



Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

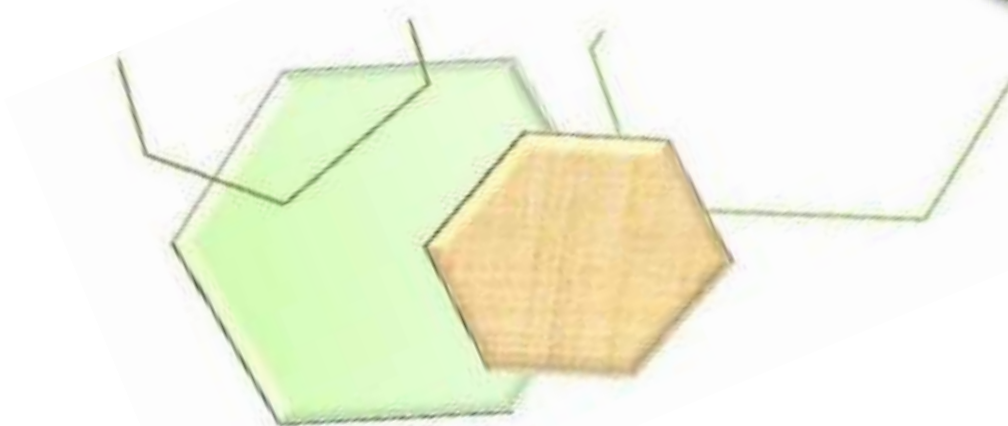
EAGER - Easing Agrophotovoltaics for Europe

Newsletter № 12

July 2026

Contents:

1. *News from Poland*
2. *News from Spain*
3. *Online Co-Coaching Sessions*
4. *Good practices*
5. *EAGER Partnerships and Communication Channels*



EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

What is EAGER

[The EAGER project](#) is a European project funded by the INTERREG Europe Programme that facilitates the adoption of agro-photovoltaic systems across partner regions. By fostering a shared understanding of this technology, identifying best practices, and enhancing policy instruments, this project is paving the way for a greener future.

The expansion of renewable energies aims at meeting the energy demand of the EU while replacing fossil fuels, but it requires large areas of land. At the same time, food security is threatened by the impacts of climate change and a growing world population. **Agrophotovoltaics (APV) can mitigate the conflicting interests between agriculture and open space photovoltaic systems** for viable land, as it allows to produce energy and food at the same time in the same place through a combination of farming and solar generation with a total **land use efficiency of up to 186%**. This is why the EAGER project aims at improving policies **to ease APV in Europe**. It will enable the definition and set-up of favourable policy framework conditions for implementing APV as a praxis-oriented concept for achieving Greener Europe.

In the following pages, you will find interesting materials describing the overall context and objectives of the project as well as information on the latest developments and current events.

We shall keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes through the project website, thematic events, and newsletters.

Project at a glance

By generating a common understanding of APV concept and contexts, identifying, analysing, and transferring good practices, changing behaviour among policy actors of the participating regions towards supporting and expanding APV in their regions, **9 policy instruments** will be improved by 2027. The 14 partners and 3 associated policy responsible authorities are committed to high-quality and efficient exchange of experience and policy improvement, acknowledging that the topic of APV is multi-layered and complex. It considers the policy fields of energy, agriculture, spatial development, and land use, with impacts on economic development, and has the potential to contribute to sustainability and energy security. Its novelty in the regions encourages out of the box thinking and an innovative interpretation of good practices in the broadest sense.

A few numbers



2,440,007 €
budget



01 Apr 2024-
30 Jun 2028



14 partners

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



NEWS FROM POLAND

EAGER and BiodivErSe - Together for Agri-PV in Poland

Mazovia, as a partner of the BiodivErSe project, in March, initiated cooperation with Rzeszów Regional Development Agency, a partner of the EAGER project. At the beginning, they sent reports about Agri-PV prepared by their stakeholders to their colleagues from Rzeszów. After they made the first step, they decided to get to know each other better. The occasion for this was stakeholders' meetings.



Date: 18th May 2026

Location: Rzeszow, Poland

On 19 March 2026, Mazovia was a special guest at EAGER's stakeholders' meeting in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The project was presented, and a discussion about Agri-PV was held, which included examples from a study visit in Saarland and internal trainings as part of the BiodivErSe project.

