

Night Light Project

3th Newsletter

**Improving regional policies to reduce light
pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies**





Night Light

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Night Light 3th Newsletter

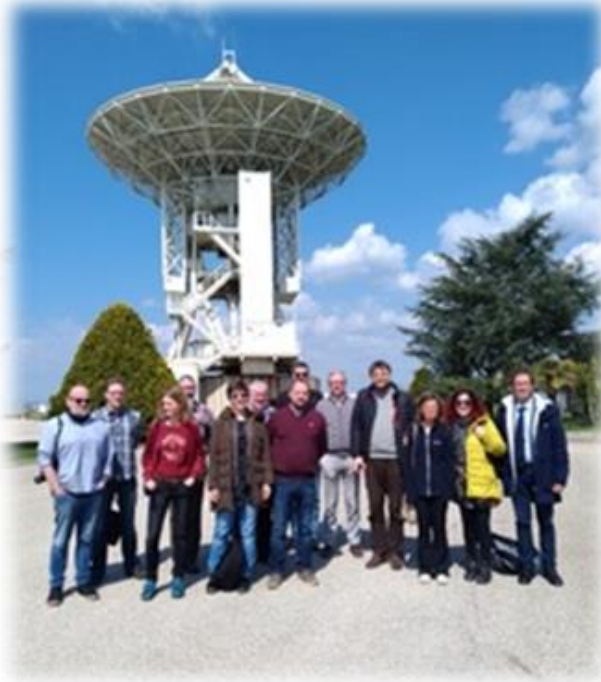
Oktober 2018

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1. Peer Review Basilicata Region / Foundation (IT)



Peer review - Matera, 26-29 March

The peer review in Matera was organized on behalf of Foundation Matera-Basilicata 2019 along with the Basilicata Region.

The Foundation Matera-Basilicata 2019 is the body responsible for the implementation and the delivery of the cultural programme of Matera 2019, European Capital of Culture: our main goal is to leverage on cultural activities in order to increase the awareness of people about light pollution and highlight the value of starry sky, especially as part of our cultural heritage.

To do so, we work closely with the Basilicata Region in order to implement new policies to introduce measures for the reduction of light pollution

Partners from the Province of Fryslan, Samsø Energy Academy (Denmark), Nature Park Our (Luxembourg) and Hajdú-Bihar County Government (Hungary) attended the meeting while the coordination was managed by the Slovenian partner, BSC, Business Support Centre Ltd, Kranj.



1. Peer Review Basilicata Region / Foundation (IT)

The regional stakeholders group participated actively to the meeting: there were 11 institutions/groups/ associations like Regional Park delle chiese rupestri del Materano, Parco Gallipoli Cognato, Italian Space Agency, Observatory in Anzi, Italian society of pedagogy of the sky, Materelétrica, Environmental Education Center, Touristic consortium Terre di Aristeo, Onyx Jazz Club, ALA (Astronomic association of Lucania), FAI (Italian fund for the protection of the environment), with a number of subscriptions significantly higher than it was in the very beginning of the project.

Part of the stakeholders presented their activities and challenges to the peers, according to the following agenda:



Tuesday, 27 March

Speeches:

- Italian Space Agency, Light pollution and the regional law on astronomic observatories
- Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato, Introduction, opportunities and challenges
- Astronomic Society Potenza, Light pollution in Basilicata region: current situation, challenges and opportunities

Field Visits: Castelmezzano and Astronomic Observatory in Anzi (Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato).



