Delta. For more information click [here](#).



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

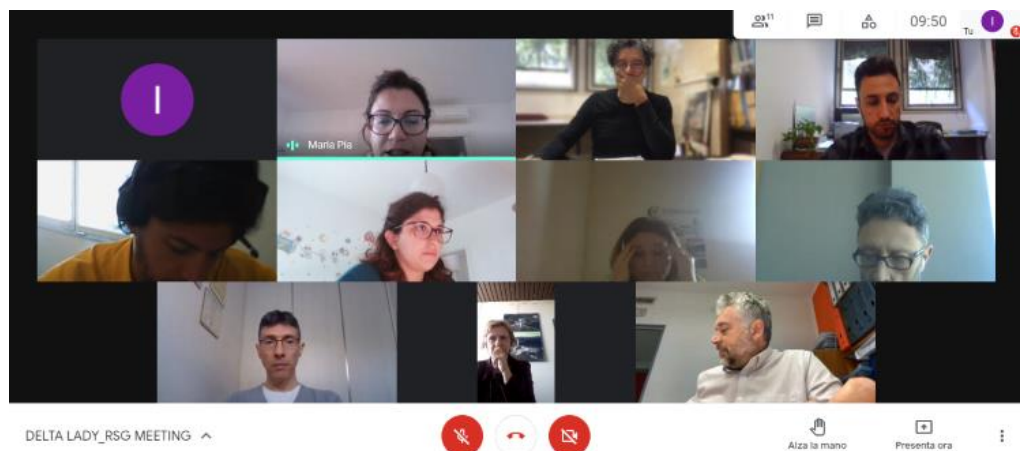
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7. The 6th Meeting of Stakeholders in Italy

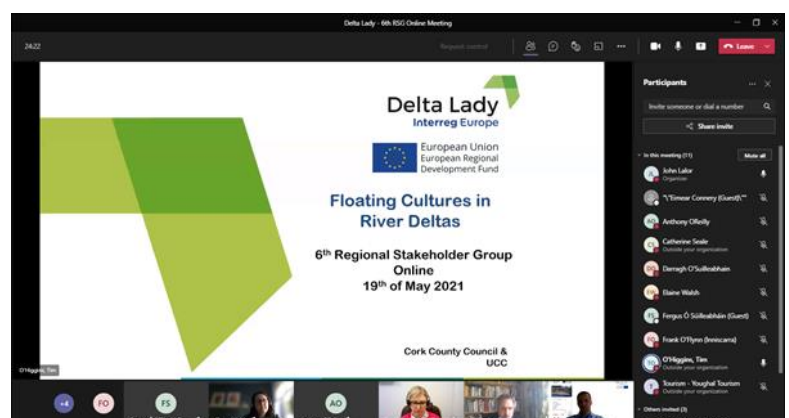
ART-ER & PO DELTA PARK organised the 6th RSG meeting on 10th of May 2021 Online using Google Meet platform. The focus of the discussion was on the development of the PES scheme as foreseen in the Action Plan. There were **11 participants** representing ART-ER, University of Ferrara, Po Delta Park, and representatives of local stakeholders. The **main topics** of the meeting were the **presentation of tourism activities mapping**, aimed to collect missing information on tourists



and **monetary fluxes related to tourism activities** in Po Delta Park. ART-ER presented **how Payment for Ecosystem Services are linked to Ecosystem Services**. Read more [here](#)

8. The 6th RSG Meeting in Ireland

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL and UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK organized the 6th RSG meeting on 19th May 2021 Online via MS Teams. The **main topics** of the RSG meeting were the discussion of the Draft **Regional Action Plan** document and **ecosystem services as a concept** together with policy integration. **10 participants** attended the meeting. **Three main presentations** were given to the group during the meeting. **The first presentation** related to a **project progress update**. **The second presentation** set out **the concept of Ecosystem Services**. **The third presentation** focused on the **draft project Regional Action Plan** document. **Open group discussion** was **encouraged** to maximise feedback and inclusion of group members as part of a **shared learning experience** and **inter-personal learning**. Read more [here](#)



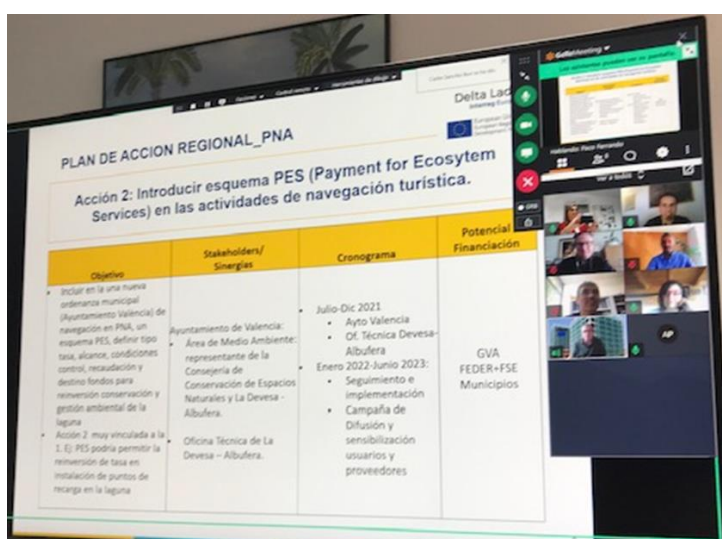
Boosting regional economy through ecosystem services in river deltas!

