



PROSPERA

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

PROSPERA to prosper

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the sixth edition of the PROSPERA newsletter! PROSPERA is the acronym of 'PROmoting Sustainable development and regional attractiveness through PERi-urban Areas'.

After two years of pandemic, online meetings and study visits, PROSPERA partners finally could meet again for two events before the end of Phase1. In March, once again Reggio Emilia welcomed PROSPERA partners for a Thematic event. In May, the City of Ghent hosted the final event of the project.

As Phase1 is slowly coming to an end, ILVO (Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), CRPA (Research Centre on Animal Production) and E35 Foundation collected the knowledge developed during the exchanging process and created the Final Toolkit, to support regional and interregional learning.

In this newsletter you can read about the events held in this semester and about the outputs of Phase1, including the partners' Local Action Plans.



Activities implemented during Semester 6

International Thematic Event in Reggio Emilia

28 - 31 March 2022

Between the 28th and 31st of March, Reggio Emilia hosted an International Thematic Event. During the four-day visit, Italian hosts and representatives from Aristoteli (GR), Ghent (BE), Varberg (SWE) and Debrecen (HU) collaborated in several really interesting activities.



On the 29th of March, the Technopole of Reggio Emilia hosted the international event to discuss the first results of the PROSPERA journey, and the actions that each territory is putting in place to promote sustainable development of peri-urban areas. During the morning session, Philippe Lemanceau, Vice-President of Dijon Metropole presented the Global Food Policy of Dijon. Cristina Sossan from the Food Policy Office of the City of Milan gave an overview on The Milan Food Policy and the links between urban and peri-urban areas.

Partners also visited the Reggio Emilia Innovation Park, the International Center Loris Malaguzzi, the good practices of the city, Greenway "Vasca di Corbelli" and Urban Forestation

Plan and met agricultural companies in the peri-urban. In the evening, attendees had the opportunity to cook together and learn the recipe for making Tortelli, a traditional pasta dish of Emilia Romagna.

On the 30th of March, partners discussed the visited good practices of Reggio Emilia, presented their draft Local Action Plans and got feedback from each other.

On the 31st of March, a project management meeting was held. The aim of the event was to summarize the project management activities, financial issues and current communication tasks.

'The thematic workshop in Reggio Emilia was a great combination of inspirational exchange with the other partners and fun! Very happy to see everyone again face to face. The opportunity to talk with everyone in between the formal meeting moments really adds to the learning. It was also an added value to see Reggio Emilia's good practices in real life. Nothing can replace seeing it with your own eyes and being able to informally ask all your questions.'- the Ghent Team

PROSPERA Final Event in Ghent

11 – 12 May 2022

As the end of Phase1 of PROSPERA project approaches, the final event took place between the 11th and 12th of May in Ghent, Belgium. The event was a good opportunity to share the main outputs of the project.



On the first day, participants could listen to interesting presentations. Carlotta Bonvicini, Deputy Mayor for Sustainability of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, talked about how cities can innovate local policies for the sustainable development of peri-urban areas. Anna Verhoeve, Researcher from ILVO, spoke about the PROSPERA methodological toolkit developed by ILVO and CRPA.

'Visiting Ghent's good practices was one of the main highlight of PROSPERA, an opportunity that Reggio Emilia stakeholders have been looking forward since the very beginning of the project. The enhancement of peri-urban areas through the promotion of Ghent's food strategy is particularly inspiring for Reggio Emilia and represents a valuable example that we will follow in the next year of work' – the Reggio Emilia team

Stéphanie van Lancker from the City of Ghent presented on the Ghent artisan entrepreneurs who make unique products using local ingredients, inspired by cultural heritage. Finally, Valerià Paül, Teacher at the University of Santiago de Compostela, gave a lecture on the peri-urban farmland and the development of alternative food networks and agricultural parks.

In the afternoon, PROSPERA partners and stakeholders visited one of the Green climate axes, the green area of Gentbrugse Meersen and the grazing project by bicycle.

On the second day of the event, participants collected and highlighted the topics they considered important. They talked about the afterlife of PROSPERA project and how to communicate with stakeholders, politicians and residents about their projects. The discussions were moderated by ILVO. The workshop was followed by a boat trip to Afsnee. Participants visited Afsneekouter, an agricultural area, which is located in the peri-urban area of Ghent. They were able to learn about the food strategy of Ghent, the open call for Afsnee, the CSA (Community supported agriculture) Goedinge and cooperation with a local dairy farm.

After the field visit, the partners held a project management meeting, discussing the further tasks of Phase1, the process of Phase2 and the communication activities. The final video-scribing was also shown to the partners.



