



Project Newsletter #8



The project GreenIndustrialAreas empowers public authorities to increase the share of smart and climate-neutral industrial areas and co-develop a transnational certification standard. The project is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme of the European Union.



Recently in Latvia..

The project consortium recently met in Riga and Jelgava, Latvia, to advance the finalization of the project outputs and to plan upcoming dissemination activities of the project. The programme also included a site visit where the team learnt about the transformation of a peat extraction plant to a site of renewable energy production. Read more about the event [here](#).



Let's talk about outdoor light!

Outdoor lighting is needed for safety and convenience in many industrial areas. The technology change from incandescent lamps to LEDs has increased the light pollution drastically. While low in energy consumption and costs, white LEDs cause more light pollution than the older lights; they're often overly bright and the white colours are more harmful for insects.

To change to more environmentally friendly lighting, the brightness and time-of-use should be adjusted to the need and the colour temperature should be lower (shifted towards red). Also, the height of lighting poles should be lowered, and their shading should be designed to reduce the unwanted glare. Better outdoor lighting considering the "3 Lows" - Low installation height, Low colour temperature, and Low lux levels - reduces the negative impacts on insects of outdoor lighting.

Strengthening capacity of public administration in Latvia for territorial development planning regarding climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation

The Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of Latvia is the lead partner in the Just Transition Fund project "Enhancing the Competencies of Municipal and Regional Planning Specialists in Climate-Neutral Economics and Mitigating Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change" (Nr. 6.1.1.8/1/24/I/001). The project aims to raise the skills of specialists of local governments and planning regions to ensure transition to a climate neutral economy and to reduce risks related to climate change in the most affected regions, promoting reduction of socio-economic consequences.

Planning regions have identified and chosen their thematic priorities to deliver capacity building to their municipalities during the project implementation:

- *Renewable Energy Resources and Energy Community Development* for [Kurzeme Planning Region](#);
- *Infrastructure and Construction Solutions for Achieving Climate Goals* for [Vidzeme Planning Region](#);
- *Circular Economy and Business Promotion in Municipalities for Climate Targets* for [Zemgale Planning Region](#) and
- *Application of Renewable Energy Resources in Municipal Service Provision* for [Latgale Planning Region](#).

The opening conference of the project is planned in mid-June and will gather specialists of planning regions and municipalities to give insights into current national climate policy framework, acknowledge other initiatives and project results that can support their capacity building activities and learn about the use of spatial climate data in decision making. Read more about the project [here](#).

Meet the Podlaska Regional Development Foundation (PFRR)



[Learn more](#)

Podlaska Regional Development Foundation (PFRR) is a non-profit organization aimed at supporting economic and social development in the Podlaskie region. PFRR offering support to businesses, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions.

The Foundation focuses on..

- (1) Supporting entrepreneurship: PFRR helps businesses in the region by offering advisory services, training, and opportunities to obtain funding for business development including loans and guarantees;
- (2) Organizing training and workshops: PFRR organizes events that support the development of professional and entrepreneurial skills;
- (3) Promoting eco-friendly initiatives: PFRR promotes actions for environmental protection, sustainable development, and energy efficiency; and
- (4) An important branch of the foundation is to help companies enter foreign markets. Our flagship projects in this area are: Enterprise Europe Network and Podlaskie Centrum Exportera.

All eyes on Jyväskylä

Jyväskylä's approaches to promote circular economy have not only been shared and discussed during the project's pilot phase but are also subject to a [case study by OECD](#). In September, a delegation had visited the Finnish city and conducted interviews with more than 50 stakeholders. The final report was published in April. For more information on the outcomes on Jyväskylä, please click [here](#).