Interreg
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North-West Europe
PolliConnect



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ALL in chilly rain
Comes a grey-eyed maiden;
The tresses of her hair
With damp and mist are laden.
Her garments all are grey,
With mist in every thread,
And a scarf full soft
Is wrapped around her head.
'Mid her veiled hair [show,
Some early snowdrops
In her hand she holds
Yet more, as white as snow.
Though all is cold and dull
Yet there is in her eyes
A look of hope so sweet
That sadness it defies.
But now she must depart,
And in the gathering night
The mist doth wrap her round,
And she is lost to sight.

THE VERSES BY · BEATRICE CRANE ·
THE DESIGN BY ·
· WALTER · CRANE ·

Hello from PolliConnect team,

Sometimes the most meaningful change for biodiversity starts with something very small. This month's featured story is exactly that: a municipality improved its support for pollinators by adding one simple column to an existing tree plan. It took about ten minutes, but it changed how decisions can be made for years to come.

Featured story: 10 minutes, big impact

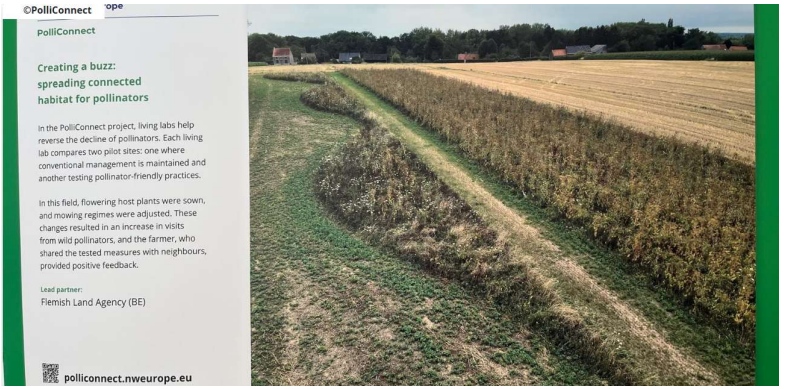


In Zwevegem, a municipal tree plan was upgraded from a static inventory into a year-round "food calendar" for pollinators by adding flowering and growth periods (phenology) for each tree species. With that single improvement, the municipality can immediately see when nectar and pollen are available, where seasonal "hunger gaps" occur, and which future plantings would bridge those gaps from early spring into late summer. It is a clear example of how smarter use of existing tools can deliver stronger ecological outcomes without new software, consultancy, or major budgets.

If you work with tree planning, green infrastructure, or planting schemes, this approach is easy to replicate and it creates a shared language between planners and ecologists: not just what is planted and where, but when it actually feeds insects. Reach out to our colleagues of West Flanders tine.
tine.ketelaars@west-vlaanderen.be
https://www.west-vlaanderen.be/

Read the full story

PolliConnect in Luxembourg: North-West Europe Annual Event



On 16 December 2025, PolliConnect joined the Interreg North-West Europe annual event in Luxembourg, a full day of exchange and collaboration across the programme community. Our coordinator Levi Aerts presented PolliConnect's rationale and expected outcomes, and we also shared a project poster showing our management techniques and the camera set-ups we are using to monitor pollinator activity. Beyond the stage, the event was an excellent moment to connect with other projects and policy actors, and to bring back ideas that will strengthen our work across the living labs.

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A new hydrophilous flower strip takes root in Bremen



In Bremen, a long-term, ambitious step has begun near a busy cycle path: a hydrophilous, tall-herb flower strip tailored for moist soils, designed to develop over three to five years rather than deliver a quick one-season result.

Inspired by habitat type 6430, this strip is planned as living infrastructure that supports prolonged flowering and stronger habitat quality over time. For pollinators, it promises exactly what is often missing in managed green spaces: reliable forage later in the season and a structured corridor that supports movement, shelter, and nesting opportunities.

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Updated strategy for biodiversity in Bremen



PolliConnect is already helping to translate Bremen's Biodiversity Strategy 2030 into practical action. At a recent event, partner Alena Jost positioned PolliConnect as one of the delivery tools for the strategy, while wild bee expert Rolf Witt introduced sinus mowing as a management method that creates a mosaic of different vegetation heights and flowering phases. The message is straightforward: strategy and everyday maintenance can reinforce each other, and small changes in mowing regimes can make public green spaces more insect-friendly without losing their public function.

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Living lab progress in Fryslân: stakeholders visit the 4th Dutch pilot site



In November, our Dutch partner hosted a visit to the fourth and final PolliConnect pilot site in Friesland. Together with local stakeholders, the group explored opportunities on the ground and confirmed a shared commitment to collaborate in the coming years. The site will follow a scientific protocol and apply a landscape approach, connecting green spaces through ecological corridors and blue-green infrastructure. It will also serve as a living lab where farmers, land managers, and experts co-design practical measures that strengthen pollinator biodiversity and ecological connectivity across the wider region.

Read more

🤝 Stay connected

If you would like to exchange experiences on tree planning, flower strip establishment, mowing regimes, or living lab collaboration, we would love to hear from you. We will continue sharing practical, replicable actions that improve pollinator habitats across North-West Europe.

📢 **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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