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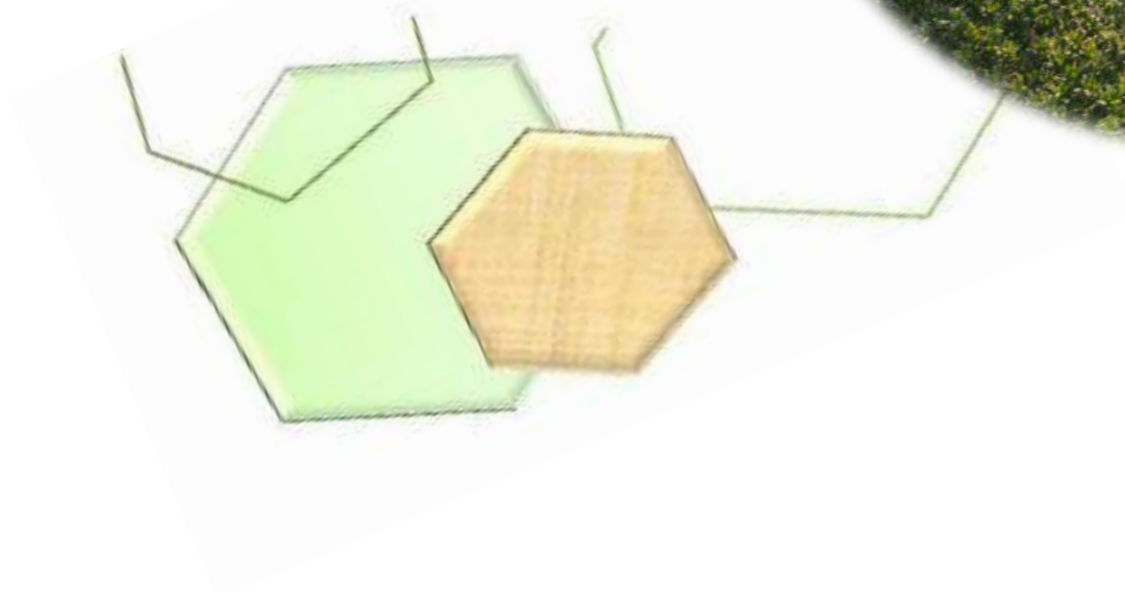
EAGER - Easing Agrophotovoltaics for Europe

Newsletter № 7

September 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 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

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NEWS FROM SPAIN

Third Stakeholders Meeting in Spain of the EAGER project

On July 9, 2025, the third Spanish Stakeholders Meeting of the EAGER project took place at the Palace of the Provincial Council of Palencia, Spain. The event was organized by ITAGRA CT and the Palencia Provincial Council, both partners in the EAGER project, co-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme 2021-2027.



Date: 09th July 2025

Location: Palencia, Spain

The meeting brought together 10 participants, four on-site and six online. Many of the organizations that have supported us since the start of the project were present, representing sectors such as agriculture (APAPAM), energy (Enerdisa and Cylsolar), agrivoltaics (Powerfultree), public administration (Provincial Council of Palencia), and education and research (Vocational Training Center Alonso Berruguete and the University of Valladolid).

During the session, we shared the latest progress of the project, including new good practices identified in our region and others observed during the EAGER Study Visit to Imola, Italy, last June. The Spanish team also presented the lessons learned at the workshop, especially about Italian legislation on agrivoltaics and how it compares with the Spanish framework, reflecting on how some of these ideas could be adapted to our own context.



We also had the chance to listen to Almudena Gómez, professor at the University of Valladolid, who introduced us to Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCM). This methodology helps to create models on specific topics, especially in the social field, and supports knowledge-based decision-making. Thanks to this tool, we will be able to study social perceptions of agrivoltaics in Palencia in the coming months and gather useful insights to improve our policy instrument —the ARP (Palencia Rural Agenda).

In closing, the stakeholders contributed questions, opinions, and ideas that will steer the project's next steps in the months ahead.

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NEWS FROM BULGARIA

Third EAGER stakeholders' meeting in Bulgaria

On the 7th of August 2025, the Third stakeholders meeting within the frame of the [project EAGER: “Easing AGrophotovoltaics for EuRope”](#) took place in Strelcha, Bulgaria. The event was organized by the [Regional Energy Agency of Pazardzhik \(REAP\)](#) and the Municipality of Strelcha, partners in the EAGER project, co-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme 2021-2027. The event was attended by various stakeholders representing public administrations, NGOs, energy agencies, agri-producers, and SMEs.



Date: 07th August 2025

Location: Strelcha, Bulgaria

The project's main objectives and the upcoming activities were presented, and what the agro-photovoltaic (APV) system means was clarified. REAP experts explained that the main goal of the [EAGER project](#) is to facilitate 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 will pave the way for a greener future.