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

The EAGER project was promoted by Rzeszów Regional Development Agency in the first part of the BiodivErSe stakeholders meeting on 29 April 2026 – together with Polish Agri-PV Association's presentation about Agri-PV. The information presented was an interesting theme for discussion for BiodivErSe stakeholders from universities and the regional self-government.



However, the cooperation is not only in the field of promotion. During a webinar for Masovian local governments on 18 May 2026, one of the guests was the "Energy Conversion and Renewable Resources" Research Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences (KEZO). KEZO's representatives informed the participants that they were interested in creating innovative PV installations, especially Agri-PV, and were

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



looking for ideas that they could change into reality.

Once they learned about the needs of EAGER stakeholders after the meeting in March, they started building a bridge between the supply (KEZO's researchers) and the demand (EAGER stakeholder - Agricultural Advisory Centre of Podkarpackie Region, AAC, which wants to build an experimental mobile Agri-PV installation). KEZO and AAC have begun fruitful talks about their common project. Mazovia also gave them some suggestions about possible financing from national sources.

Rzeszów Regional Development Agency also suggested that Polish partners of both projects might become a core of a lobbying group that would talk with the Ministry of Agriculture to make Agri-PV investments in Poland possible for farmers.

NEWS FROM SPAIN

Fifth Stakeholders meeting in Palencia, Spain

On 26 May 2026, the fifth Spanish Stakeholders Meeting of the EAGER project took place at the School of Agricultural Engineering of the University of Valladolid (Palencia Campus), Spain. The event was jointly organised by researchers from the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Valladolid, representatives of ITAGRA.CT, and members of the Provincial Council of Palencia, all of whom are partners/stakeholders in the EAGER project,



co-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme 2021–2027.



Date: 26th May 2026

Location: Palencia, Spain

The meeting also served as a focus group activity and brought together 17 participants in person. During the session, the latest project developments were presented, including examples of agrivoltaic (APV) installations observed during the most recent EAGER Study Visit to Ruhstorf, Germany. The aim was to encourage stakeholder engagement and facilitate knowledge exchange on agrivoltaics. In addition, several agrivoltaic initiatives from the Castilla y León region were presented by the stakeholders involved in each project. These included Oviña, a company providing shepherding services in photovoltaic plants

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



(Palencia, Spain); a pilot APV installation over sugar beet cultivation developed by AIMCRA (Valladolid, Spain); and a pilot vineyard APV project implemented by Powerfultree (Burgos, Spain). Participants were also introduced to an energy community initiative promoted by the mayor of La Serna, a small rural municipality in the province of Palencia.



These presentations provided attendees with an overview of the current agrivoltaics landscape in the region and served as a basis for exploring their perceptions through a series of focus group activities. The primary objective of this exercise was to gather the views of professionals directly involved in agrivoltaic projects and to qualitatively assess their perceptions of the barriers to the deployment of this technology. These barriers had previously been identified

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

through in-depth interviews and surveys conducted with subject-matter experts.

The barriers identified through interviews with stakeholders involved in the development of agrivoltaic projects were grouped into three categories: structural, operational, and perceptual barriers. Subsequently, a panel of agrivoltaic experts prioritised these barriers using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) methodology. The results indicated that structural barriers were perceived as the most significant (46%), followed by operational barriers (32%) and perceptual barriers (22%). Among the most critical barriers identified were the lack of an adapted regulatory framework, the technical complexity of projects, and the limited availability of knowledge and reference experiences within the territory.

Building on these findings, the focus group was structured around four complementary activities:

Activity 1. Causal relationships among barriers. Participants identified and assessed the cause-and-effect relationships between the main barriers through a combination of individual and collective evaluations.

Activity 2. Bottlenecks and feedback loops. Based on the identified causal relationships, participants analyzed the key mechanisms hindering the development of agrivoltaic projects and the feedback dynamics that reinforce these constraints.

Activity 3. Intervention scenarios. Participants discussed potential pathways for fostering agrivoltaic development and identified four

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



priority areas for action: political-institutional, economic, socio-cultural, and agricultural.

Activity 4. Evaluation of policy measures. Participants assessed three potential initiatives promoted by the Provincial Council of Palencia: the implementation of a pilot demonstration project, the creation of a specialized technical advisory service, and the development of agrivoltaic training and capacity-building programmes. For each initiative, they discussed its potential benefits, limitations, and feasibility within the local context.



The information generated through this participatory process will serve as the basis for the development of a Fuzzy Cognitive Map (FCM), enabling a systematic representation of the factors and interactions shaping agrivoltaic development in the province of Palencia. The

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

model will also support the simulation of different intervention scenarios and policy measures, helping to assess their potential impacts on the future deployment of agrivoltaics in the region.

