



GIFT-T!

Green Infrastructure For
Tomorrow - Together!

In 2011, the European Commission presented the EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020, that is recently adopted by the European Parliament. One of the six actions mentioned in this strategy foresees that the Commission will “develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy” by 2012 to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas. The Interreg IVB project “GIFT-T” (2011–2014) aims to contribute to the development and implementation of this strategy.

GIFT-T! is a programme of innovative actions that increase the pace and certainty of planning prosperous, green and socially engaged regions. We focus on deliverability, broker new relationships and attract new funding for GI. We take planning ‘off the shelf’ and into the community and boardroom.

Applying our innovative actions in 5 live case studies we realize robust, informed planning and innovative implementation through GI Business Plans. We will demonstrate economic and environmental ‘growth’ with community engagement - a true challenge for the C21st faced daily by the communities, planners and businesses of NW Europe as set out in the EU Operational Programme.

Our new approach will address this challenge and focuses on 4 issues that need to be tackled if as a community we are to deliver stronger GI in association with a prosperous NW Europe:

1. How to foster the business sector engaged in delivering GI as a foundation for prosperity? We can’t afford a business sector viewing the environment as a barrier to growth. We need to strengthen the Natura2000 network by improving the quality of the surrounding countryside - ensuring sites are not physical remote or isolated in policy.
2. How to strengthen the Natura2000 network by improving the quality of the surrounding countryside - ensuring sites are not physical remote or isolated in policy.
3. How to engage communities in a ‘positive planning’ to bridge the policy divide between prosperity and the environment?
4. Develop a delivery system that responds to the reduction in public funding for implementation of GI. Our response is to develop, test and implement a new methodology that transforms ‘stakeholders into shareholders’.

At the end of this project, we will deliver a suite of tools and methods for planning Green Infrastructure with stakeholders. These tools will be applicable in differing planning cultures and type of stakeholders. We will deliver methods and technical tools for defining the potential of an area to deliver ecosystem services, to create a shared vision among stakeholders, to make stakeholders into shareholders and a skeleton Green Infrastructure Business Plan in which can be put down how shareholders will improve the GI for their own benefits, improving the conditions for biodiversity.

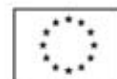
Further, we will have developed 5 business cases for the realisation of GI in the case study areas. In the process of engaging stakeholders we will have broadcasted the benefits of Green Infrastructure for prosperous communities to a wide public of communities, businesses and policymakers.

Project partners: Alterra Wageningen-UR (lead; NL); Cheshire West & Cheshire Council (UK); Vlaamsche Landmaatschappij NV (B); Provincie Zuid Holland (NL); Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway (UK); Provincie Antwerpen (B); Université de Liège (B).

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INTERREG IVB



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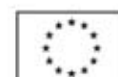
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