

# Night Light Project

5th 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 5<sup>th</sup> Newsletter

November 2019

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# CONTENT: MID TERM CONFERENCE LA PALMA

The Night Light mid-term conference on la Palma was held at the end of November (18-21) 2019, at the Hotel Sol La Palma in Puerto de Naos.

Welcome words by the Cabildo representatives (Mr. Raul Camacho):

A translator service was provided.



## PARTICIPANTS

Province of Fryslan: Thea Bijma, Maarten van den Akker, Jessica de Boer, Femke van Akker

Hadjú-Bihar County Government (HUN): Tünde Szabó, Andrea GONDA-MAGYAR, Dora LENGYEL, Richard NOVAK

Ávila County Council (ES): Roberto Rodríguez Pindado, Carlos GARCIA, Armando GARCIA

Nature Park Our (LUX): Emile Eicher, Francine Keiser, Nicolas Differding, Christian Kayser, Romain Braquet, Bernard Greischer, Laurent Spithoven

Samsø Energy Academy (DK): Peter Christensen, Michael Kristensen

BSC Kranj - Business support center (SLV): Helena Cvenkel, Tamara Mravinec, Barbara Špehar, Roko Padovac

MATERA - BASILICATA (IT): Raffaele RICCIUTI

Island Government of La Palma (ES): Raul Camacho, Carlos Fernández, Ana García, Blas Martín, Ana Castañeda Pérez

# NIGHT LIGHT ACTION PLAN PRESENTATION (ALL PARTNERS)

On the morning of November 19th, each of the regional managers of the program, under the coordination of Thea Bijma, Project Manager Interreg Night Light Project, presented each action plan developed during the first phase of the project. This Action Plan will be implemented in the second phase of the program, during the years 2020 and 2021.



# Mid term conference

The mid term conference was opened for partners, regional stakeholders and other interested policy makers. All partners they came accompanied by some of their stakeholders who attended the programme of the conference.

A total of 26 attendees from all the regions involved in the project came from outside the island to participate in the midterm meeting. The assistants of La Palma were around 15 participants.

According to the Application form we exchanged in detail the action plans on this conference. The objective was that all partners presented their action plan in max 15 minutes and with max 5 sheets.

At this conference also the Guide Lessons and Recommendations were presented. This was a joint production of the Leadpartner and HadjúBihar. These lessons are among others based on the best practices.

The SCM (Steering Committee Meeting) is for Project managers only took place the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, the Italian partner working on the video which was shown on the conference as well.

## “Toward a stars gazing product in the Canary Islands”

### Mr. Sergio Moreno, Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Canary Islands Government.

This presentation was inspiring to understand the importance that astrotourism can have for a tourist region such as the Canary Islands. A sustainable tourism product that, in turn, forces the protection of the dark sky and facilitates economic development in areas with less tourism development.



# VISIT TO PLATANOLÓGICO BEFORE LUNCH

Next to the hotel there is an organic banana production farm. We organized a visit for our partners because very few people in Europe know how to grow bananas and this was an experience of knowledge of the insular economic reality very interesting. A sustainable experience directly related to our astrotourism project, with organic production and with solar cookers.





Afternoon visit to Volcanoes and Astrotouristic resources:

“Caños de Fuego” visitor’s centre.

Common Dinner with Night Observation Activity.



The dinner on the 19th was organized in a newly opened visitor center, in a different environment. A visit to the volcanic tube "Cueva de las Palomas" preceded dinner and afterwards an astronomical observation was carried out by several of the companies that make astronomical tours on the island.



# THE UNIVERSE SQUARE IN TIJARAFE:

On the 20<sup>th</sup> we organized a hole day to visit stars gazing infrastructures on construction which are very important for the consolidation of the astrotourism product for La Palma.



We were accompanied by Luis Morera, a local artist of great recognition who explained the meaning of the design of the square:

"It will be a wonderful place to visit, because it is an area of pinewood in the upper part of Tijarafe, with incredible views where you can see the Universe and just turn around, and look down, you will find one with the sea and with some Awesome sunsets, you can see the universe as it behaves, where you can see any stellar event, such as seeing the Perseids, constellations, star showers ... it is the right place because the sky is very clean and almost there is no light pollution. " Thus, Morera imagines "lying on the floor of the gazebo and looking up."