ONLINE CO-COACHING SESSIONS

EAGER Partners Exchange Good Practices on Energy Policies



Date: 2nd June 2026

Location: Online

On 2 June 2026, partners from Spain and Poland, together with lead partner from Germany held an online co-coaching exchange as part of their interregional cooperation activities. The session focused on sharing experiences and exploring policy improvements related to new projects financed under their respective regional policy instruments.

The discussion brought together representatives working on two complementary initiatives: Poland's European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021–2027 and Spain's Palencia Rural Agenda. Both regions are seeking to strengthen sustainable rural

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



development and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy solutions.

During the meeting, the Polish partner presented its policy improvement centred on a new regional call for proposals supporting the creation and development of Energy Clusters and Energy Cooperatives within local communities. The initiative aims to encourage greater community participation in the energy transition while fostering local renewable energy production.

The Spanish partner introduced a regional study conducted by the Spanish stakeholder groups from EAGER, inspired by the EAGER project, which examines the potential for Agri-Photovoltaics in the province of Palencia. Through extensive stakeholder engagement, including identifying key regional actors, conducting interviews, and analysing questionnaires, the study is now reaching the final stage to finalized both the opportunities and barriers for Agri-PV deployment in the region. The findings are intended to support the Provincial Government of Palencia in developing a more evidence-based and effective Rural Agenda for the future Agri-PV development.

The exchange highlighted valuable lessons for both regions. For the Polish partner, the Spanish experience demonstrated the benefits of integrating evidence-based research and stakeholder participation into regional policy development. While this approach is considered highly relevant, its implementation would require adaptation to existing governance structures, as well as sufficient data



and resources to support participatory processes.

Co-Coaching Highlights Innovation in Agri-PV Governance

Partners from Germany, Belgium, and Bulgaria recently met online for an interregional co-coaching exchange to share progress on their regional policy developments and explore practical approaches for supporting the regional management of Agri-PV. The session provided an opportunity to compare regulatory frameworks, planning tools, and policy recommendations, while identifying transferable practices that can strengthen regional decision-making.



Date: 25th June 2026

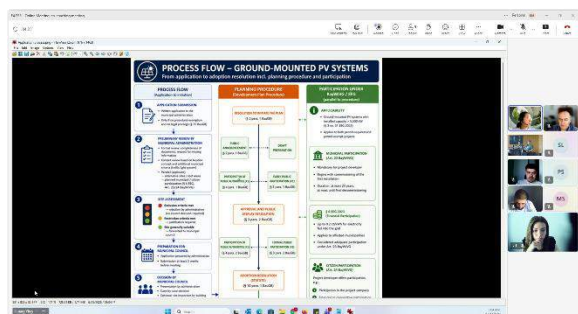
Location: Online

During the meeting, the German partner presented the draft site selection concept for its municipality in Ruhstorf, highlighting key elements of the DIN SPEC 91434 framework for Agri-PV. The presentation covered technical and agricultural requirements, including the distinction between elevated and ground-mounted Agri-PV systems, minimum crop yield thresholds, limits on agricultural land-use impacts, and the requirement for regular expert verification of agricultural performance.

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



Germany also shared its open-space photovoltaic site selection process and suitability mapping approach, demonstrating how municipalities can identify appropriate locations for renewable energy development while considering nature protection and agricultural production.



The Belgian partner introduced its Agri-PV decision tree and position paper, which are partly based on the regulatory framework of the Flemish Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Environment. The presentation outlined key principles, including maintaining agriculture as the primary land use, encouraging on-farm self-consumption of generated electricity, prioritizing installations near farms, and ensuring that Agri-PV systems provide added value without significantly reducing agricultural productivity. As a highly urbanized area, partners from the Flemish government also showcased the idea of regional solar deployment strategy, which prioritizes rooftop, parking, and industrial-area solar installations before considering agricultural land, together with the policy recommendations developed through the EAGER project.

