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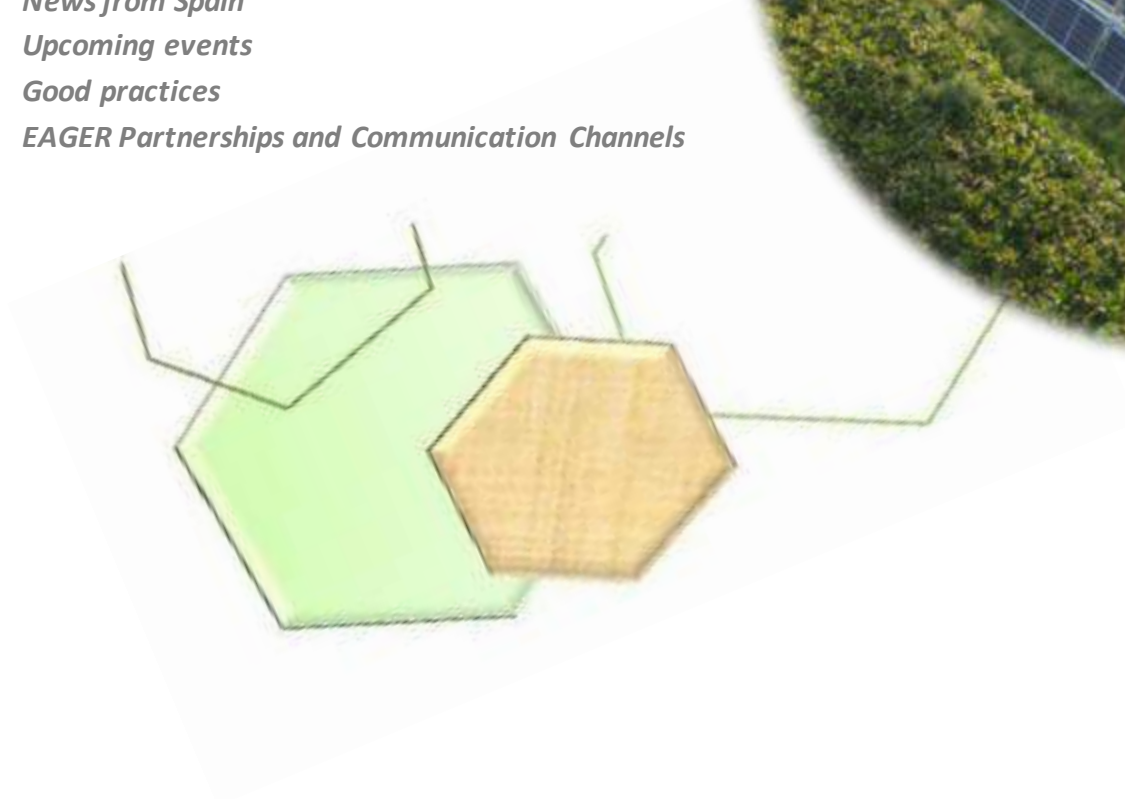
EAGER - Easing Agrophotovoltaics for Europe

Newsletter № 5

May 2025

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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 on 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

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NEWS FROM ITALY

Third Stakeholder meeting of the EAGER Project in Imola, Italy

Following the institutional greetings from Pierangelo Raffini, Councillor for Productive Activities of the Municipality of Imola, the session opened with the presentation of the EAGER project by Marino Cavallo and Mirco Bordin.

Then took the floor the Vice-President of the Italian Sustainable Agrophotovoltaics Association (AIAS), speaking about the national context of agrophotovoltaics, while also providing a technical explanation of agrophotovoltaic systems. Then, Katia Ferrari from Clust-ER Greentech illustrated the opportunities and regional guidelines for the implementation of agrivoltaic systems in Emilia-Romagna.



Date: 23rd April 2025

Location: Imola, Italy

A significant part of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of case studies:

- MiraSole, presented by Emanuele Morigi
- Igreen System, illustrated by Roberto Innocenti
- The experience of the Bryo Energy Community, shared by Davide Gavanelli

The meeting was concluded with an open discussion involving representatives of agricultural and business associations, as well as contributions and questions from the participants.