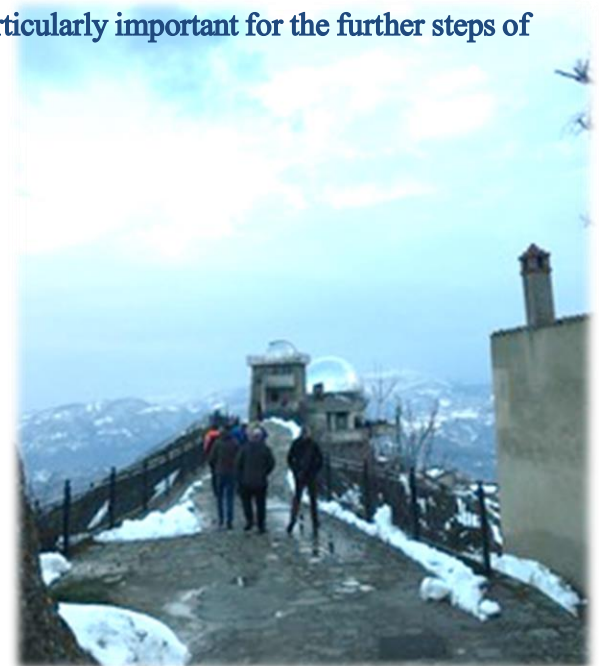
1. Peer Review Basilicata Region / Foundation (IT)

Wednesday 28th March

Field visits: Environmental education center of Regional Park of Rupestrian Churches and Italian Space Agency (Matera)

Case studies on cultural activities: Nightly activities and pedagogy of the sky in the Regional Park of Rupestrian Churches / Musical maps of the sky

The main topics discussed were astrotourism, reduction of light pollution, audience engagement related to the knowledge of the sky, cultural activities and performances related to dark and starry skies, all being subjects particularly important for the further steps of the project to be developed and delivered at a regional scale in Basilicata.



1. Peer Review Basilicata Region / Foundation (IT)

On Thursday 29th March, at the end of the review, we organized a press conference for the dissemination of the results and first recommendations on behalf of the experts.

The regional councilor for the environment was there and he was enthusiastic about the project and its potential, thus he immediately started to think about some small changes to the existing regional laws in order to start introducing some measures against light pollution



2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

14-18 May 2018

The Nature Park Our invited in May 2018 to the fourth peer review meeting.

Seven experts from the partner regions:

- Avila (Spain; Miriam Gil-Martinez, Roberto Rodriguez-Pindado),
- Gorenskja (Slovenia; Helena Cvenkel),
- Hajdú-Bihar (Hungary; Tünde Szabó, István Gyarmathy),
- La Palma (Spain; Ana Castañeda, Antonia María Varela)

The peer group was coordinated by the region of La Palma.



In the peer review, the Nature Park Our presented the following regional challenges:

- a constant, current increase in light emissions due to an unregulated and almost unrestrained increase in the artificial lighting of private actors (correlation with demographic change);
- a lack of control due to the absence of national and municipal regulation;
- lack of public, social and private awareness of the need for night-time landscape conservation;
- a limited idea of how to market the natural resource of the night sky as a special characteristic of the region.

2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

The official program of the peer review meeting started Tuesday morning at Vianden Castle. After a presentation of the region by Petra Kneesch, project manager in the Nature Park Our, Jérôme Faé from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures explained the national and local regulation of light pollution in Luxembourg.

In addition, he presented the national guide "Good Light", which was published at the end of June 2018.

- Subsequently, Lucy Leer, a member of the National Forestry and Nature Management, responded to the management plans of the National Natura 2000 sites in which, in 2018, at the request of the Nature Park Our, the treatment of light pollution was implemented. Lis Cloos, project manager at myenergy GIE, presented the national climate protection program "Klimapakt", with special attention to supporting the participating municipalities in increasing the energy efficiency of street lighting infrastructure.



2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

Alain Klein, project manager at the Nature park Our, presented the project of a common landscape charter for the nature park communities.

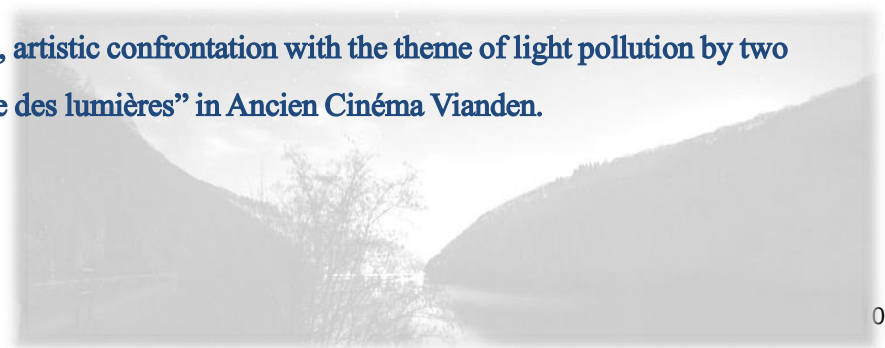
The instrument will also address the issue of light pollution to ensure comprehensive landscape protection day and night.

