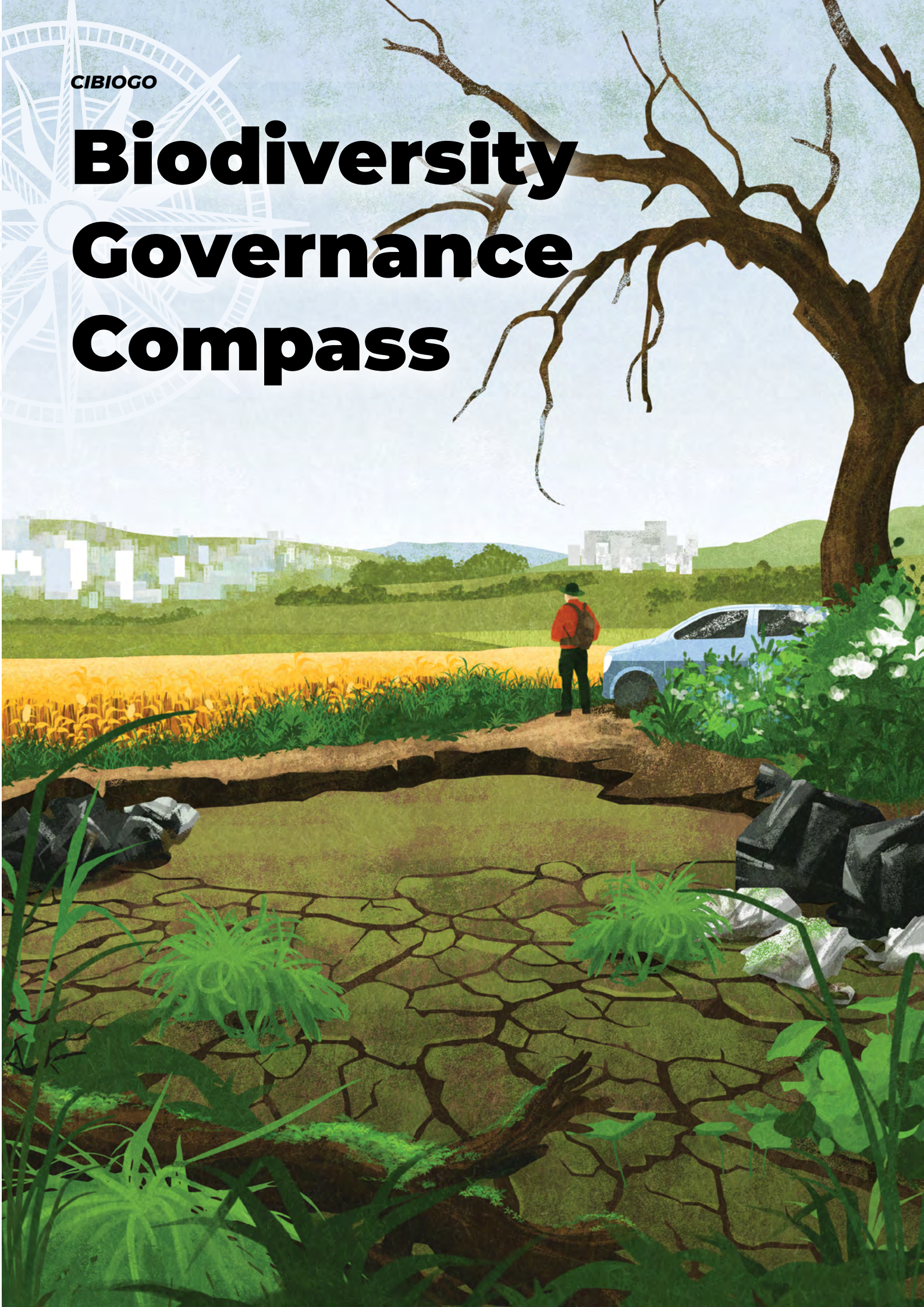


CIBIOGO

Biodiversity Governance Compass





Vanishing Harmony

Once upon a time, in a world where nature and humanity coexisted harmoniously, a remarkable event unfolded. It was an era when biodiversity flourished, creating a tapestry of life that sustained the delicate balance of ecosystems.

