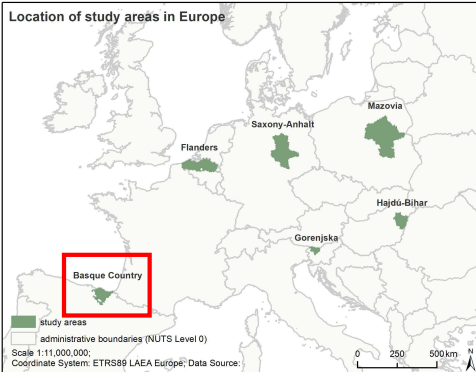


Regional challenges related to the protection of PUOS in

BASQUE COUNTRY



REGIONAL DATA

Country	Spain
NUTS Level	Level 2
Total Area in km² (2015)	7228
Population (Census Data 2011)	2.185.395
Ratio on Total Country population (%)	4,67
Population Density (Persons/Km²; 2015)	301,3

PROJECT PARTNER

Universidad del País Vasco,
Bilbao



Regional Background

In the Basque region, there are divers stakeholders working in the protection of PUOS. Nonetheless, for a successful implementation there is a need for regulatory instruments to protect PUOS (including permits, standard-setting and zoning or planning, directly control or restrict environmentally damaging activities).

The project Ecosystem Services of the Basque Country has been already identified in the Interreg Good Practice Platform. The Ecosystem Services Approach has been included in spatial planning actions at different levels in the Basque Country thanks to working in the application of knowledge in a community of practice. One of the outputs in relation to the RENATUR project is the identification of the components that may form part of the Green Infrastructure (GI) of the Basque Country, which was included in the Renewed Spatial Planning Guidelines (SPGs, DOT in Spanish) of the Basque Country approved in 2019 (Decree 128/2019, of 30 July). The contributions made are mainly linked to terminology and the methodology used to assess Ecosystem Services in the Basque Country, which was included as an Appendix to the SPGs in the form of a method sheet. One direct consequence of the approval of the SPGs is that the different departments of the public administration now have the obligation to implement actions at different scales to promote a local GI.

Moreover, as in the example of the Bilbao Metropolitan Greenbelt, changes in the ecosystems have contributed to economic development and some inhabitants' well-being (education, sanity, money to expend etc.). However, the challenge now is to reverse the consequent environmental degradation that occurred in the past (intensive mining, deforestation, reduction of the original estuary through land reclamation, etc.) to restore natural ecosystems as much as possible, and to manage peri-urban ecosystems to satisfy the demand for ecosystem services (ES) of city-wellers as well as different stakeholders.

Hence, there is a need for space managing tools, participatory approaches to include the different stakeholders view and the identification of Good Practices which can help to overcome the described obstacles; for instance, Good Practices in which Ecosystem Services approach and the new SPG are implemented will help as examples.

Regional Challenges

Efficient use of regulatory instruments to protect PUOS

Land use change

Revitalization of brown-fields

Intensive forestry activities

Needs of Good Practices

Decision-making tools incorporating Ecosystem Services concept

Application of the Spatial Planning Guidelines as a Legal instrument to protect PUOS

Tools to value rural land



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