The following members of the regional working group Night Light also took part in the accompanying discussions:



- Anita Lanners, project manager of the Nature Park Öewersauer,
- Nicolas Differding, Bern Greischer, municipal council of Putscheid,
- Jean-Marie Klasen, municipal council of Vianden,
- Marc Mathay, amateur astronomer,
- Aloyse Lieners, interested citizen.

To conclude the day, the experts were invited to a somewhat different, artistic confrontation with the theme of light pollution by two Hamburg artists, Katrin Bethge and John Eckhardt, during the “Soirée des lumières” in Ancien Cinéma Vianden.



2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

Wednesday 16.05.2018

On Wednesday, the peer group visited the natural park community Putscheid. After a brief introduction about the community by mayor Roger Zanter and municipal council Nico Jacobs, municipal council Bern Greischer presented the active involvement of the municipality of Putscheid in the Night Light project. As part of a pilot project, the municipality wants to optimize the entire municipal lighting infrastructure, taking light pollution into account.

Subsequently, Raymond Seburger presents the national management of state street lighting by the National Road Administration. The discussions were also attended by the regional stakeholders Georges Schlimpen, National Road Administration, the aldermen Conny Hermes-Kanivé and Fabienne Sinnes-Huberty, the municipal council Sylvain Feidert and the interested citizen Aloyse Lieners.



2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

In the afternoon, a guided hike in the Natura 2000 area Our Valley, under the direction of Eva Rabold, biological station of the Nature Park Our, was on the program.

The uninhabited nature reserve captivates with its natural character, its tranquillity and a natural darkness at night.

The Nature Park Our intends to make the area accessible to guided night walks with regard to protection against light pollution.

In the evening, the Our Nature Park invited the international experts to a special Night Light conference in the ceremonial hall of Vianden Castle.

Over 80 invited guests, including political representatives of the nature park communities, representatives of ministries and national administrations, regional stakeholders and interested citizens, attended the lecture series.



In addition to a review of the work of the regional working group Night Light, presented by project manager Laurent Spithoven, the guest speakers Dr. Ing. Lukas Schuler, President of Dark Sky Switzerland and Uwe Knappschneider, lighting designer, presented current projects for the reduction of light pollution, which are implemented in the Nature Park Our (e.g. the study analysis on light pollution sources in the 10 brightest zones of the nature park; the elaboration of a lighting master plan for the municipality of Clervaux).

2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

Thursday 17.05.2018

Thursday was all about astronomy and tourism. Carole Ewert, project manager at the regional tourism board ORT Éislek, presented the tourism business of the region.

Nadine Lepage, representative of the LEADER Éislek region, then presented the regional marketing and communication strategy. Eric Buttini, a member of the National Museum of Natural History, and Pierre Kelsen, President of the Amateur Astronomers Luxembourg, explained the nationwide astronomical activities of both structures.



Nicolas Differding described the project idea of the Nature Park Our for the development of a regional platform for the promotion of the Night Light project: the festival “Night, Light & more”. The meeting was attended by regional stakeholders, Joëlle Ferber, head of the LEADER Éislek office, Léini Schreiner, LEADER Éislek,

Caroline Nockels, product manager ORT Éislek,
Simone Zanter, project manager of the Nature Park Our,
Nicolas Differding, Bern Greischer and Jean Steinberg,
amateur astronomers and as a special guest,
Dr. Lukas Schuler, president of dark sky Switzerland.



2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

In the afternoon the tour to the Natura2000 area Emeschbaach was on the program. The peers were briefed by the alderman of the municipality of Wincrange, Alex Thillens and representatives of the local conservation group for the protection of the old slate quarry, as well as Eva Rabold, biological station Nature Park Our, about the special nature of this protected area. As winter quarters for a large number of protected bats, the branched underground tunnels of the slate quarry not only have a high environmental status, but also a high potential as a tourist attraction in combination.



