



Functional and ecological connection of river-sea environment in Cagnes-sur-Mer

Follow-up note

Policy Learning Platform matchmaking session

Date: Friday, 28 October 2022 – 11:00-12:30

Beneficiary: municipality of Cagnes-sur-Mer, France

Topics: nature restoration and creation of ecological spaces at the river-sea connection

Participants

Hosts

- Alexandra Maccario, Project Manager, Municipality of Cagnes-sur-Mer

Regional representatives

- Amandine Pihouée, Elected of the Municipality of Cagnes-sur-Mer, Major works
- James Nicolaï, Elected of the Municipality of Cagnes-sur-Mer, Europe and innovation
- Marie-Caroline Vallon, Région Sud, direction of energy transition and territories

Peers and Experts

- John Jones, Norfolk County Council (United Kingdom)
- Francesco Scorza, University of Basilicata (Italy)
- Petar Mišura, Šibenik Municipality (Croatia)

Interreg Europe Programme

- Mariame Amour, Interreg Europe Policy Officer
- Diane Bulon, Interreg Europe Policy Officer

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

- Astrid Severin, Interreg Europe PLP Thematic Expert, Environment & resource efficiency
- Magda Michalikova, Interreg Europe PLP Thematic Expert, Environment & resource efficiency
- Eugénie Suplisson, Interreg Europe PLP Communication Manager



Objectives of the meeting

On 28 October 2022, the Policy Learning Platform organised a matchmaking at the request of the Municipality of Cagnes-sur-Mer to receive input on the river-sea connection at its coastline. The sea front at of Cagnes-sur-Mer is facing many challenges including changing climate, various environmental pressures and issues related to old infrastructure. The city has already worked intensively on the restoration and regeneration of the River Cagne, in many parts of the city. One of the remaining issues is the point of connection between the river and the sea. The current solutions are outdated and have negative impact on local ecosystems as for example fish are unable to easily travel, which impacts their breeding habits. Moreover, the existing, old infrastructure is also unsuitable in relation to the current impacts of changing climate and other pressures.

The matchmaking was held in Cagnes-sur-Mer, following the workshop on 'Natural and cultural heritage in coastal regions'.

Some key takeaways

- The river-sea connection needs to be discussed within the framework of a total catchment area approach
- It is recommendable to develop a Masterplan of the Bay and to take the different eco-systems of the catchment area into account
- For the communication, it is important to concentrate on the benefits of the different stakeholder groups concerned by the restoration
- Undertake a specific definition of the objectives of the works i.e. climate change adaptation, nature protection, sustainable tourism, etc.
- Better understanding the functionality aspect of the river-sea connection and define the categories of users (fishermen, tourists, citizens, hotels, etc.)
- The replacement of the bridge is not limited to the municipality area and is influencing the flows of traffic also in the wider region
- The restoration requires a change management process that caters for the different interest in the municipality and in the wider catchment area
- Establish a formal commitment for example through a rivers contract
- Ensure control and monitoring of the processes related to the restoration.
- Water treatment installation can substantially improve water quality for the entire region.
- Prepare the framework together with the wider region and collaborate with Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur
- Proposed nature protection changes will meet with a lot of resistance and fears that for example businesses and tourist flows will suffer. However, peers could show that measures had not only positive impact on flora and fauna but also more tourists that were eager to visit rich natural areas.

Additional actions

All participants exchange contact details for possible follow-up actions on bilateral basis.

Note circulation: All attendees.