Bulgaria shared the progress made in developing Agri-PV policy within the Integrated Development Plan for the Municipality of

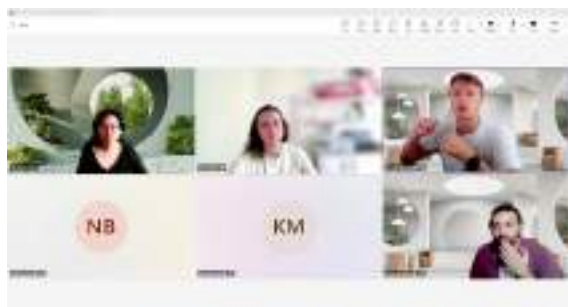
Strelcha, drawing inspiration from Germany's site selection methodology and Belgium's decision-tree approach. The presentation also highlighted recent amendments to the Agricultural Land Protection Act in Bulgaria, which now allow photovoltaic installations, including Agri-PV systems, on certain categories (mainly toward category 7-10 agricultural land) of non-irrigated agricultural land.

The exchange generated valuable reflections for all participating regions. Germany identified opportunities to integrate a hierarchical solar energy strategy into municipal planning, prioritizing rooftop, industrial, and Agri-PV installations according to land suitability. The Belgian partner was particularly interested about the criteria defined in Germany's DIN SPEC framework and will further examine how measurable criteria, such as crop yield thresholds, expert verification procedures, and system categorization, could strengthen its own decision tree and policy assessment methodology. At the same time, these concepts will need to be carefully adapted to the Flemish governance framework, existing regulations, and regional priorities, particularly regarding agricultural integration, self-consumption requirements, and crop-specific conditions.

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



EAGER Partners Exchange Agri-PV Policy Approaches



Date: 2nd July 2026

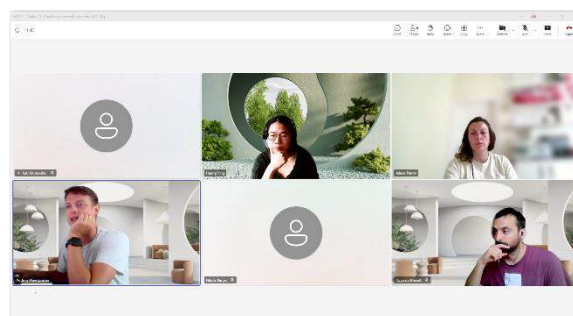
Location: Online

Partners from Italy, Lithuania, and Serbia met as part of the EAGER co-coaching activities to exchange experiences on advancing Agri-PV through regional policy development on 2nd July 2026. The meeting focused on identifying practical solutions to regulatory, financial, and institutional challenges while strengthening policy instruments that support the sustainable deployment of Agri-PV. The discussion brought together representatives working under three different policy frameworks: Italy's Strategic Plan of the Nuovo Circondario Imolese (NCI), Lithuania's Agriculture and Rural Development Strategic Plan 2023–2027, and Serbia's Local Community Development Plan of Bačka Palanka 2022–2030.

Italy presented its ongoing work to improve the regional framework for Agri-PV by focusing on three strategic priorities: securing investment for Agri-PV projects, improving knowledge of Agri-PV impacts on environmental, agricultural, and socio-economic aspects, and promoting eco-design principles to enhance sustainability and public acceptance. In collaboration with the

Energy & Sustainable Development Agency of Emilia-Romagna (AESS), the Italian partner is exploring strategies to reduce the high upfront costs of Agri-PV by engaging public institutions and private investors.

Lithuania shared progress in implementing policy actions under its Agriculture and Rural Development Strategic Plan. Eleven policy measures have been proposed to support Agri-PV deployment, covering financial incentives, regulatory improvements, research and innovation, data collection, and farmer capacity building. Several important measures have already been introduced, including financial support for Agri-PV investments through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), dedicated funding rates, additional evaluation points for Agri-PV projects, and direct payments for grassland-based Agri-PV systems. Future actions include developing a national legal definition of Agri-PV, expanding farmer training programmes, and improving regulations governing surplus electricity generation.



The Serbian partner provided an overview of the current regional context, where renewable energy is not yet explicitly integrated into the Regional Development Plan. Existing energy measures primarily focus on improving the energy efficiency of public buildings, while

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



limited municipal resources restrict investments in new Agri-PV initiatives. As a result, current efforts are centred on raising awareness of Agri-PV and encouraging farmers to participate in knowledge exchange activities organised through the EAGER project.

The exchange highlighted how regions are progressing at different stages of Agri-PV policy development, while facing common challenges such as financing, regulatory clarity, stakeholder engagement, and institutional capacity. The meeting also reinforced the importance of combining regulatory innovation with practical implementation measures. Italy's evolving legal framework, Lithuania's comprehensive package of financial and policy incentives, and Serbia's focus on stakeholder engagement each offer complementary experiences that can inform policy improvements across the EAGER partnership.

