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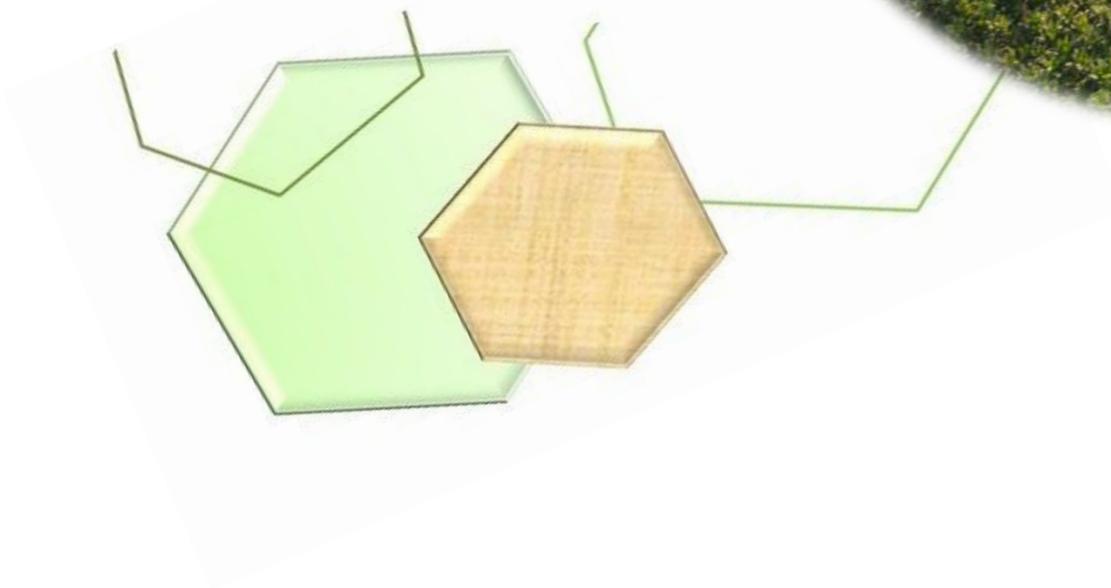
EAGER - Easing Agrophotovoltaics for Europe

Newsletter № 9

January 2026

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EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



What is EAGER

[The EAGER project](#) is a European project funded by the INTERREG Europe Programme that facilitates the adoption of agro-photovoltaic systems across partner regions. By fostering a shared understanding of this technology, identifying best practices, and enhancing policy instruments, this project is paving the way for a greener future.

The expansion of renewable energies aims at meeting the energy demand of the EU while replacing fossil fuels, but it requires large areas of land. At the same time, food security is threatened by the impacts of climate change and a growing world population. **Agrophotovoltaics (APV) can mitigate the conflicting interests between agriculture and open space photovoltaic systems** for viable land, as it allows to produce energy and food at the same time in the same place through a combination of farming and solar generation with a total **land use efficiency of up to 186%**. This is why the EAGER project aims at improving policies **to ease APV in Europe**. It will enable the definition and set-up of favourable policy framework conditions for implementing APV as a praxis-oriented concept for achieving Greener Europe.

In the following pages, you will find interesting materials describing the overall context and objectives of the project as well as information on the latest developments and current events.

We shall keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes through the project website, thematic events, and newsletters.

Project at a glance

By generating a common understanding of APV concept and contexts, identifying, analysing, and transferring good practices, changing behaviour among policy actors of the participating regions towards supporting and expanding APV in their regions, **9 policy instruments** will be improved by 2027. The 14 partners and 3 associated policy responsible authorities are committed to high-quality and efficient exchange of experience and policy improvement, acknowledging that the topic of APV is multi-layered and complex. It considers the policy fields of energy, agriculture, spatial development, and land use, with impacts on economic development, and has the potential to contribute to sustainability and energy security. Its novelty in the regions encourages out of the box thinking and an innovative interpretation of good practices in the broadest sense.

