

# Night Light Project

4th 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 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter

April 2019

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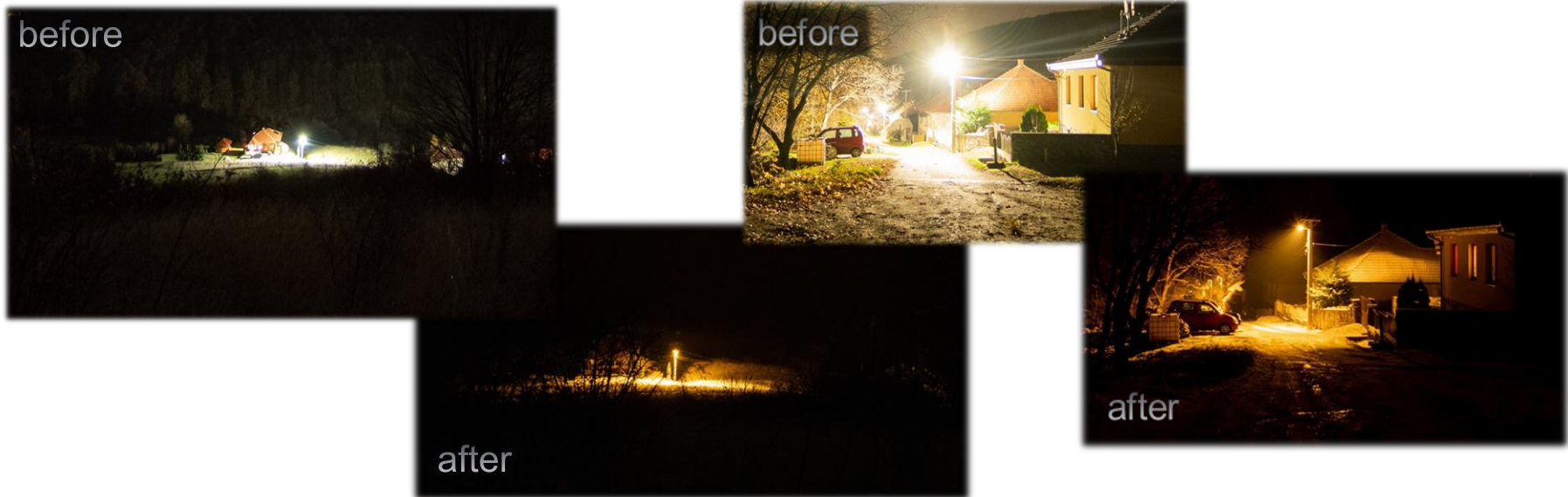
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# 1. Success story The public lighting of Répáshuta

The public lighting of Répáshuta– a settlement in the Bükk Starry Sky Park of Hungary – was totally renewed.

The new lighting system not only consumes less energy but has a positive effect on wildlife and on human health maintenance.

After 10pm the new luminaires change from warm white to amber yellow which is biologically the most optimal solution.



With this change the settlement's light pollution decreased almost to zero.

This is the first public lighting system change in Hungary of which during the implementation the prime factor was to reduce light pollution.

The changed luminaires are novelty and were planned specifically for wildlife protection and for creating healthy environment.

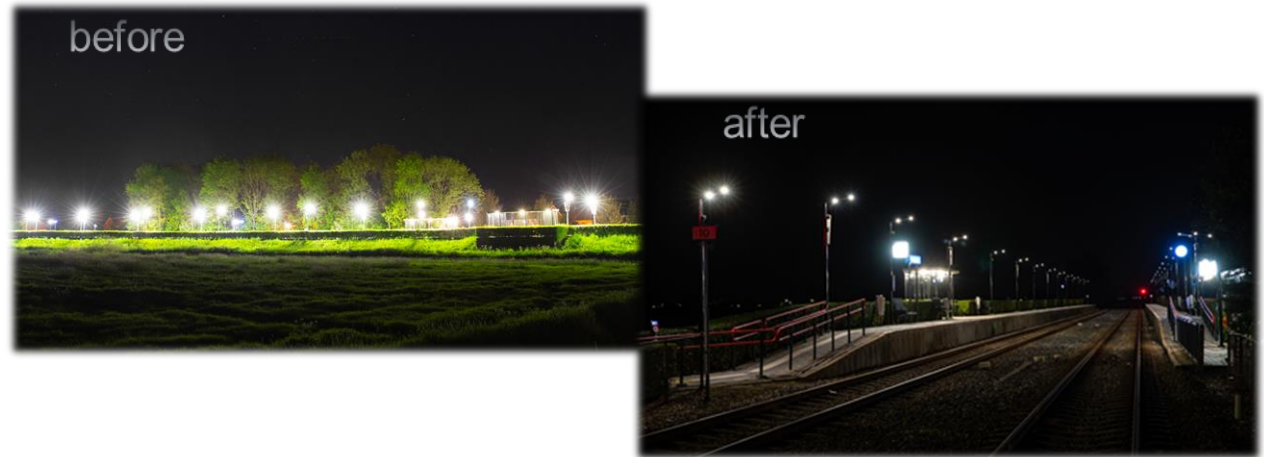
More details: <https://www.bnpi.hu/hu/hir/csokkent-a-fenyszennyezés-a-bukki-nemzeti-parkban>