GOOD PRACTICES

Lecture about agriphotovoltaics at the famous public event in Srbobran

In Serbia is insufficient knowledge about the use and benefits of agriphotovoltaics. The small towns with the best land don't have knowledge about use and benefits of agriphotovoltaics-APVs. Srbobran has the best quality of land in Serbia and the farmers could benefit from the installation of PAVs on their land but they don't know even that they exist.

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

That was the reason for promoting APVs at a famous event: "Sausages of Srbobran" that gathers people of influence, many of them are decision-makers. At this event we gave a short lecture about the new technology of agriphotovoltaics and best practice of it in EU countries.



The experts from EAGER project and other stakeholders presented their knowledge about APVs to the audience: farmers, hunters and decision-makers from the local community and others from the region. The goals were education, training, and raising awareness about the importance of regulation for APVs and call for action in this sector.

This is a very good practice for other region why we promote the benefits of APVs at an open public event to many people, especially to decision-makers who should make the change. This was a good place for promotion and result is demand for the conference which was a very good results and signs that the APVs will be accepted as a something new and useful.

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agriphotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



Compensation for the purchase of alternative energy sources in Zakarpattia

The program is aimed at supporting local businesses by partially compensating the costs of purchasing alternative energy sources, such as generators, batteries, solar panels and other means of autonomous energy supply. The program provides for compensation of up to 30% of the cost of the purchased equipment at the expense of the regional budget of the Transcarpathian region and the budget of the local community where the entrepreneur operates in a 60/40 ratio.



The main stakeholders are the regional authorities, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and the Zakarpattia Regional Council, which coordinate and implement the program, as well as local entrepreneurs who are the direct beneficiaries.

Thanks to Energy Help, local businesses are able to ensure continuous operation in the face of unstable energy supply, which contributes to job security, economic stability and energy independence. The program also encourages

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

entrepreneurs to introduce modern alternative energy technologies, which is in line with the strategy of green transition and sustainable development of the region.

The Energy Help program in Zakarpattia region has been successful, as 211 enterprises in Zakarpattia region received partial compensation for the purchase of alternative energy sources totalling UAH 26.3 million between July 2024 and July 2024.

This contributes to energy independence, business stability in the region and regional development in general.

Regional authorities in other regions can use the example of the Energy Help program to develop and implement similar initiatives that will promote energy independence for businesses and regions, the introduction of alternative energy sources, and the socio-economic development of regions in general. Implementation of similar programs in other regions can increase the resilience of local economies to energy crises and promote sustainable development.

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

EAGER Partnerships and Communication Channels

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, regional development agencies, agriculture representatives, NGOs and energy agencies. Together we represent varied views across a range of stakeholders and interests providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and policy design. The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering nine nations within the Interreg Europe Program area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries.

University of Applied Sciences Landshut (TZE) - Lead partner , Germany		https://www.haw-landshut.de
Public Institution Lithuanian Innovation Centre (LIC), Lithuania		https://www.lic.lt
Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (RARR), Poland		https://rarr.rzeszow.pl
Agricultural and Agrifood Technological Center (ITAGRA), Spain		https://www.itagra.com
Palencia Provincial Council (PALENCIA), Spain		https://www.diputaciondepalencia.es
National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (NPA), Lithuania		https://nma.lrv.lt

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

Nuovo Circondario Imolese
(NCI), Italy



<https://www.nuovocircondarioimolese.it>

Regional Energy Agency of
Pazardjik (REAP), Bulgaria



<https://reap-bg.eu>

Municipality of Strelcha
(STRELCHA), Bulgaria



<https://strelcha.bg>

Catholic University of Leuven
(KU Leuven), Belgium



<https://www.kuleuven.be>

Municipality of Ruhstorf an der
Rott (RUHSTORF), Germany



<https://www.ruhstorf.de>

Provincial Development
Agency (POM) Flemish
Brabant, Belgium



<https://pomvlaamsbrabant.be>

Municipality of Bačka Palanka
(MBP), Serbia



<https://backapalanka.rs>

Institution "Zakarpattia
Regional Development
Agency" (ZRDA), Ukraine



<https://zakarpattia.agency>

EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

EAGER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF EAGER AND KNOW MORE?

Subscribe to our newsletter through the website: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/eager>

EDITORIAL

For every info or update about the newsletter please contact:

Mr. Georgi Simeonov | simeonov@reap-bg.eu

FOLLOW US ON:



EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.