A few numbers



2,440,007 €
budget



01 Apr 2024-
30 Jun 2028



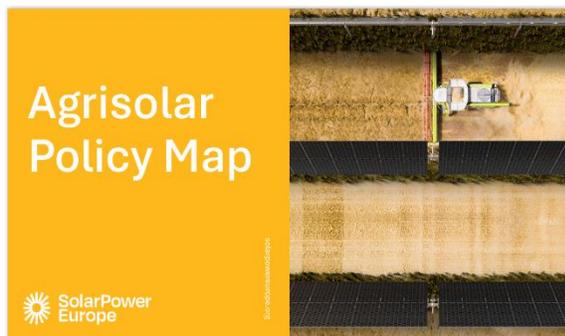
14 partners

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Agrisolar Policy Map and its relevance for the EAGER Project

The Agrisolar Policy Map is an analytical tool that compares agrisolar regulatory frameworks across 18 EU Member States. Its main objective is to identify best practices as well as regulatory gaps that currently hinder the large-scale deployment of agrisolar solutions—technologies that can simultaneously strengthen energy transition and agricultural resilience.



The analysis examines six main policy dimensions, including legal definitions, land-use planning and zoning, support and incentive schemes, technical standards, the protection of agricultural productivity, and environmental safeguards. The results highlight considerable variation across EU Member States. While countries such as France and Czechia have put in place more coherent and well-defined agrisolar policy frameworks, many others continue to operate without clear definitions or with fragmented regulatory approaches.

Among the key findings, only five out of 18 Member States currently have a legal definition for agrisolar (APV). Environmental Impact

Assessment (EIA) requirements vary significantly across countries, creating uncertainty for both project developers and farmers. In addition, inconsistent support schemes and unclear eligibility under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) continue to limit farmers' access to financial support.

The six policy dimensions offered in this tool are highly transferable in helping EAGER defining regional policy status and regulatory gaps in the coming semester, as well as monitoring the policy instrument progress in a later phase.

In line with SolarPower Europe's recommendations, the [EAGER project](#) helps regional policy makers in forming a better understanding of APV, supporting regional government in developing a clearer definition of APV, improving the current management of relevant policy, and finding innovative financing by intensive cross-regional learning within the partnerships.

Through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and policy learning, [EAGER](#) contributes to creating a more coherent and enabling policy environment for APV deployment, supporting both the clean energy transition and the long-term sustainability of European agriculture.

[Source of the report: HERE](#)

NEWS FROM BELGIUM

Electrifying Farms with Solar Energy

On the 9th of December 2025, a stakeholder meeting within the frame the project EAGER was organised in Het Krekelhof, Belgium.

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The goal of this stakeholder meeting was to discuss a novel good practice in our province related to the Strategic Project Opgewekt Pajottenland (see stakeholder meeting 3 in September).

As a pilot, a self-driving tractor equipped with swappable batteries has now arrived in the Province of Flemish Brabant (region Pajottenland). The meeting focused on its implementation, testing and the integration of (A)PV to ensure renewable energy supply.

Previous discussions highlighted that implementing solar energy projects remains challenging, with public opinion being a major barrier. We believe that rolling out test cases can help build public support and increase acceptance. The narrative should emphasise the positive impact on the local community, positioning farms as key players in the energy transition. The electric tractor case fits perfectly within this framework and offers opportunities to advance farm electrification.



Prior to the hybrid meeting, participants visited and attended a demo of the innovative tractor. During the meeting:

- Local farmers involved, timelines, and communication plans were presented.
- Practical arrangements, such as transport between farms, were discussed.
- Participants brainstormed on data collection for electric charging, usage, and field parameters. Electrical data will be linked to field usage.
- Best practices and experiences were exchanged among partners.

Finally, the group reflected on the broader implications of this test case for farm electrification and its link to solar energy and agrivoltaics. A well-monitored pilot can help convince policymakers to support larger implementation projects and roll-outs.



Date: 9th December 2025

Location: Het Krekelhof, Belgium

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GOOD PRACTICES

Speed Dating Event for regional partnerships: Connecting Gastronomy Hosts with Organic Farmers

The eco-model regions (Öko-Modellregionen) in the Rott & Inn area are part of Bavaria's BioRegio programs, which aim to expand organic farming and strengthen local bio-product value chains by connecting organic farmers with local gastronomy, restaurants, hotels, schools, and hospitals. A key challenge in the Rott & Inn region is the communication gap between farmers and local gastronomy. This gap makes it difficult for farmers to sell their fresh, organic products within their communities and limits the development of a sustainable local supply chain in local gastronomy.