2. Peer review in Nature Park Our (LUX).

It was followed by a stargazing session at the Center SNJ in Weicherdange,

led by members of the Amateur Astronomers Luxembourg and the regional Night Light stakeholders Marc Mathay and Jean Steinberg. On this occasion, the peers once again encountered a number of familiar faces that they met during the week during the well-filled program.



The starry night invited to the exchange about the Night Light project and offered the experts a cozy end to an intensive and constructive peer review week.



3. Peer review Fryslân

From the 18th till the 22nd of June a group of experts from Denmark, Luxemburg, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and La Palma visited Fryslân.

They helped the region to think about finding a balance while offering possibilities for dark sky tourism in a vulnerable area.

There were lectures, discussions and excursions.



3. Peer review Fryslân

Dark Sky Park Lauwersmeer and the visitorcentre were one of the spots the group of international experts and local stakeholders met each other.

The group listened to stories of inspiring people, like the ranger Jaap who told about the fact that you should take away the fear for the night and learn people something about the function of the eye: do not use your mobile phone or flash light just before stargazing!



The group made a nice walk with ranger Jaap in the area.



3. Peer review Fryslân

In Noord-Holland the meeting was on a ship.



Renate de Backere representing the Waddenvereniging, the foundation that protects the Waddensea, told about her love of the Waddensea in such a special almost whispering way, that you could feel the sea, the tides, the time that moves this area every minute.



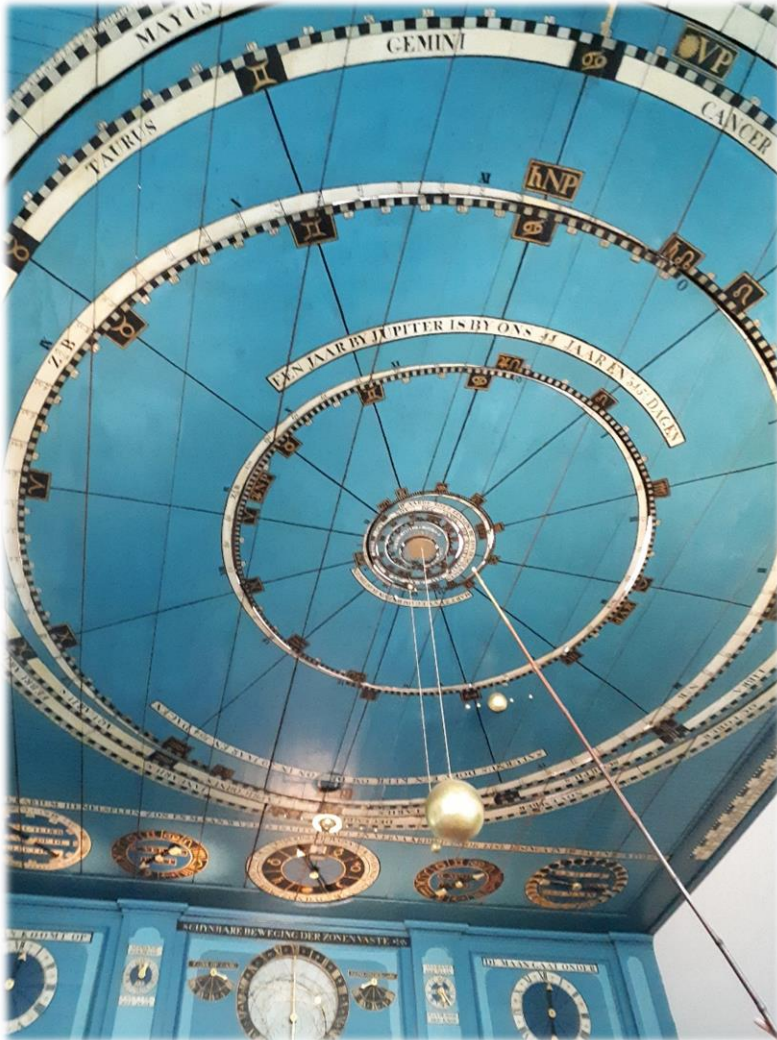
3. Peer review Fryslân

The group visited the oldest still working planetarium in the world located in Franeker.