## 2. Frisian village has back the moon and the stars..

Frisian village has back the moon and the stars by dimmed station lights

A Frisian village, Mantgum, had a railway station with a lot of lights during night time.

There were protests from the people living there and now Mantum has the first railway station with dimmed lights.



Inhabitants of Mantgum were irritated by the fact that the lights were very bright in a surrounding which was rather dark.

But how could they penetrate to such a big company like Prorail?

On one night a number of people went to the railway station and turned off all the lights.

They did this on a Friday night because they thought then they could not be stopped by overeager civil servants, but on Saturday night they got a phonecall from the police.

When they explained they hadn't broken the lights but just turned them loose, they let them go with it.

## 2. Frisian village has back the moon and the stars..

A quote of a very famous Ducht author who lives there: "That lighting was a stupid scratch in the landscape... I think it is fantastic that someone had the courage to storm the authorities with a sort of civil boldness.

And it succeeded.”



ProRail now saw the light. "Mantgum is the first in a long row of stations with dimmed light.

This light gives Mantgum back the moon and stars.“

Dutch news:

<https://www.prorail.nl/nieuws/prorail-geeft-mantgum-de-nacht-terug>

<https://rijkwaddenzee.nl/nieuws/reeks-van-treinstations-in-waddengebied-krijgt-nieuwe-verlichting/>

<https://nos.nl/artikel/2250140-mantgum-heeft-maan-en-sterren-terug-met-gedimd-stationslicht.html>

### 3. Policy Learning Meeting BSC, Ltd., Kranj (Slovenia)

The Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska - BSC Kranj organized the Night Light Policy Learning Seminar, in November 2018, in cooperation with project partners and Slovenian experts in the field of light pollution and the dark sky theme.

BSC Kranj organized a seminar in their region of Gorenjska on the topic of light pollution and the preservation of a natural dark sky. The latter presents opportunities for the development of tourism, new lighting technologies, protection of biodiversity, and the integration of natural and cultural heritage.



At the event, which was open for public, project partners and Slovenian experts presented their experiences and activities in the field, which is internationally also covered by IDA (International Dark-Sky Association), which perhaps sounds like something from the Star Wars.

We can say that this international association of the dark sky throws a good light on the dark side (of our sky) and is like the Jedi Knights, protectors of the night sky. The organization believes that the night sky is our universal heritage and that artificial light pollution can affect our animal species, health, heritage and safety.



### 3. Policy Learning Meeting BSC, Ltd., Kranj (Slovenia)

At the seminar, the Hungarian partner (Hajdú-Bihar County Government) shared their experiences with the status of the dark sky areas in the national parks of Bükk and Hortobágy, on the Spanish Stars island of La Palma (Cabildo de La Palma – Servicio de Turismo) they offer visitors an experience of astro-tourism from classical observation of stars to comets and planets on the dinner table, the Energy Academy Samsø comes from a Danish energy self-sufficient island, but are only at the beginning of defining and developing dark sky areas on the island, and in the Netherlands, the Province of Fryslân has already taken the path from the signing of political blacks to concrete actions for the development of dark sky areas. Province of Avila (Spain) was the last one to impress our audience with a presentation of their own Mordor, which at 1,200 m is surrounded by mountain chains from all sides, but closer to the night sky and promotes dark sky activities through educational events.

Two Slovenian experts presented both sides of the story. A lighting expert advocated the smart LED solutions for a brighter future and an independent environmental activist pointed out that light pollution is not the complete name of the problem.





### 3. Policy Learning Meeting BSC, Ltd., Kranj (Slovenia)

The group was also welcomed by Janez Fajfar, Mayor of Bled, and Matjaž Berčon, Bled Municipality Administration Director, and both joined participants on a short walk to show their solutions of public lighting and related good practices in Bled.