Recognizing this challenge, the eco-model region of Rott & Inn introduced a free Speed Dating event to connect farmers (suppliers) with local gastronomy (buyers). The event involved five nearby regions, with seven local farmers showcasing their organic products to seven managers from the local gastronomy sector. This 1:1 meeting format allowed farmers to present their products at fixed tables while managers rotated between them. After 10 minutes, a bell rang, signaling managers to move to the next table, to ensure that they can meet multiple suppliers in a short time.



APV pilot project over a vineyard in CIFP San Gabriel

The increase in global temperature is modifying the climatological conditions of winegrowing areas, changing the growth and development patterns of the plant, affecting the production and quality of the grapes and, consequently, of the wine. The introduction of solar panels in vine growing fields has a dual function, on the one hand to produce energy and on the other to provide shade for the plants, protecting them from excessive irradiation and high temperatures.

Current technology makes it possible to automate the photovoltaic installation and to program the movement of the solar panels based on the need for shading of the vines, which is the main objective of the study. In the experimental project CIFP San Gabriel, an installation has been made on an elevated structure to allow the normal development of the plant and the access of the usual machinery for the management of the crop.

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The main stakeholders in the development of this project are a startup company specialized in APV (Powerfultree), wine growers and winemakers (CIFP San Gabriel), as well as an energy company (Repsol). However, since viticulture is an activity of great economic and social importance in the region, the public administration -such as the town hall and the provincial council-, has participated in the project by disseminating the project. Additionally, the national government is financing two larger projects base on this prototype.

Energy community of La Serna, Palencia

Energy consumption for the provision of public services—such as street lighting—in the context of a small town with limited economic resources represents a significant investment. In this regard, energy generation through renewable sources can play a fundamental role. While meeting energy needs, it also reduces consumption costs from the conventional grid, producing clean energy.



Current photovoltaic technology has the advantage of being installable on almost any infrastructure. For this reason, the residents of La Serna decided to place solar panels on the roof of an agricultural warehouse. With the installed capacity, they are able to supply the necessary energy for the town's lighting and other public services.



As part of the energy community, the residents of La Serna own the photovoltaic installation and the energy production it generates, with shares ranging from 1% to 5%. Out of the 120 inhabitants, 90 participate in the project.

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EAGER Partnerships and Communication Channels

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, regional development agencies, agriculture representatives, NGOs and energy agencies. Together we represent varied views across a range of stakeholders and interests providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and policy design. The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering nine nations within the Interreg Europe Program area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries.

University of Applied Sciences Landshut (TZE) - Lead partner , Germany		https://www.haw-landshut.de
Public Institution Lithuanian Innovation Centre (LIC), Lithuania		https://www.lic.lt
Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (RARR), Poland		https://rarr.rzeszow.pl
Agricultural and Agrifood Technological Center (ITAGRA), Spain		https://www.itagra.com
Palencia Provincial Council (PALENCIA), Spain		https://www.diputaciondepalencia.es
National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (NPA), Lithuania		https://nma.lrv.lt

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Nuovo Circondario Imolese
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<https://www.nuovocircondarioimolese.it>

Regional Energy Agency of
Pazardjik (REAP), Bulgaria



<https://reap-bg.eu>

Municipality of Strelcha
(STRELCHA), Bulgaria



<https://strelcha.bg>

Catholic University of Leuven
(KU Leuven), Belgium



<https://www.kuleuven.be>

Municipality of Ruhstorf an
der Rott (RUHSTORF),
Germany



<https://www.ruhstorf.de>

Provincial Development
Agency (POM) Flemish
Brabant, Belgium



<https://pomvlaamsbrabant.be>

Municipality of Bačka Palanka
(MBP), Serbia



<https://backapalanka.rs>

Institution "Zakarpattia
Regional Development
Agency" (ZRDA), Ukraine



<https://zakarpattia.agency>

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EDITORIAL

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