



# Newsletter #1 January 2020

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of Newsletter series of the OptiWaMag!

The Interreg Europe programme, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is designed to support policy-learning among the relevant policy organizations with a view to improving the performance of regional development policies and programmes. Interreg Europe programme has approved the OptiWaMag interregional cooperation project for supporting to protect the environment and promote the resource efficiency.

In the following pages, you will find the overall context and objectives of the project as well as information on the latest developments and upcoming event. The OptiWaMag Newsletters will be published every six months. Through our project website and this periodic newsletter, we will keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes.

### The OptiWaMag project team



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**PROJECT AT A GLANCE**

OptiWaMag involves 6 EU regions with a shared ambition to accelerate the scaling up of waste management innovation that can support active and innovative environment and resource efficiency and secure the triple win of economic growth, more sustainable ecosystem services and improved well-being of Europe's citizens.

## The OptiWaMag project



Europe faces major challenges in waste management due to high population density and growth in waste generation. Moreover the increased economic activities and growth in the tourism sector lead to increase of waste generation. The resource efficiency and proactive use of resource-efficient economy have the ability to contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion by improving the lives of people regardless of income, background or status.

Six partners from Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Portugal and Sweden have launched the OptiWaMag project – “Optimization of waste management in urban spaces and in households”. The partnership is led by the County Administrative Board of Östergötland from Sweden. The 3,5 year project (August 2019 - January 2023) was approved within the Interreg Europe programme financed by

the European Regional Development Fund. Interreg Europe programme helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policies.

The project aims to demonstrate how the development of the current waste infrastructure in urban spaces and in households can deliver sustainable solutions through the exchange of good practices.

## Project objectives

OptiWaMag recognizes that effective, policy shaping outcomes require enhanced cooperation between involved stakeholders. The policy project will thus incorporate interregional collaboration, involving a wide range of expert stakeholders, which comprises exchange of good practices, mutual

learning, peer assessment, knowledge transfer, targeted and collective, co-designed policy development. It will deliver its results through interlinked project activities and outputs during 3 sequential steps:

1) Identification and Analysis;

2) Interregional Mutual Learning;  
3) Knowledge Transfer and Action Planning.

Steps 1 and 3 also include assessments of policy enhancement and learning performance. The dissemination of good practices and lessons are the backbone of OptiWaMag.

## The primary output

1) The project self, peer and expert assessment tools and findings focused on regions' strengths, weaknesses, policy priorities and policy enhancements

2) A Framework Strategy for developing evidence based and co-designed policies, programmes and implementation methods and for identifying the best method to improve policy instruments;

3) 6 Regional Action Plans (informed by the Framework Strategy, pre and interim self-assessments) to enhance the implementation of regional policy instruments across Europe.

## Meet the Team!

Six partners from Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Portugal and Sweden are working on the OptiWaMag project

The partnership is led by the County Administrative Board of Östergötland from Sweden.

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Lead partner:**

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1) County Administrative Board of Östergötland



2) Development Organization



3) Municipality of Lousada



4) Riga Technical University



5) Municipality of Casalgrande



6) Region of Thessaly



## Kick-off meeting



The official kick off meeting of OptiWaMag Project was held on 17-18 September in Linköping, Sweden.

The meeting brought project partners together who had the chance to meet for the first time and get familiar with each other's activities and county specific reports

All project partners actively participated at the kick off meeting which was organized by the County Administrative Board of Östergötland, the Lead Partner of OptiWaMag project. On the first day of the meeting an offsite field visit was organized to Tekniska verken that

operates *Gärstad* waste incineration plant and manages all types of waste from households and businesses, through recycling centres and customer-specific solutions.

Johan Böök, Public Affairs Manager led the visit and provided insights into the waste management processes, including recovering energy from waste products in the most resource-efficient way.

The kick off meeting was combined with the Steering Group meeting which took place after the site visit.

The second day started off with an Expert Task Force meeting that was led successfully by the Lead Partner. After the meeting the participants welcomed another expert, Anders Karlsson, the Business Unit manager from Nodra who shared interesting information on waste treatment of households in Norrköping.



**Next OptiWaMag event:** Second Interregional Meeting will be in Budapest on 26th – 27th March 2020. The event will cover a review of the Hungarian waste management system, a progress assessment and a site visit to municipal waste recovery plant. The project partners will also work on the self-assessment tool.

**For more information about the waste management project, visit our website:**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/optiwamag>

**Find us on social media**

<https://twitter.com/OptiWaMag>

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**OptiWaMag**  
Interreg Europe