On the final day of the meeting, project partners attended theoretical and practical presentations on the content of light pollution in Slovenia, which was presented by one of the best in this field, Andrej Mohar and his team of experts. Technical requirements for various lighting, analysis software, methods for measuring light pollution and control of external lighting of roads, streets, parking lots and industrial plants were presented in detail.



### 3. Policy Learning Meeting BSC, Ltd., Kranj (Slovenia)

After dark, participants went on a bus ride to see and witness good (and bad) practices of public lighting of streets and churches in Vrhnika, at parking lots on the outskirts of cities, the over-illumination of advertising boards at shopping centres, and practically tested night scanning of Ljubljana streets with a vehicle adapted for this purpose.



## 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

From March 13 to 17, 2019 a Policy Learning seminar was held in Matera organized by the Basilicata Region and the Matera Basilicata 2019 Foundation within the INTERREG Europe Night Light Project.

At first, thanks to the collaboration with the UCIL Blind Union Association, a welcome dinner in the darkness has been organized for the European partners, in line with the spirit of the project to enhance the value of the darkness.



Concerning the topic of light pollution, Basilicata Region and Matera-Basilicata 2019 Foundation shared their best practices and policies with EU partners as well as with all the Regional Stakeholders providing also a public session of work.

Elio Manti, General Director of regional development policies of Basilicata Region, underlined the market value of the starry sky and announced that the Region is considering the opportunity to reward companies that will take over sustainable lighting through calls for proposals.

# 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

Giovanni Oliva, Secretary General of Matera-Basilicata2019 Foundation, told the experience of the Opening Ceremony of the European capital of culture, with one part of the program devoted to dark sky when the public and private lights of the Sassi were turned off at dusk, lit by thousands of candles.

Rossella Tarantino, Development and Relations Manager of the Matera-Basilicata2019-Foundation, described the Social Light Project to create awareness among stakeholders about the importance of energy saving.

The workshops were introduced in the cultural program of Matera 2019 and involved 6 thousand people including schools, hospitals, municipalities, scout groups.



# 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

Another key topic discussed was Astro-tourism and the value of dark sky,

as a new trend for passionate travellers, with an interesting potential for a region such as Basilicata that has one of the cleanest skies in Italy.

The Basilicata Region manager Giuseppe Eligiato has presented the guidelines of the next call for agritourism that will promote the standardization of lights and will try to finance the building of "rooms of the stars", environmental homestay suitable for observation.



# 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

At national level, good practices of astro-tourism were illustrated by the manager of the Lazio Region Giuliano Tallone telling about the enhancement of the heritage of the historical observatories of the capital and the event 'The sky of Rome', a festival born in 2016 and by the young entrepreneur Fabrizio Marra who transformed a passion in work, his start-up Astronomitaly animates a dedicated portal, branded specialized tourist products, offers a quality certification for accommodation facilities.

Szabo Tunde talked about the success of the astro/gastronomic tours in the Hortobagy national park.

The park of the starry sky offers the experience of sleeping outdoors in the Putza, eating and living with the herdsmen in horse breeding farms, or horseback riding.

Luigi De Lorenzo, the mayor of Aliano, talked about the value of the darkness.

The small town of Lucan hills every summer becomes a small cultural capital hosting the landscape festival "The moon and i calanchi".

Among the projects of Aliano Municipality, there is also the reduction of excess in public lighting.



# 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

The final panel was dedicated to the Science.

Agatino Rifatto of the National Institute of Astronomy described the national situation of light pollution and presented several education initiatives in schools, Doreen Hagemeister of the Space Geodesy Centre of Matera reviewed regional laws, showed the limits of the Regional Legislation and announced the imminent investments (1.5 million euros) to equip the SGC with a planetarium, an observatory and a space museum.



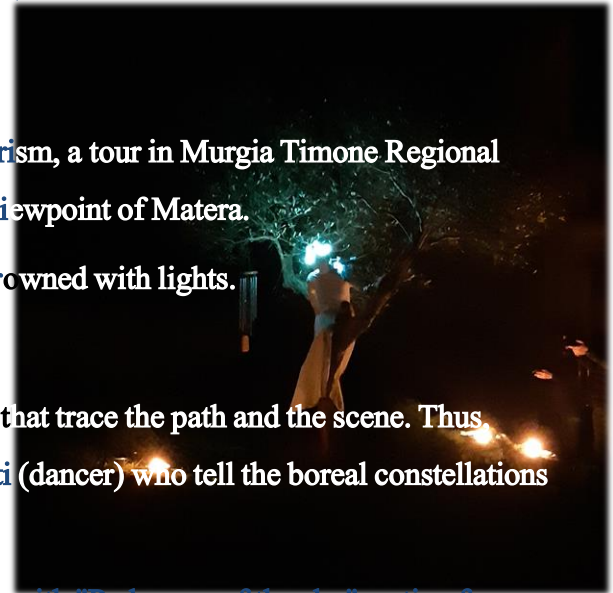
## 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

The seminar ended with an experience on the field of emotional and experiential astro-tourism, a tour in Murgia Timone Regional Park, the ancient Palaeolithic settlement that with its darkness represents the best natural viewpoint of Matera.