However, a mysterious phenomenon began to unfold, unbeknownst to the inhabitants of this world. Slowly, species started disappearing, and the fabric of life began to unravel.

A soft whisper echoed through the forests, alerting the creatures within to a shift in their surroundings. With each passing day, the once vibrant songs of birds grew quieter, their melodious tunes fading into the distance. The delicate dance between pollinators and flowers became disrupted, leading to a decline in plant reproduction and the loss of vital food sources.

In the oceans, the symphony of life was drowning in silence. Coral reefs, once vibrant with an array of colors, became pale and lifeless. The disappearance of coral left countless marine species homeless and vulnerable, disrupting the intricate food chain that relied on their presence. The imbalance tore through the ocean, leaving devastation in its wake.

On the fertile lands, agricultural fields suffered. The absence of essential pollinators resulted in reduced crop yields, leaving farmers in despair and communities facing hunger. Without the vital work of insects and microorganisms, the soil became depleted, losing its ability to sustain plant life. The once fruitful fields transformed into barren wastelands, reflecting the toll of biodiversity loss.

Beyond the obvious impacts, the world faced unseen consequences. The delicate dance between predator and prey was disrupted as key species vanished. The absence of natural predators led to the unchecked growth of pests, decimating crops and throwing ecosystems off balance. The disappearance of microorganisms critical for nutrient recycling and decomposition resulted in widespread soil degradation, threatening the foundation of life itself.

As the world teetered on the edge of collapse, a growing awareness emerged. Humans, realizing the consequences of their actions, joined forces in an effort to restore the dwindling biodiversity. Governments, organizations, and individuals united to protect and conserve the remaining ecosystems and species...

Hopefully we didn't draw an insupportably dark future with our introduction story, but unfortunately this is where the world is heading if communities don't take action to stop the biodiversity loss on the planet. CIBIOGO partners are ready to act up for biodiversity protection.



But what is CIBIOGO?

CIBIOGO stands for Citizen Participation in Biodiversity Governance, a four year long project under the egis of the Interreg Europe interregional cooperation programme - co-funded by the European Union -, focusing on finding solutions to regional development issues through the exchange of good practices and policy learning.

Protecting and preserving nature and biodiversity is a pressing issue across the European Union. Safeguarding protected areas, strengthening ecosystem services and facilitating environmentally-friendly territorial development strategies are often met with opposition. The effective involvement and support of stakeholders and citizens for the protection of biodiversity is hampered by user conflicts, opposing economic interests, scarce dialogue among decision-makers & stakeholders, financial constraints and a lack of awareness of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



CIBioGO partner regions from 6 countries thus share the need to incorporate participatory methods into biodiversity governance and empower their citizens to participate in , guided by an Advisory Partn ublic decision-making in their respective policy instruments. Even though a variety of good practices and methods of participatory governance are available, these have been underused in the context of biodiversity governance, a field requiring further learning and exchange.



What do we mean by biodiversity and why is it important for us humans?

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Without biodiversity, our entire support system for human, as well as animal life, would collapse. We rely on nature to provide us with food and clean water, for a lot of medicines, and to prevent flooding and other extreme weather effects.

What do we tackle related to biodiversity in CIBIOGO?

Biodiversity Governance aspect

Citizen Participation aspect





Biodiversity Governance aspect

Biodiversity has long been a focal point for policymakers, environmental groups, and numerous individuals. Consequently, various initiatives have been implemented to protect at-risk species and habitats, as well as to facilitate the restoration of those in decline. Despite some achievements in habitat and species recovery, numerous challenges persist, and additional issues are anticipated, particularly with factors like climate change. The global governance structure for biodiversity must undergo a transformation to guide the essential personal and societal changes, encompassing shifts in values, beliefs, and social behaviors, required for effectively addressing biodiversity loss.