# VISIT TO THE GRANTECAN (GTC IS THE GREATEST INFRARED TELESCOPE ON EARTH)



# VISITORS CENTRE AT ROQUE DE LOS MUCHACHOS OBSERVATORY

After having lunch at the Astronomers Residence, we visited the new Visitors Center which is expected to be finished in 2020.



*What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

### 1 Province of Fryslân NL

We are very proud we managed to succeed in the cooperation and prepare next steps to describe bigger projects that will offer Dark Experiences in the region.

We started to connect, by emailcontacts , to German and Danish partners to work together on the Dark Sky World Heritage area as a whole (meetings will follow later this year).

We are very proud that, a new visitor centre was opened in Lauwersoog, the Lauwersnest with financial help of the Province of Fryslan. The centre is a starting point for Dark Sky excursions, there is a special part of the exposition about Dark Sky. In the opening week in February the spot was the location for a mobile planetarium for kids.

<http://www.beleefdewaddennatuur.nl/agenda/openingsweek-lauwersnest/>

<https://www.dvhn.nl/groningen/Staatsbosbeheer-opent-nieuw-informatiecentrum-Lauwersnest-in-het-Lauwersmeergebied-24178509.html>

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/lauwersnest>

<https://www.np-lauwersmeer.nl/activiteiten/bekijk-overdag-sterren-in-het-kapteyn-mobiele-planetarium-2-2/>

## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

### 2 HajdúBihar County Government HU

**This reporting period provided the space to properly define the final actions to be implemented in Phase 2.**

**This semester was about to utilize the knowledge and information gained through the Phase 1 implementation so far.**

**The activity is strongly supported by the engaged contribution of our regional stakeholders who are strongly committed to actively support the work.**

**The new links between different actors from all around the country are the most important achievement by the project beyond the policy changes – but policy changes also will reflect in the work and results of our stakeholders as well.**

**Getting to know the results of different events (peer reviews, policy learning meetings, RSG sessions), our experts got more inspiration to follow on and strengthen the awareness and concrete steps towards our valuable dark skies, ecotourism offers and sustainable lighting considerations.**



## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

### 3 Avila County Council ES

What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?

**ARCHERY AS PEERS-TEAM BUILDING** During the peer review week held in Avila, Spain, as host we organized a team building activity based on the principles of the peer review methodology, accurately we organized a “Archery activity”, first it was outdoors in the middle of the forest, just the peers and the guide, so simbolizing to be naked of the daily rutines such as laptops, calls, formal meetings, rather this one was an informal way to build up a strong partnership, to rely on the guidelines provided by an expert you barely know and to improve as a team departing from almos no knowledge at all, actually we did not release the activity to our colleagues until few minutes before doing it, just to stress how to handle activities out of the comfort zone.

First we were introduced just the basic security info, but no more tips at all, so, consequently the first shots through out the bow were mostly failing. The more tips by the expert and the more attemps, step by step we starting to achieve the goal individually, but based on common knowledge gained as group, learning from own and others mistake.

Moreover, once we got the goals, the guide introduced a new item to be step out of the comfort zone, settin colourful ballons to be addressed, simbolizing the unexpected changes during the project lifetime. Once more we were taught how to change our point of view while pointing a moving goal.

In the end, we experienced a nice outdoor activity quite similar to the Peer Review Methodology itself.

# *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

## 4 Nature Park Our LU

What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period? In any case, my role as a peer coordinator at the peer review meeting in Ávila was a very special experience within this Night Light period. I can look back on a very intensive and highly interesting cooperation both with the hosts and with the group of experts, which met a huge interest from the stakeholders of the partner region Ávila. At this point I would like to point out the exceptionally exemplary and professional organisation of the peer review meeting, which gave all international guests a unique insight and unique experience of the Dark Sky movement in our partner region.

Addition, the NIGHT LIGHT conference in Clervaux was a highlight as the Minister gave us his fullest support in the NIGHT LIGHT project and designated the work of the regional stakeholders, especially the participating communities, as a unique national role model in dealing with light pollution.