Then, some examples of good practices coming from different partner regions were presented. The installation of solar panels on agricultural land has a dual function: on the one hand, to produce energy, and on the other, to provide shade for some specific types of plants, protecting them from excessive sunlight and high temperatures. In addition to agricultural production, dual use of land can also include livestock farming. One such example is solar grazing. This is a method of controlling vegetation under photovoltaic panels with the help of grazing livestock. Farmers strategically move animals around the solar park to prevent vegetation from growing too high and shading the solar panels.

These integrated approaches lead to high energy efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, and savings in energy consumption costs.

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The meeting concluded with a discussion on topics related to existing financial schemes and opportunities to fund environmental projects in the area of local agriculture in Strelcha Municipality. Some concrete examples of existing funding programmes have been given by Mr. Katsarov, Deputy Mayor of Strelcha, as well as by Ms. Muhovska, [REAP](#), on innovative schemes like crowdfunding and energy communities which are gradually becoming popular in Bulgaria and East Europe.

NEWS FROM SERBIA

Third EAGER Stakeholder Group Meeting in Serbia



Date: 16th September 2025

Location: Backa Palanka, Serbia

On 16 September 2025, the Municipality of Backa Palanka, as a partner in the EAGER project, held the third stakeholders' meeting. The event brought together the representatives of local authorities, development agencies, and the national scientific institute to discuss key

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issues identified within the project and to explore how they can contribute to achieving its planned results.



The meeting began with welcome remarks from Jovan Srdić, representative of the Municipality of Backa Palanka, followed by a presentation of the EAGER project by Anna Feketeova. Participants were also introduced to the Development Plan of the Municipality of Backa Palanka, which is the policy instrument addressed by the project. In addition, representatives of the Backa Palanka project team presented an overview of policy analyses conducted within the project, providing insights into challenges and opportunities related to agrivoltaics, the focus of EAGER.

An open discussion followed, where stakeholders exchanged views, highlighted regional needs, and explored how the project could further support the development of the target area. Special attention was given to aligning local development strategies with the project's objectives, ensuring that results developed within the project bring benefit to the wider community.

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The meeting brought together key regional actors, including participants from the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, the Municipality of Bac, and the Regional Development Agency Backa. Their active participation highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue in shaping effective policies and advancing the objectives of the EAGER project.

The third stakeholders' meeting reaffirmed that open communication, knowledge exchange, and cross-sector collaboration are essential for building stronger regional networks. The conclusions and insights gathered during the meeting will directly support the ongoing implementation of the EAGER project, ensuring that activities address real needs and generate lasting impact in Backa Palanka and the wider region.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

The EAGER project engages students from the Technical University of Deggendorf: Insights sharing and Networking

The Fifth stakeholders meeting in Germany within the frame of the EAGER project was held on September 19th, 2025. The German EAGER project team recently presented the project to 13 representatives from the Technische Hochschule Deggendorf Alumni Group. The attendees, professionals with backgrounds in the energy sector, now work across various energy fields. The session provided an introduction to EAGER's vision and goals, with a

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particular focus on sustainable land-use planning for the future.

As a good practice example, the FUNGISOLAR project, observed during a study visit in Spain, was highlighted, showcasing its implementation process, required resources, and potential for transfer in German region.



Date: 19th September 2025

Location: Ruhstorf an der Rott, Germany

The presentation sparked an interactive discussion, where participants explored exciting questions such as:

- Could energy crops also be integrated into the system?
- How can policy makers strengthen and support project outcomes more efficiently?

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- Which regional crops are best suited for this innovative approach?



The exchange brought fresh perspectives for the future implementation and possible synergies of the EAGER project and highlighted the importance of collaboration in developing sustainable energy and agricultural solutions. It also generated wider attention for the EAGER project and the broader topic of Agri-PV, strengthening the dialogue between academia, industry, and community stakeholders.

EAGER Sixth Stakeholder Meeting in Germany

On September 25th, 2025, the German EAGER project team recently shared project updates

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with six key stakeholders, including representatives from Integrated Rural Development Rott & Inn (ILE), the Association of Europaregion Donau-Moldau in Bavaria, Eura AG, Regionalwerke Passauer Land, LandschaftEnergie, and the Bavarian Farmers' Association.

During the session, the team presented good practice examples observed during the study visits in Spain and Italy, for example, the FUNGISOLAR project and an APV pilot project over a vineyard at CIFP San Gabriel in Spain. FUNGISOLAR, in particular, was highlighted for its implementation process, required resources, and potential for transfer to the German context.



Date: 25th September 2025

Location: Ruhstorf an der Rott, Germany

The participants showed great interest in the presented good practices and but also raised several important concerns regarding their applicability in the regional context:

- A lack of feed-in points for facilities remains a challenge in the region;
- Farmers face difficulties in meeting regulatory criteria in Germany for such

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systems, such as preserving 66.7% of agricultural yield and 85% of agricultural land area;

- Concerns about crop suitability. Rather than introducing new crops like fungi, they emphasized the need to integrate regionally adapted crops into APV systems. German regulations require original agricultural activities to be maintained under APV, which limits the introduction of specialty crops;
- The absence of a systematic APV recording and data visualization system in Bavaria makes tracking progress difficult.