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9. The 6th Regional Stakeholder Group meeting in Spain



VALENCIA REGION COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE organised the 6th RSG meeting on 31st of May 2021 Online. The meeting was focused on the presentation of the draft Action Plan to the stakeholders and finalization of the Regional Action Plan. 9 stakeholders attended the meeting. The project progress and the roadmap for the action plan implementation with the regional stakeholder group were discussed. Also, the debate on the recommendations for policy improvements and synergies with other projects in progress at regional level was stimulated. Read more [here](#)

10. The Regional Action Plans: Brief Outlines

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL & UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK (IE) address the **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) (2020-2032)** and the **Cork County Development Plan (2022-2028)**. Four actions are included in the Action Plan: **(1)** Monitor the Territorial Impacts of Ecosystem Services policy change in the region through the RSES for the Southern Region (2020 – 2032) (RPO 110); **(2)** Secure recognition of ecosystem services at local policy level through engagement and participation in the Cork County Development Plan (2022-2028) review; **(3)** Formulate and deliver a Pollinator Plan for Youghal and associated local initiatives; **(4)** Deliver complimentary infrastructure supporting the use and preservation of ecosystem services on a local site in Youghal.

ART-ER & PO DELTA PARK (IT) - The Action Plan focuses on the **Po Delta Park Territorial Plan** and envisages two actions: **(1)** Mapping the value of ecosystem services in Po Delta Park: a tool for the municipalities; and **(2)** Linking territorial policies to ecosystem services through the development of a PES scheme feasibility study linked to tourism & biodiversity in Po Delta Park.

COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF VALENCIA REGION (ES) - focuses on the **ERDF Valencia Region Operational Programme 2021-2027**. The Action Plan will be in line with other **Regional Strategies** and with the new European priorities based on the ecological transition. Two action are envisaged: **(1)** Promoting energy transition in Albufera Natural Park: electrification of tourism boats; **(2)** Introduction of a PES scheme in the boating touristic activities.

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PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND (NL) - The Action Plan focuses on the **Northern Innovation Agenda (OP Noord)**, and the new **Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization 2021-2027 (RIS3)** as the basis for the OP Noord successor programme. Three actions are envisaged: **(1)** Strengths of the Blue Delta: introducing ecosystem services in the RIS3 2021-2027, **(2)** Developing and testing a web-based user-friendly application that enables regional policy makers and project owners to assess the impact of their projects and policy initiatives on the policy frameworks of eco-system services, sustainable development goals and broad well-being, based on the scientific method of Policy-Enhanced Sustainable Cost-Benefit Analysis; **(3)** Training 'Mission professionals' for the Blue Delta region Northern Netherlands.

THE DANUBE DELTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (RO) - The Action Plan addresses **Regional Operational Programme (ROP) Thematic Objective 6 of ROP - Environment and Resource Efficiency**, with an action to support ROP by Preparing a Guide in support of ROP applicants in implementing sustainable and context-appropriate solutions into their projects.

THE REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF CAMARGUE (FR) focuses on the **Charter of Commitment of the Regional Natural Park of Camargue**. One action is envisaged in the Action Plan which is **(1)** Development of pesca-tourism activity at sea, lagoon and river environments and structuring of a sector.

11. Good Practices identified so far

3 Good practices identified by **Dutch Province of Friesland** in this **6th Semester** are in the submission process. **Good practices** identified in the previous semesters by **Romanian, Irish, Italian, Spanish and French partners** are published on the project website under [Good Practices](#). Out of **14 good practices** identified so far, **8 are included** in the **Interreg Europe Good Practice (GP) database**.

- **FISH-MIGRATION RIVER PROJECT** at the Afsluitdijk (NL) ([in a submission process](#));
- **SILENCE OF THE BEES-PROJECT**, raising awareness of the key role of bees in the landscape (NL) ([in a submission process](#));
- **INVESTMENT IN FRYSKE TRUI** (Frisian Sweater) (NL) ([in a submission process](#));
- **JURILOTCA (RO)** - cyclo-nautical recreational club in Jurilovka settlement offers nature and culture-based adventure and wilderness guided tours ([in GP database](#)).
- **DELTACRAFT (RO)** - is an example of social entrepreneurship that brings together local artisans and contemporary designed ([in GP database](#)).
- **The BRIDE Project (IE)** - Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment is an innovative agri-environmental project that adopts a results-based payment approach to conserving, enhancing and restoring biodiversity ([in GP database](#)).
- **LAWPRO model (IE)** is a new way of working to achieve better water quality. It is a service working with Local Authorities and state agencies to improve water quality by developing and implement Water Framework Directive (WFD) River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) in Ireland. ([in GP database](#)).

Boosting regional economy through ecosystem services in river deltas!

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- **Hunting for wildlife conservation in the river Po Delta (IT)** - 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](#)).
- **Extensive Fishing in Comacchio lagoon (IT)** - 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](#)).
- **Tancat de la PipaPark of l'Albufera (ES)** - 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](#)).
- **Rice of Albufera (ES)** - Example of promotion of a quality brand of rice that develops different business activities related to the cultural and natural values of Albufera
- **Asociación de Guías de Birding de la Comunitat Valenciana (ES)** - Union of companies linked to nature and ornithological tourism that carries out a large part of its activities in the Albufera Natural Park.
- **Identification of agroecological practices and organization of field exchange days and training (FR)** - aims at reducing pollution and preserving ground functions without additional financial cost for the farmers.
- **Contrat de Delta Camargue (FR)** - The Delta Contract action program for a balanced and sustainable management of water and aquatic environments ([in GP database](#)).

12. Upcoming events

The next **Partner Meeting** and the **6th Interregional Learning Event** is planned to be organized **in the Netherlands in Friesland, in September (14-15) 2021**. More information will follow on the project [website](#).

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DELTA LADY?

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