In CIBIOGO we identified three governance fields belonging to the competences of the project partners.



Biodiversity Governance aspect:

Biodiversity protection & nature conservation

in a nutshell is advocating management of natural resources for the purpose of sustaining biological diversity.

Biodiversity protection refers to the preservation, and management of ecosystems and natural habitats and ensuring that they are healthy and functional. Nature conservation is a form of environmental protection that allows humans to use natural resources but encourages sustainability and minimal ecological impact. It ensures that resources persist for future generations while protecting ecosystems and species.



Biodiversity Governance aspect:

Development of ecosystem services

in a nutshell are goods and services provided by natural ecosystems to humans.

Ecosystem services encompass the diverse and numerous advantages that the natural environment and robust ecosystems provide to humans. These ecosystems comprise various types, including agroecosystems, forest ecosystems, grassland ecosystems and aquatic ecosystems. When these ecosystems operate harmoniously, they contribute essential services such as natural crop pollination, purification of air, mitigation of extreme weather events, and enhancement of human mental and physical well-being. Termed collectively as ecosystem services, these benefits often play a crucial role in supplying food, ensuring the availability of clean drinking water, facilitating waste decomposition, and enhancing the resilience and productivity of food ecosystems.



Soil formation

Water filtration

Oxygen production

Climate regulation

Air purification

Water regulation

Recreation

Aesthetics

Cultural value

Biodiversity Governance aspect:

Promotion of ecotourism

in a nutshell is responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education.

Ecotourism is promoted as a type of tourism that emphasizes “responsible” travel, utilizing what advocates consider sustainable transportation, with a focus on natural areas. The objectives include conserving the environment, enhancing the well-being of local communities, and achieving various goals such as educating travelers, generating funds for ecological conservation, contributing to the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, and promoting respect for diverse cultures and human rights.





Citizen Participation aspect

The urgency of boosting participation in biodiversity governance has increased in the context of the recently published EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, that aims at protecting the natural world and reversing the degradation of ecosystems. Deep understanding of the topic and its importance and active involvement of all citizens is essential for the sustainable management of ecosystems. CIBIOGO partners have identified six Participatory Tools they want to explore for this objective.



Citizen Participation aspect:

Stakeholder consultation

is the active engagement of interest groups in the design, formulation and evaluation of public policies and legislation.





GOOD PRACTICE CARD



What?

Environmental education for children

Where?

Horta-Sud Region, Spain

How?

The Environmental Department of Valencia Community developed different games and activities for children from schools on the topic of environmental protection, with the involvement of all levels of educational institutions, partners' associations, the local and regional level government and associations active in the field. The education is done by practical workshops that include games and activities for the children to learn new things through gamification, held by environmental trainers and instructors.

Why?

The region supports the European Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the improvement of sustainability policies. The goal is to make the municipalities of the region the most sustainable possible and to promote a greener future. Environmental education and learning for children is an important factor in achieving this objective, with the involvement of all actors in the field.

Link to the good practice

Citizen Participation aspect:

Citizen involvement in decision-making and planning

is the process which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions, a key component of the democratic decision-making process.





GOOD PRACTICE CARD



REGIONE BASILICATA

What?

„Blue Crab” project - Reducing damages by the alien species Atlantic Blue Crab in the coastal parts of Basilicata region

Where?

Basilicata Region, Italy

How?

“Blue Crab” is an integrated control project against the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) *C. sapidus*, aimed at the conservation of native biodiversity through the activation of a food supply chain. The project, in addition to the partners, involves professional fishermen from the coop, restaurateurs and product processing companies, hotel schools, starred chefs and direct consumers. The project consists of 4 actions: 1) experimental control of the IAS; 2) preliminary evaluation of potential supply chains; 3) monitoring of aquatic biocoenosis; 4) dissemination and awareness aimed at administrations, citizens, fishermen and restaurateurs.

Why?