As part of the meeting, a representative from the project partner Municipality of Ruhstorf presented ongoing efforts in APV planning and development.



Topics included:

- Solar/photovoltaic obligations for certain building types in Bavaria and the municipality's role in the approval procedure;

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- An overview of land use, showing that 74% of Ruhstorf's area is agricultural land, highlighting strong potential for APV;
- The importance of citizen support in promoting APV initiatives.

Currently, Ruhstorf does not have an overall APV development plan in its land-use strategy. As a next step, the EAGER project will focus on creating a criteria catalog to integrate APV concepts into regional development policies, supporting sustainable growth in the agricultural and energy sectors.



The exchange provided valuable insights for advancing the EAGER project in Bavaria. While participants are informed of the good practices observed abroad, they emphasized the importance of tailoring solutions to regional conditions, maintaining agricultural productivity, and ensuring local acceptance. The discussion highlighted both challenges and opportunities for integrating Agri-PV into existing land use and regulation. Moving forward, the project will focus on the aspects mentioned above and further explore them with partners in future exchange events.

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NEWS FROM BELGIUM

Stakeholder Meeting on APV Policy Synergies in Belgium

On the 23rd of September 2025, a stakeholders meeting within the frame of the project EAGER: “Easing AGrophotovoltaics for EuRope” took place in the Province of Flemish Brabant, Belgium.

The goal of this stakeholder meeting was to discuss policy synergies between (A)PV initiatives in the Strategic Project Opgewekt Pajottenland and EAGER.



Date: 23rd September 2025

Location: Province of Flemish Brabant, Belgium

As an introduction, the progress of the EAGER project was presented, followed by a deep dive into impressions and learnings from the study visits and the joint study. Best practices identified during these activities were highlighted and reflected upon, with a specific focus on their applicability to the Flemish context.

Within Opgewekt Pajottenland—a collaboration of ten municipalities on renewable energy coordinated by the province—solar energy has been identified as a key component of the new regional energy mix, and plans are underway to integrate APV into this strategy. However, the concrete implementation and realization of solar energy projects has proven challenging. Setting up energy communities and enabling energy sharing between farms and other users remains a difficult business case. Next, a business case for self-driving tractors equipped with swappable batteries was presented, along with the potential of APV to guarantee a renewable energy supply.

When focusing on shared barriers, public opinion was identified as a major challenge for APV, especially in highly populated and densely built regions such as Flanders. Further exploration of public sentiment is needed. Farms could potentially leverage energy management for the local community, for example by providing buffer capacity. The narrative should emphasize the positive impact on the local community, positioning the farm as an indispensable link in the energy transition. Personal benefit remains the most important motivating factor for stakeholders.



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Rolling out test cases could help build public support and increase acceptance. It was highlighted that stakeholders now aim to identify farmers interested in APV and support them in implementation (e.g., permitting). A clear framework should be developed to facilitate future APV installations. This strengthens our case for building a policy decision tree. Very recently, the Flemish government drafted a position paper on Solar Parks and Agrivoltaics in Agricultural Areas. The statements were discussed with stakeholders and offer valuable elements to build upon or refine further in our decision tree.

To conclude, the APV webtool was demonstrated to stakeholders as one of the EAGER good practice points.

NEWS FROM POLAND

Third Stakeholders' Meeting in Poland under the project EAGER



Date: 25th September 2025

Location: Rzeszow, Poland

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On 25th September 2025, the Third Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting of the project “EAGER- Easing AGrophotovoltaics for EuRope” took place at the headquarters of RRDA. As part of the exchange of experience and knowledge, RRDA S.A. hosted stakeholders from institutions such as Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Region in Rzeszów, Podkarpackie Renewable Energy Cluster (RES), Podkarpackie Agricultural Advisory Center, Ignacy Łukasiewicz Rzeszów University of Technology/Ignacy Łukasiewicz Institute of Energy Policy and FREDROPOL Energy Cooperative.



The project objectives and main tasks were presented to new participants. In addition, good practices resulting from the study visit to Italy on June 11th and 12th, 2025, and their potential for application in our region were presented and discussed. Planned further activities, as well as the dates and locations of future study visits and stakeholder meetings, were discussed.

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During the event, a presentation was delivered on the topic “Energy Cooperatives as a Driver of Local Development: Benefits, Good Practices, and the Potential of Agri-Photovoltaics in Rural and Semi-Rural Municipalities.” The presentation discussed the role of energy cooperatives in building the energy independence of local communities and their impact on increasing the security and stability of energy supplies. A special part of the presentation was devoted to the potential of agrophotovoltaics in energy cooperatives, which is one of the most promising solutions for rural and semi-rural municipalities. The presentation was given by PhD Eng. Sławomir Stec from the Ignacy Łukasiewicz Rzeszów University of Technology/Ignacy Łukasiewicz Institute of Energy Policy.

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During the meeting, the challenges in agri-photovoltaics were discussed, along with potential solutions to address them. Participants shared their experiences from projects in the region that are ongoing and also discussed the possibility of changing the legal regulations concerning agrophotovoltaics.

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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
(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>

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