With approximately 30 participants, the event confirmed the growing interest in solutions that combine renewable energy production and agriculture, promoting innovation and sustainability across the territory.

The EAGER project will continue in the coming months with further initiatives aimed at deepening the discussion and involving local agricultural enterprises.

This stakeholder meeting marked an important step toward creating a collaborative roadmap for the successful implementation of Agrophotovoltaics in the region.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

Fourth EAGER Stakeholder Meeting in Germany

The fourth EAGER stakeholder group meeting took place online on 15 May 2025.

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TZE and the Municipality of Ruhstorf held a meeting with the representatives of Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy, and the Lower Bavaria Advisory Office. The Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development, and Energy oversees regional economic growth and cross-border cooperation, playing a key role in shaping Bavaria's involvement in Interreg Program. The Lower Bavaria Advisory Office supports regional project applicants and partners by providing guidance and coordination to strengthen regional development. Maintaining regular contact with them is essential for EAGER gaining timely feedbacks and advice.



Date: 15th May 2025

Location: Ruhstorf an der Rott, Germany

During the meeting, we, TZE, provided an update on the overall progress of the EAGER project, with a focus on communication activities carried out during the first two semesters. These included the German stakeholder group meetings and two study visits in Lithuania and Spain.

We shared insights from the most recent study visit to Palencia, Spain, where participants had the opportunity to learn about two innovative Agri-PV project sites. In addition, we presented

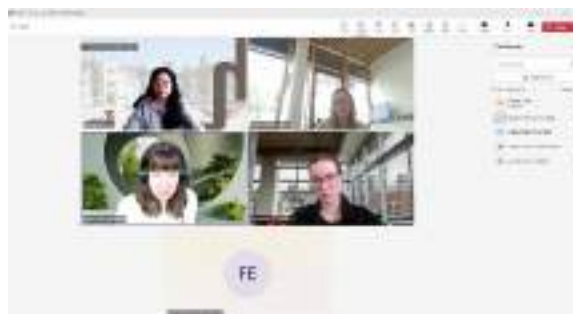
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the latest developments in our collection of good practices and highlighted several new entries recently uploaded to the Interreg Policy Learning Platform, such as the Agri-PV simulation tool developed by our partner KU Leuven, and examples of Agri-PV subsidies shared by our Lithuanian partner.



The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences regarding coordination with project partners and stakeholders. We shared insights and potential improvements for interregional collaboration with the representative from the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development, and Energy. The representative also extended an invitation to the upcoming online briefing on the peer review format of the Interreg Program for the future project development.

NEWS FROM SPAIN

EAGER Workshop with students in Spain

On May 20, 2025, the Spanish team of the EAGER project -composed by technical staff of the Palencia Provincial Council and Itagra

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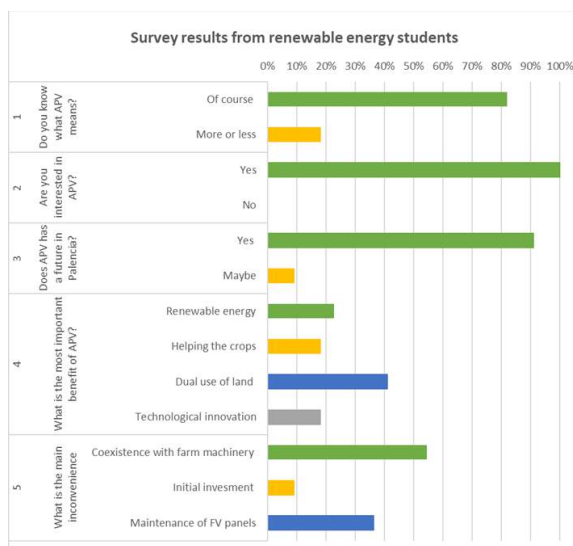
Technological Center- visited the school: IES Alonso Berruguete in Palencia city, to give an inspiring talk on AGRIVOLTAICS to students in the Vocational Training Program for Renewable Energies.



Date: 20th May 2025
Location: Palencia, Spain

Where the definition of this new technological concept was introduced, highlighting that APV promotes renewable energy production without sacrificing land used for agriculture.