The aim of this project was to conserve the native biodiversity of the Basilicata Region through the integrated fight against an invasive alien species (IAS), and to transform the supply chain and activate all its actors in the fight. A manual was developed in which the procedure for the construction of selective traps for *C. sapidus* fishing is detailed, and the Guidelines for the health control of the species during its marketing were defined with the Department of Health of Basilicata Region.

Link to the good practice

Citizen Participation aspect:

User conflict resolution methods

are ways for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them.





GOOD PRACTICE CARD



ZAVOD za GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE

Slovenia Forest Service

What?

Environmental education for children Implementing quiet zones in Triglav National Park

Where?

Gorenjska Region, Slovenia

How?

The good practice is implementing quiet zones in Triglav National Park through the National Park Management Plan and implementing quiet zones in the neighbouring field a swell. Quiet zones in a National Park are special areas where access and use is not allowed for protection of some species, the distinction is done on the field with road closures. Quiet zones were first established with cooperation with different stakeholders: foresters, NGOs, land owners, etc. On policy level the rule of quiet zones is described in the Triglav National Park Management Plan. This measure is a successful example on how to successfully limit and manage visitation for the goal of nature and biodiversity protection; with complex communication with different stakeholders sharing a common goal.

Why?

The intervention was created for the protection of bird species and ensuring favourable status of the endangered species, also to ensure that the species have the best possible condition for reproduction.

Link to the good practice

Citizen Participation aspect:

Innovative financing schemes

refer to a range of non-traditional mechanisms that may offer innovative solutions to addressing global biodiversity problems – in our context.





GOOD PRACTICE CARD



What?

Pilot agri-environment scheme for the 'Trnava Mare' and Pogány Havas regions
– Payment for Ecosystem Services

Where?

Harghita County, Romania

How?

This project is aimed at testing the application of results-based agri-environment schemes at grassland sites in Southeast Transylvania covering 150 ha, linking monetary value to certain regenerative agricultural cultivation methods. The project areas chosen offer High Nature Value (HNV) farmland at landscape-scale to a rare extent in Europe. The HNV landscapes are havens to a wide range of habitat and species, which often have unorthodox management requirements. The findings showed that biodiversity in these HNV farmed landscapes would be effectively maintained if their small-scale mowing and grazing regimes could be maintained. The project selected indicator species for the level of biodiversity; made payment calculations according to the regenerative method applied; selected the area relevant for this scheme and launched a call for farmers. Farmers were trained for the regenerative methods needed for biodiversity protection and then launched the new farming methods. The monitoring of indicators showed that the scheme was successful.

Why?

The “results-based” agri-environment scheme targeted the High Nature Value hay meadows, rewarding practical management that produces good quality hay and protects wild species.

Link to the good practice

Citizen Participation aspect:

Biodiversity data and citizen science

are approaches in which non-professional participants contribute to data collection to advance scientific research.



KERAM 'SVEŠOS LATVIJAS DABĀ

JA REDZI, ZIŅO
Dabas aizsardzības pārvaldes
mājaslapā www.invazivs.lv

LATVIANATURE



GOOD PRACTICE CARD

What?

“Attention, invasive!” integrated campaign

Where?

Vidzeme Region, Latvia

How?

The integrated communication campaign “Catching Invasive Species in Latvian Nature” has been organized to raise public awareness about invasive species, the threat they pose to natural diversity, to raise awareness about invasive species and to encourage everyone to get involved in the fight against invasive species in Latvian nature by reporting invasive species observed in nature to scientists in the Invasive Species Manager system. The system allows you to submit a report on invasive species observed in nature, each of which is checked by scientists.

Why?

Aims of the integrated communication campaign “Catching strangers in Latvian nature” were to inform the public about invasive species and the threat they pose to nature, to promote the Invasive Species Manager application www.invazivs.lv, to promote practical involvement in invasive species control - report to the ISP (citizen science) and Increase reporting about invasive species.

Link to the good practice

Citizen Participation aspect:

Decentralised monitoring protocols

refer to the practice of gathering and organising monitoring evidence in a decentralized or distributed way according to a shared protocol.

