

Welcome to the PolliConnect Community!

We are thrilled to welcome you to the very first edition of the PolliConnect newsletter! You are receiving this because you share our passion for biodiversity preservation and improvement as well asthe urgent need to protect our wild pollinators across North-West Europe!

In this quarterly update, we will take you behind the scenes of our 8 Living Labs, introduce you to the innovative technologies we are testing, and share how you can get involved in restoring the vital "highways" our pollinators need to survive.

🚀 *We Have Lifted Off!*



€6.86M Project Officially Launched

It is official: PolliConnect is up and running since December 2015! Earlier this year our consortium of 13 partners from 5 countries gathered in Pas-de-Calais, France, to kick off this ambitious €6.86 million initiative, co-funded by the Interreg North-West Europe Programme.

The decline of wild pollinators is an alarm bell for our ecosystems. Our mission is clear: to reverse this trend by reconnecting fragmented habitats

and improving land management technics. Over the next few years, we aim to increase pollinator biodiversity by at least 20% in our pilot areas.

Read the full launch story

🌍 What is PolliConnect?

Pollinators don't recognize borders, and neither do we. PolliConnect is building ecological corridors: safe passages of flower strips, hedgerows, and sustainably managed grasslands & wetlands, that allow bees, butterflies, and hoverflies to move freely and thrive.

We are testing these solutions in 8 Living Labs across:

Belgium | France | Germany | Ireland | The Netherlands

From using AI-powered video traps to monitor bee species, to implementing innovative mowing techniques with local farmers, we are combining cutting-edge science with hands-on community action, including an accesible and referenced chatbot to inform all stakeholders.

🎮 Innovation Spotlight: The "PolliGame"



Conservation isn't just for scientists but for everyone! We are excited to announce that Ana De Wagter from Brussels Environment is developing the PolliGame, an interactive educational tool designed to spark conversations about ecological connectivity and wild polinators.

Two versions are in preparation: one for children and one for adults. An initial prototype has already been tested with children, bringing the complex world of pollinators to life through play.

Learn more about the PolliGame

Highlights

🔹 **Partner Meeting in Ghent**: Our partners recently gathered in Ghent, Belgium, to visit local Living Lab sites and exchange best practices on habitat management.

🔹 **Get Involved in Ireland**: Our partner Ballyhoura Development is actively seeking community green spaces to serve as experimental biodiversity sites. Do you have a site in mind? [Check their website for details].

🔹 **Living Labs**: Pilot sites across the NWE region are currently setting up their baselines for monitoring. Stay tuned for the first field updates!

Together, let's make North-West Europe a home for pollinators again.

📢 **Join the Buzz:** We cannot do this alone. Whether you are a farmer, a policymaker, or a nature enthusiast, your voice matters... please share it with your network and ask them to join our newsletter!

🌐 **For more info** on our land managing strategies or seed mix advances please visit our website!

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