



**Newsletter #6** **July 2022**

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the sixth 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.

**The OptiWaMag project team**



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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.

## 6th Interregional Meeting

Host: Municipality of  
Lousada

This month, Lousada, in Portugal, was the stage for an international meeting of experts in urban waste management. About 20 participants were able to better understand the urban waste management system implemented in Lousada, and learn about some good practices.



The project [Sustainable Waste](#) was visited and explained. This initiative provides discounts on the municipal waste management tariff to residents who deliver their recyclables at the Municipal EcoCentre, exemplifying one of the few *Win As You Throw* schemes in Europe.

The Lagoa Kindergarten was also visited to demonstrate the operation of the [BioEscola 360](#) project, which aims to reduce the environmental footprint of the municipality's schools, through environmental



education and by financially encouraging the recycling of waste and saving water and electricity.

Some more sectorised waste recovery practices were also demonstrated through the glass recycling programme currently underway in the municipality's HORECA channel (hotels, restaurants and cafes).

The event was also enriched with talks and round tables that encouraged the sharing of good practices and co-learning.



Among these moments, the presentation of the "Recycling Barometer" by Rui Berkemeier, from [ZERO](#) – a large Portuguese

environmental NGO, stands out. The event's programme ended with a technical visit to [LIPOR's](#) Sorting Plant and Organic Recovery Plant.

The knowledge acquired and shared will contribute to the elaboration of Regional Action Plans aimed at improving the efficiency of waste management in the project's partner regions.



In addition, during the second day, the Expert Task Force (ETF) and Steering Group meetings took place setting the work plan and the deadlines of the upcoming activities.



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## OptiWaMag finishes the final semester in Phase1



This month, OptiWaMag Interreg Europe Project is finishing the final semester of the planned activities. The Interreg Europe project seeks innovation in waste management policies in six European regions of Portugal, Sweden, Latvia, Greece, Hungary and Italy.

The project full name is Optimization of waste management in urban spaces and in households and started in 2019.

The policy project incorporates interregional collaboration involving a wide range of expert stakeholders, comprises exchange of good practices, mutual learning, peer assessment, knowledge transfer, targeted coaching, and collective, co-designed policy development.

Optiwamag delivers its results through interlinked project activities and outputs during three sequential steps: 1) Identification and Analysis; 2) Interregional Mutual

Learning 3) Knowledge Transfer and Action Planning.

The primary outputs include:

- The project self, peer and expert assessment tools and findings focused on regions' strengths, weaknesses, policy priorities and policy enhancements
- Framework Strategy for developing evidence based and co-designed policies, programmes, and implementation methods and for identifying the best method to improve policy instruments;
- 6 Regional Action Plans (enhanced by the Framework Strategy, pre and interim self assessments and Advisory Board case study) to enhance the implementation of regional policy instruments across Europe.

The Phase 1 period runs from 2019 until July 2022 and the Phase 2 period

lasts until July 2023. the Interreg Europe project is financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

## 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



### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Next OptiWaMag event:** The Phase 2 period runs from August 2022 until July 2023. The closing event will be held in Sweden

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

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

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