Local dissemination events and stakeholder meetings



Reggio Emilia, in-presence, 10/06/2022

The Municipality of Reggio Emilia, the lead partner of PROSPERA project, held a local final event related to Phase1 on Friday 10 June, with the aim of presenting Reggio Emilia's Local Action Plan and the proposal of Reggio Emilia's Food Policy Council, inspired by the City of Ghent. The event was attended by 22 participants, representing 16 organizations.



Debrecen, in-presence, 10/06/2022

On the 10th of June, EDC Debrecen organised its local dissemination event. The agenda included the presentation on the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of Debrecen 2021-2027 (SUDS), the PROSPERA learning method, the final Local Action Plan of Debrecen, the Storytelling video, and other communication materials.



Ghent, in-presence, 16/05/2022

On the 16th of May, the City of Ghent held its local final stakeholder meeting. The results of the project and the Local Action Plan of Ghent were presented to the audience. Besides stakeholders, City colleagues and politicians also participated at the event and already started discussing how to realise Ghent's local action plan. 21 professionals attended in total, of which 11 external stakeholders and 10 colleagues from different departments and political levels of the City of Ghent.

Intra-organisational meeting



Debrecen, in-presence, 15/07/2022

The main goal was to present the communication method of the project using the materials produced: the brochure, video-scribing, Storytelling video of Debrecen and the poster. During the meeting, participants also discussed the final Local Action Plan of Debrecen.

PROSPERA Final Toolkit - The challenge of interregional Learning

'Any learning process is a step-by-step process. Whether it is learning to play chess or exchanging experiences in an interregional setting, a step-by-step approach provides support and comfort. From a methodological point of view, designing a project on interregional learning is about organising the different steps and developing tools that trigger new insights and teach new skills.

This figure shows the project flow from the perspective of a regional partner (green line) and the different settings during the learning process. It is an example of a learning process designed around a multi-stakeholder process, an example of learning through interaction.

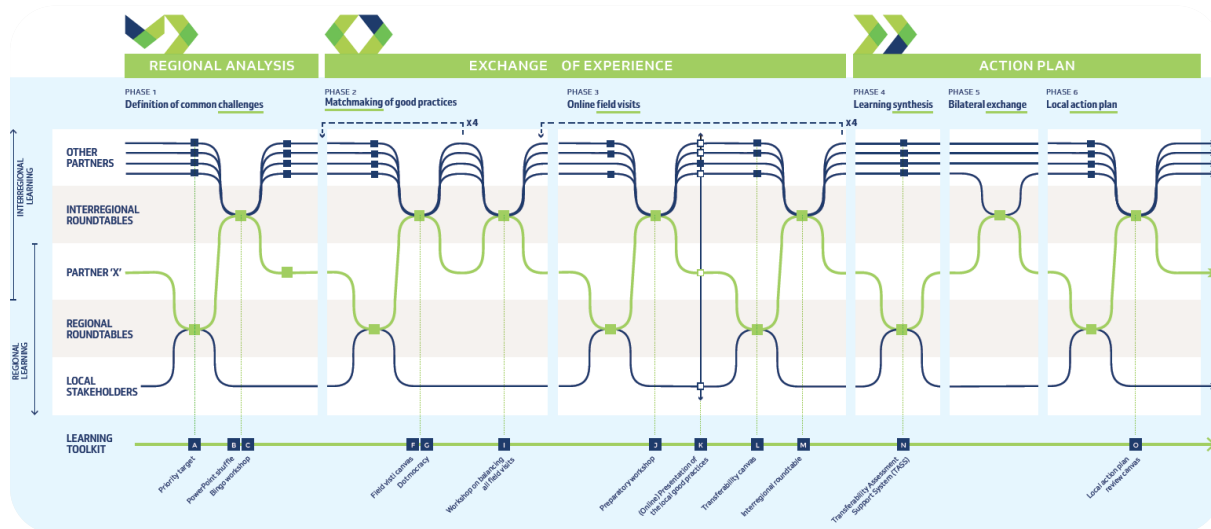


Figure source: Verhoeve, A. De Waegemaeker, J. Porcelluzzi, A and Tamburini, F. (2022) A toolkit to support regional and interregional learning, a report by ILVO, CRPA and E35 foundation for the Interreg Europe project PROSPERA.

On the one hand, each local partner met cities from other European regions – 5 regions, in the case of PROSPERA. These exchange moments are indicated in the figure as “Interregional Roundtables”. On the other hand, each local partner in PROSPERA interacted with a local stakeholder group, often a requirement in Interreg Europe projects. These moments of interaction with the local stakeholder are referred to as “Regional Roundtables”.