Aster alpinus

25 in this area

The Alpine Aster (*Aster alpinus*) is a resilient flowering plant with daisy-like blossoms, native to European mountainous regions and known for its charming white, blue, purple, or pink hues.





GOOD PRACTICE CARD



What?

Decentralized Biological Monitoring

Where?

Walloon Region, Belgium

How?

A network of all-level (from beginners to recognized field experts) volunteer naturalists is coordinated, trained and motivated by Natagora organisation. This practice is related to the implementation of the "360° Strategy for Biodiversity" at several levels. It could be used to evaluate the completion of the ecological network and more directly assess the completion of the management plans for Natura 2000 sites. Several important commitments of Wallonia in terms of biodiversity are also evaluated through these indicators: agriculture (Farmland Bird Index), water management (waterbird monitoring), Birds and Habitat directives (Article 17 and Article 12 reporting). The responsible organisation has been coordinating a network of hundreds of volunteers carrying out semi-standardized sampling of biodiversity indicators, including breeding birds, wintering waterbirds, hibernating bats, reptiles and amphibians populations. Coordination involves training, establishing protocols, collecting and validating data, analysis and dissemination of the results.

Why?

Long-term monitoring of biodiversity indicators is crucial to establish progress or drawback in any nature conservation policy. The people involved in the process are ready to collaborate in a semi-structured way to provide scientific data necessary to inform regional nature policy.

Link to the good practice

How will CIBIOGO tackle the above fields?

CIBIOGO partners will address the above issues through the Interreg Europe programme, which objective is to induce policy improvements in the participating regions. Policy improvement means one or more of the following changes in strategies, operational programmes, financial instruments or other policies:

- New type of projects financed in a call for proposals
- Change in the management of the policy instrument, e.g. revising methodology for evaluating the performance; changing selection criteria of supported projects; new ways for publicising/advertising activities of calls; changes in decision-making processes and rules, etc.
- Revision of the policy instrument itself with a structural change, e.g. adding new measures and priorities to it, modifying the budget allocations, etc.

At the heart of the programme methodology lies the transregional learning process by identifying, analysing and transferring good practices among the participating regions; at the end ultimately delivering solutions that benefit all citizens.