3. Peer review Fryslân

This accurately moving model of the solar system was built between 1774 and 1781 by the Frisian wool comber, Eise Eisinga.



3. Peer review Fryslân

The opening of an artwork/watchtower designed by architect Nynke-Rixt Jukema was a real celebration together with the villagers. On the longest and shortest day of the year sunset and sunrise shine exactly through passage of this artwork



3. Peer review Fryslân

Lectures about marketing, technology, policy and how to work together on the topic of Dark Sky in the area completed the programme. Peercoordinator Daniela Talamo and the peers did a great job during this week working towards the press conference on Friday where the first advice was presented.



Fryslan should (for example): “boost experimental tourism, identify gather and train storytellers, keep it simple, Use the common Fryslan storytelling to make people proud of their common history, nationality, language, special area and wild life as a common heritage”.

4. Nynke-Rixt Jukema.

Dear Partners,

From 11 till the 14th of June I was on the Island Samso.

Peter Christensen Partner of The Night Light project asked me to come over and help the community on the northern part of Samso to tell their story about the night.

He organised an community meeting on Tuesday the 12 of June in Nordby.

He asked me to give a presentation about the background of the Night Light project and why I started Feel the Night.

He also invited Tom Axelsen from the island of MØN.

Michael and Peter already had a meeting with the civic association of Nordby in March.

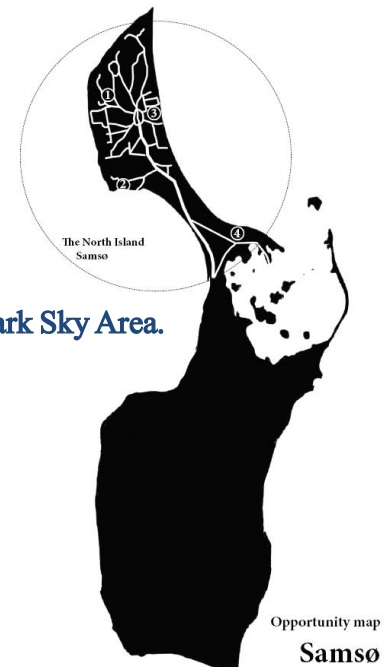
In the first place we (Tom and I) were asked to tell about light pollution and the implementation of a Dark Sky Area.

But you could notice that was not what they found the most interested.

They were more interested in the first step: how do we get more awareness on the island.

After a nice discussion they got the idea to organise a kind off night festival to celebrate the Night.

To make the inhabitants and tourist more aware how beautiful the nights on Samso are.



4. Nynke-Rixt Jukema.

After our presentations the inhabitants of Samsø gave us a presentation about the night opportunities in the North of Samsø.

I have to say, they did their homework perfectly.

They had made a little tour to find out where there where they had the possibility to organise something in the night. And showed us a lot off pictures.

What the pro and don't where off every spot. In a short summary: It's not a problem that they don't have good spots.

The problem on the Island is that a lot off those spots are privately owned.

Off course I could not follow the discussion totally because it was in Danish, but Peter translated my presentation and gave me the day after a good summary. What the community liked the most about my presentation was that I told them that there are a lot of stories to tell and that we can give them the opportunity to experience those stories.

Michael already gave me some links about the typical Danish stories off the night.

Maybe you get inspired as well.



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5. Events to come..

- **Peer Review Island of La Palma (ES)** **01- 05 Oktober 2018 (group A)**
- **Partner Meeting BSC, Business support centre Ltd., Kranj (SI)** **27- 28 November 2018 (all)**
- **Peer Review AVILA (ES)** **01- 05 April 2019 (group A)**

Group A	Group B
Hajdú-Bihar County Government (HU)	BSC, Business support centre Ltd., Kranj (SI)
Nature Park Our (LU)	Basilicata Region (IT) MateraBasilicata 2019 Foundation (IT)
Island Government of La Palma (ES)	Province of Fryslân (NL)
Avila County Council (ES)	Samsø Energy Academy (DK)

6. How to follow and find out more about us.

Website :

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



Twitter :

@nightlighteu9





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