As in many European projects, the PROSPERA project consisted of three major stages: (1) ‘Regional Analysis’, (2) ‘Ex-change of experiences’ and (3) ‘Action plan’. These three stages reflect the idea that a learning process should start from an in-depth understanding of the regional context. This common understanding is needed to then collect meaningful new ideas during the different moments of exchange of experiences in the second stage of the project. And finally, to crystallise these new ideas in a local action plan to improve a local policy instrument. What might differ from other projects is that these three stages were further subdivided into different steps, each supported by specific tools.’¹

Are you interested in the Toolkit? It is available for reading and downloading in the Interreg [PROSPERA Library](#).

¹ Source: Verhoeve, A. De Waegemaeker, J. Porcelluzzi, A and Tamburini, F. (2022) A toolkit to support regional and interregional learning, a report by ILVO, CRPA and E35 foundation for the Interreg Europe project PROSPERA.

Local Action Plans of PROSPERA partners

Based on the interregional knowledge exchange, a Local Action Plan (LAP) was developed by each PROSPERA partner, supported by their stakeholders, in order to improve the local policy instrument for their peri-urban areas through the lessons learnt from the exchange of experience.

Here you can read the summary of the actions described in the LAPs.

REGGIO EMILIA

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Municipal Unique Planning Document (DUP)

Action name: **The Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council**

Description: The Municipality of Reggio Emilia is aimed at promoting the sustainable development of peri-urban areas by establishing a participatory governance body to promote the transition towards a sustainable agri-food system, on the basis of the "Food Policy Council" of Ghent. By actively involving all the relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes, the Food Policy Council of Reggio Emilia will innovate the local governance model on food transition by adopting a working approach that is participatory, cross-cutting and "data-driven", based on an objective interpretation of local dynamics. Reggio Emilia's local action plan will therefore improve the strategic policies and priorities included in the Municipality's Unique Planning Document.



GHENT

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent



Action name: **Concretisation of the vision on agriculture and public land for agriculture**

Description: Farmland is an important part of the open space in the peri-urban area of Ghent. This is recognised by policy instruments such as Space for Ghent and the local food policy *Gent en Garde*. However, the City has only few instruments to promote the sustainable development of these farmland areas. Therefore, the City plans to concretise its vision on agriculture and public land for agriculture. A participatory

approach will be applied to develop the vision. Moreover, the City of Ghent will collect data and prepare maps about agriculture and public land, which will be used to feed the envisioning process.

DEBRECEN

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of Debrecen 2021-2027

Action 1 name: **Monitoring of the measures related to peri-urban areas in SUDS**

Description: The PROSPERA project has inspired the inclusion of peri-urban areas as an objective in the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (SUDS) of Debrecen. The aim of the action is to follow up the implementation of the measures planned in the peri-urban areas.



Action 2 name: **Digital, high accuracy cadastre of green areas and trees**

Description: The aim of the action is to develop a highly accurate database providing information on the state of urban green spaces and trees. The data contained in the cadastre will ultimately support decision-making, thus contributing to the achievement of the objectives set out in the city's strategy.

ARISTOTELI CHALKIDIKIS

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Municipality of Aristotelis Development Plan



Action 1 name: **Enabling an upgraded policy framework for the promotion of natural heritage towards sustainable development and regional resilience**

Description: A Guidelines Manual for the improvement of Local Policy Instruments with the project's thematic and results: natural protection and natural heritage promotion.

Action 2 name: **Strengthening natural heritage protection and promotion, by introducing sustainability and resilience concepts into the Tourism and Agricultural Sectors**

Description: Network of local tourism and agricultural sector actors for natural heritage protection and economic growth in the Aristotelis area.

VARBERG

Name of the policy instrument addressed: *Municipal Overview Plan for Varberg*

Action name: **Improvement of the planning process for a new Green Axis**

Description: In "Improvement of the planning process for a new Green Axis" in Varberg, the Municipality wants to enable stakeholders and future users of these green axes, generally outside the formal policy process, to be part of the development and planning process.



The PROSPERA partners' Local Action Plans are available [in the Library](#) of the project's website.

Forthcoming activities in Phase2



Implementation of the LAPs
2022-2023



Final stakeholder meetings



Final event in Varberg
2023

In Phase2 (01.08.2022-31.07.2023), project partners will focus on the implementation of their action plans. During the process, they will stay in contact with the local stakeholder group. In 2023 a final event of the project will be held in Varberg, Sweden.

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