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PARTNERS



MUNICIPALITY OF REGGIO EMILIA (IT) – LEAD PARTNER

Reggio Emilia is a medium-size city in the Emilia-Romagna Region. The city aims to improve the potential of peri-urban areas to meet citizens' demands for a healthier and more sustainable environment, restoring the natural landscape and promote innovative rural activities.



RESEARCH CENTRE ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION (CRPA) (IT)

CRPA provide both private and public sector with its expertise in the fields of agricultural food production and environment.



CITY OF GHENT (BE)

25–30% of the territory of Ghent is considered as open space of strategic importance for the liveability of the city as it comprises nature reserves and 'green poles', very attractive to citizens and visitors for recreation.



FLANDERS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD (ILVO) (BE)

ILVO performs multidisciplinary, innovative and independent research aimed at economically, ecologically and socially sustainable agriculture, including rural development. The research is applied for the amelioration of policy instruments for rural areas.



EDC DEBRECEN (HU)

Debrecen, the 2nd largest city of Hungary, is a regional centre with an intensive economic growth. EDC Debrecen plays an important role in economic development and urban planning. Small residential areas, protected natural and cultural values, arable lands, agricultural fields and industrial areas are located in the peri-urban areas.



MUNICIPALITY ARISTOTELI CHALKIDIKIS (GR)

The region of Chalkidiki is characterized as peri-urban area including mix of rural and peri-urban in order to answer the needs of tourists, as one of the most known summer touristic regions in Greece.



MUNICIPALITY OF VARBERG (SE)

Holland region is facing increasing urbanization trends in its cities, as it is the case for Varberg. Varberg has started working strategically with city planning to make sure that the peri-urban areas can nourish and evolve, by defining the so-called local development strategies.



INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The PROSPERA (**PRO**moting **S**ustainable development and regional attractiveness through **PERI**-urban **A**reas) project's overall objective is to improve regional policies on protection and promotion of natural heritage in peri-urban areas threatened by urban sprawl. The ultimate aim is to prevent biodiversity loss, soil consumption and further degradation of natural assets, by in parallel leveraging on those challenges as a way to favour regional attractiveness and economic sustainable development.

To obtain these goals, PROSPERA set up a process of interregional learning that includes **study visits** and **knowledge exchange sessions**. The focus was on getting a better understanding of the partners' local situation, finding common challenges and getting inspired through the best practices they showcased. A **PROSPERA synthesis report** was published by ILVO about the common challenges revealed through a 'Bingo' workshop. Different visuals and tools were developed to support the learning process and to activate partners in the development of their local action plan.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis dramatically altered the initial plans of the field visits, which had to be set up in an online setting (full or hybrid). A **Guideline for online field visits** was developed by ILVO as a methodology for the process. During study visits, partner cities consulted on the transferability of each good practices with their stakeholders.

Project partners reflected upon their learning experiences and potentially transferable good practices in their **PROSPERA Learning Reports**, which were summarized in the **Knowledge exchange synthesis report** by CRPA and ILVO.

Based on the interregional knowledge exchange, a **Local Action Plan** 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.

LOCAL ACTION PLANS

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

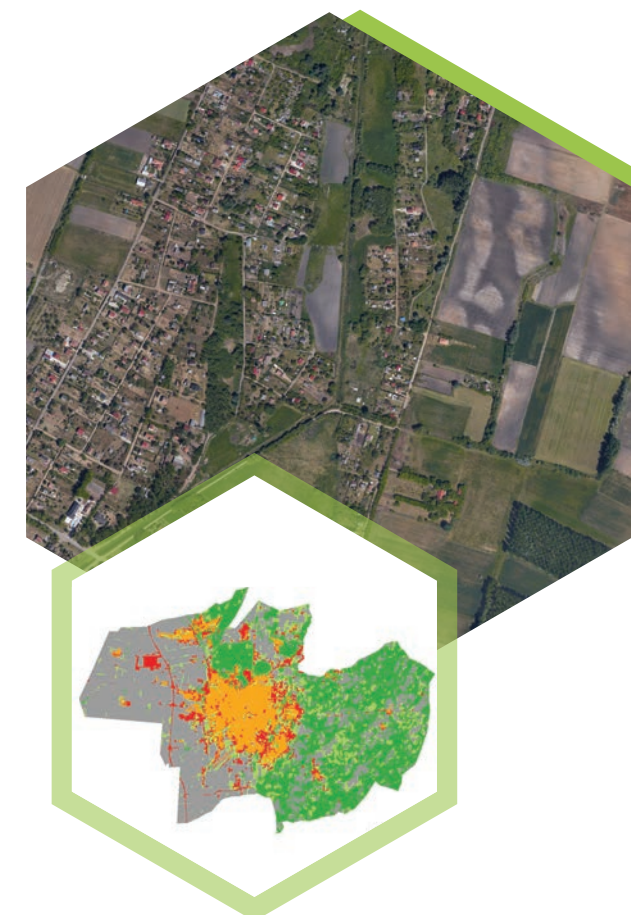
Name of the policy instrument addressed: Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of Debrecen 2021-2027

Action I. 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 II. 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 I. 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 II. 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.