The Spanish partners also presented the goals and progress of the EAGER project, along with various innovative examples of how this technology is being applied in the region. These sparked great interest among the students, as reflected in the responses to the survey we conducted at the end of the talk. The main results are summarized in this chart:



The fifteen students also expressed a strong interest in being involved in the EAGER project, including participating in more talks and activities related to it.

UPCONING ACTIVITIES

A Study Visit to Italy within the frame of the EAGER Project

In the period of 11th and 12th June 2025, a Study Visit within the frame of the [EAGER project](#) will be held in Imola, Italy. EAGER partners and stakeholders from the participating regions will become familiar with the state of the agrophotovoltaics at the national and regional levels. The regulatory framework, current status, and specific actions will be presented.

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GOOD PRACTICES

Agrivoltaics research-demonstration project

To the researchers of the KU Leuven, the concept of agrivoltaics was known from abroad, but the technology was still completely unheard of in Flanders. Furthermore, there was the question of whether this technology could also be successfully implemented in Flanders. To answer these questions, the Flemish government funded the “Tetra Agrivoltaics” project in which several small-scale demo agrivoltaics setups were built at different locations.

The purpose of building these small-scale test setups was to investigate the following research questions:

- Which agrivoltaics systems perform the best in Flanders (elevated, interspaced, tracking, ...).
- Which techniques are most effective for constructing these agrivoltaics setups, and are any Flemish companies already involved in this field?
- Which agrivoltaics systems are accepted by the local communities?
- How do different types of crops react to the reduced amount of light in the climate of Flanders/Belgium?

To promote the concept of agrivoltaics and share the research project’s results with stakeholders, demonstration days were organised at the various test sites. The demo

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days were primarily targeted at farmers and companies who install solar panels, but they also welcomed and attracted participation from investment companies, policymakers, energy companies, and local citizens.



Agri-PV system above apple trees in Deutenkofen

The new Agri-PV system in Lehr- und Beispielsbetrieb für Obstbau in Deutenkofen, in Lower Bavaria, addresses not only the challenges posed by climate change in fruit cultivation, particularly increasing UV radiation and extreme weather conditions, but also offers a renewable energy solution for self-operation.



Funded by the Lower Bavarian District, the APV system operates within an educational and demonstration farm for fruit cultivation in Lower Bavaria. The aim is to generate clean, renewable energy while simultaneously protecting apple

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and pear trees from harsh climatic factors, such as strong sunlight and hail. In 2024, the facility began operation and is equipped with 396 semi-transparent solar modules, each 3.9 meters high, with a possible total output of 956 kWp/ha. Two variants of the solar modules, with light transmissions of 50% and 40%, are being tested to determine the optimal conditions for the trees' growth. The system extends over a length of 80 meters and a width of around 6 meters.

The main beneficiaries are the District of Lower Bavaria, which oversees and funds the project, and local farmers who are direct beneficiaries of increased fruit yield and protection.

AGRIVOLT-ER

The AGRIVOLT-ER project address the growing need to balance agricultural productivity with renewable energy generation by focusing on the initial, critical phase of agrivoltaic system development: defining Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These indicators allow for a precise evaluation of how agrivoltaic systems interact with crops and their surrounding environment, ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.

The project was funded under the PR FESR Emilia-Romagna 2021–2027, focusing on collaborative research between academic institutions and industry. Stakeholders, including farmers, energy companies, and policymakers, participated in structured workshops and consultations facilitated by local authorities. The primary outcome was a validated set of KPIs addressing four key dimensions:



1. Agronomic: Metrics such as Relative Agricultural Yield (RAR), measuring crop productivity under agrivoltaic conditions compared to full sunlight;
2. Environmental: Indicators like the Land Equivalent Ratio (LER), assessing the combined productivity of land for energy and agriculture;
3. Energy: Metrics like Energy Yield (YE) and specific energy efficiency (Yoe), evaluating photovoltaic performance;
4. Economic: The Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE), quantifying the financial viability of systems.

These KPIs were developed through a participatory process, ensuring that they reflect local needs while aligning with broader goals of the Just Energy Transition.

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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

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Nuovo Circondario Imolese
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<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>

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EDITORIAL

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