Foto 1: NIGHT LIGHT Conference in Clervaux, 28.02.2019

Foto 2: Minister for Energy an Spatial Planning, Claude Turmes, at NIGHT LIGHT Conference in Clervaux, 28.02.2019



## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

5 Samsø Energy Academy DK

What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?

We are especially proud of the growing interest among the local population on Samsø on light pollution issues and that they show up in great numbers to meetings, walks etc. That shows us that there are great potentials when it comes to attain international accreditation as a Dark Sky Area.

We are also very pleased with the cooperation with the municipality and especially the local civic association that take more and ownership of the planned activities.

Furthermore, we are proud of being able to gather a very strong Regional Stakeholder Group with participant throughout the Region and being able to identify the right persons in the different organisations and institutions - and that the official representative from the Region took active part in the Peer review.

We have been starting up from the very scratch when it comes to e guidelines or legislation whatsoever on light pollution issues in Denmark. However, we now experience interest from other locations throughout the country. Latest from the island of Anholt, where a network meeting will be held in august 2019

## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

6 BSC, Business support centre Ltd., Kranj SI

**What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?**

**We were impressed by the ways how Samsø, with limited resources is trying to be “first” in the developing of new ways of sustainability – in connection with dark sky approaches. Especially, it moved us how inhabitants and NGOs are deeply connected with nature, protection of biodiversity and how they are determined to develop a dark sky area.**

**We liked very much the enthusiasm of the guide - at the pilot area - experts and inhabitants that share the same vision and they will continue to develop a dark sky area.**

## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

### **7/8 Matera Basilicata / Region 2019 Foundation IT**

The Lumen Social light laboratories, as special appointments approaching the opening ceremony of Matera Basilicata 2019 capital of culture, had a strong impact on the whole local community, with workshops held throughout the city of Matera (involving associations, artisan shops, hospitals, museums, etc.) and the whole Region with 19 laboratories in all the Municipalities that actively participated in the inaugural ceremony on 19 January.

The Laboratories represented a strong tool for communication and involvement of citizens in the activities of the Foundation as well as they represented an extraordinary opportunity to raise awareness about the themes of light with particular attention to the virtuous use of light, the value of darkness and the problems related to the light pollution, fully responding to the principles and objectives of the Interreg Night Light project, of which the Matera Basilicata 2019 Foundation and the Region are partners.

During the workshops, thanks also to the involvement of the light designer Giovanna Bellini, all these topics were studied in theory with special focus and debates and in practice with the self-production of small luminous elements, the baglight, through which citizens have been able to deepen the importance of the relationship between the dark and the light, becoming active subjects during the opening ceremony.

# *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

The laboratories also involved schools, with a particular focus on Art School, in which the students were asked to investigate the relationship between dark and light inside the cave and therefore the creation and realization of a scenography for the inaugural ceremony on January 19th.

Please, have a look to the Gallery of the Laboratories

<https://www.matera-basilicata2019.it/it/gallerie/category/106-i-laboratori-di-social-light.html>

and some of the relevant video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEAZ\\_0dP36g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEAZ_0dP36g)

Concerning the preparation of the Policy Learning Seminar, we are particularly proud about the sentiment and the involvement of all the local and regional stakeholders regarding the organization and the contribution.

Starting from the involvement of the National Blind Association with whom we organized a dinner in the dark feeling the darkness values, the involvement of the Association Pedagogy of the Sky that organized a special night in the Regional Murgia Park.

The storytelling developed together with the Association Le Scorrubande Culturali.

Finally, all this experience has been told through a special video

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IV-3PDHXVgblpt5PbBfeLggKSifEHJoi> .

## *What are you particularly proud of in this reporting period?*

### 9 Island Government of La Palma ES

I am especially proud of the first steps given to implement the "Institutional Declaration of Commitment of the Island of La Palma with the Preservation of the Night Sky", the very good disposition of the Director of the Technical Office of Protection of the Sky from the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands who have assist to the two meetings held in La Palma, as a speaker to explain the importance of public lighting control to avoid light pollution.

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

**Website** :

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



**Twitter** :

@nightlighteu9







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