The guests were surprised by the appearance of a ghost, a young woman in a white robe crowned with lights.

The only artificial lights to break the deep darkness barely scratched by dozens of candles that trace the path and the scene. Thus began the engaging performance of Rita Montinaro (author and narrator) and Anna Onorati (dancer) who tell the boreal constellations between myths and reality.

The two artists of the cultural association “The dowsers” have been collaborating for years with “Pedagogy of the sky”, active for sixteen years in the environmental education center of the Parco della Murgia in Matera, between observation education and teacher training





# 4. Policy Learning Meeting Matera (IT)

At the end of the Policy Learning Seminar, the following day, the European partners have been guided to visit some of the areas of the Basilicata Region affected by the project, living a series of experiences related to the astro-tourism and the enhancement of the darkness.

Such as the Murgia Regional Park and the Rock Churches, the Castelgrande Observatory and the Municipality of Muro Lucano with its archaeological museum.



Rock Church



# 5. Peer Review meeting Avila County (ES)

## PEER REVIEW IN AVILA

The Peer Review held in Avila between 1st and 5th April 2019, was attended by 11 peers coming from Matera-Basilicata (Italy), Fryslân (Netherlands), Nature Park Our (Luxembourg), Hadju-Bihar (Hungary and Cabildo La Palma (España)

### Structure of the program:

The peer review took place in both, Avila capital and Avila province, since the competences of our County Council are the 248 municipalities, mainly the project is addressing rural areas.

We tackled both sides of the same coin such as Light Pollution in the first half of the program and Astrotourism in the second half, since both of them are directly related and this is how the regional stakeholders group is split. The Organizations represented were public and private.



# 5. Peer Review meeting Avila County (ES)

The agenda had over 20 different presentations, most of them in a formal way (power point presentations in a meeting room) But some others took place in outdoor and friendly atmosphere, having time for hard discussions and also for more relaxed moments waling around or tasting some traditional recipes, or discovering the beauty of our World Heritage City. Most of the speakers were the key persons within the RSG, some of theme coming from the Regional Authority in charge of reduce Light Pollution and developing Astrotourism.



# 5. Peer Review meeting Avila County (ES)

The President of Avila County Council welcomed the whole group



And a media coverage took place during the second day



# 5. Peer Review meeting Avila County (ES)

## Agenda

The agenda was set considering how to combine to show what we are caring out and what we are trying to learn within the project, showing not only the success, but also those aspects we need to improve or we are just at the beginning



Actually we had the opportunity to enjoy a proper stargazing in the roof-terrace of Gredos Parador, as one of the first places to offer that experience, so, the group was staring at the milky way, that one we have over our heads daily that one who gathered all of us under the same project, as well as we had the opportunity to enjoy a thematica dinner about the goal of the project, a proper good practice itself.

# 5. Peer Review meeting Avila County (ES)

## Professional & Friendly atmosphere

The meeting were developed in a focused way, tackling challenges, gathering interesting speakers but also having some time for mutual learning experiences, and European regions cohesion in a professional but also friendly atmosphere, everything run smoothly according to the agenda

On last day we organize a workshop with our Regional Stakeholders Group, that was attended by over 50 people from so many different organizations, public and private

We consider the peer review was a successful one, we enjoyed the visit of our guest and hope they also enjoy the opportunity to help us to improve our regional policy.



# 5. Peer Review meeting Avila County (ES)

## Storytelling about the peer meeting in Avila

After an intense week shared with all the peers gathered in Avila, on Thursday we organize an informal Team Building.

Accurately it was an archery activity in the middle of the forest, once we received just the most basic security info,

we started to shoot, most of the team was failing by far, but as soon as we started to receive some tips from a skilled guide,

who was so kind to give “external advice and making us to change our point of view” suddenly most of the individual targets were achieved by the majority of the team,

consequently we learnt how important is to receive external friendly advice and try to improve as a group, exactly the same we are developing within NIGHT LIGHT project thanks to the peer review methodology.



## 5. Events to come..

- **Partner Meeting Island of La Palma (ES)** **18- 20 November 2019 (all)**

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</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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