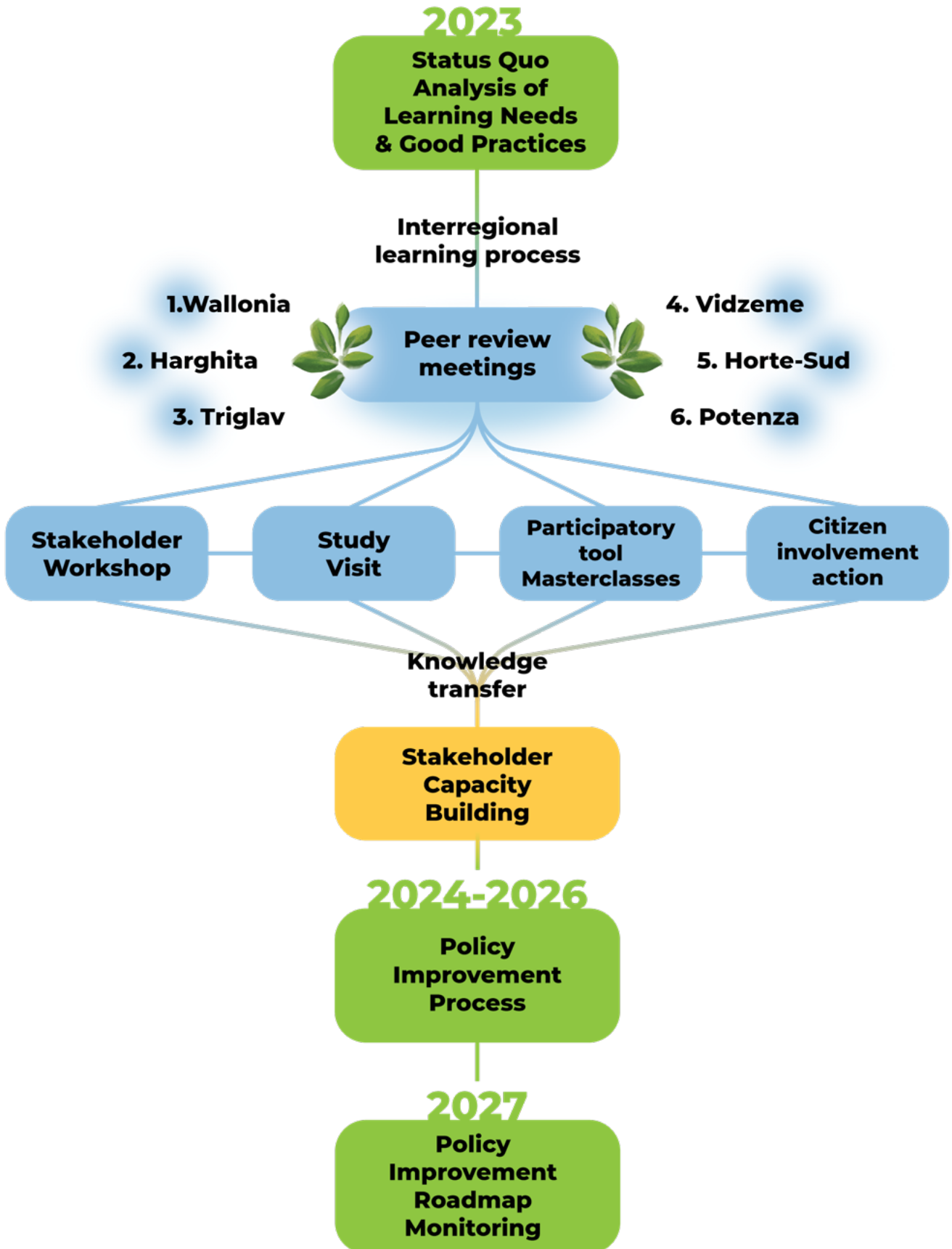
The main milestones in CIBIOGO are the Peer-review meetings in all partner regions, during which partners visit each other's Good Practices, interact with the local stakeholder groups, invite experts to learn about the above listed participatory tools in the form of Masterclasses and organise local citizen involvement actions.

Capacity building of the participating organisations and their stakeholders is of utmost importance as well in Interreg Europe type projects, thus the knowledge gained through the Peer-review Meetings will be transferred to the local stakeholder groups in the form of Stakeholder Capacity Building sessions.

As for awareness raising on the importance of the project's topic, current publication is an important tool, which will be followed by a 'Practical Guide for Stakeholders and Citizens' on the topic of biodiversity governance.

- Regional level
- Stakeholder level
- Transnational level

CIBIOGO methodology



Journey towards recovery

...through collective effort, the world began its arduous journey towards recovery. Reforestation efforts breathed life back into the degraded forests, inviting the return of countless species. Conservation projects rehabilitated marine habitats, allowing once-endangered creatures to thrive once more. Sustainable farming practices replenished the soil, bringing back abundance to the fields.

As a new age dawned, the world learned from its past mistakes. Biodiversity preservation became a global priority, integrated into every aspect of society. Humans developed a deep appreciation for the intricate connections between species, nurturing their coexistence with nature.

The story of a world without biodiversity served as a critical reminder for future generations. It taught them to cherish and protect the irreplaceable web of life. The legacy of this vanished harmony instilled a profound commitment to maintain the delicate balance between humans and nature.

As the world moved forward, guided by the wisdom learned from the brink of devastation, humanity ensured that the whisper of change never faded away. It became a constant reminder, echoing through generations, to cherish and safeguard the incredible biodiversity that sustains our miraculous planet.

CONTACT INFO





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REGIONE BASILICATA



VIDZEME

THE ONLY WAY IS UP!



ZAVOD za GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE

Slovenia Forest Service



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environnement
SPW**



**HARGHITA
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