

# THE DARKER SKY PROJECT

## AN OVERVIEW OF OUR FIRST YEAR



The Interreg North Sea Project DARKER SKY kicked off with a clear mission: supporting municipalities and ports to protect biodiversity with the implementation of light-reduction solutions balancing environmental concerns with the needs of people and cities. Over the past year, we've made significant strides towards that goal.

### Follow along our journey towards darker skies!



#### Bringing experts together to combat light pollution

Tackling light pollution requires bridging gaps between fields of expertise and borders. We brought together experts from astronomy, ecology, lighting design and municipal planning to establish an interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration.



#### Creating a monitoring framework

A main achievement: Creating common methodologies to monitor light pollution and its impact on biodiversity at our pilot sites. Once developed into guidelines, it will help municipalities assess how artificial lighting affects local communities and biodiversity.

2023



#### Co-designing lighting plans

For the modifications of the lighting infrastructure at our pilot sites lighting plans are developed. At several sites we finalized plans in co-design with local administrations, while other sites continue with the involvement of the local community.



#### Pre-measurement at pilot sites

With the monitoring framework in place, we started with the pre-measurements at our 9 pilot sites, implementing and testing our protocols. Collecting light and biodiversity data to establish a baseline before lighting modifications.



#### Raising awareness

Through workshops, we encouraged municipalities and communities to look at their lighting infrastructure in a new light - one that not only considers human needs but also the environmental impact. Aiming to put light pollution forward on the agenda of local authorities.

2024



#### WHAT'S NEXT?

#### Lighthouse demonstrators and policy integration

As we close the first year, we are preparing for the next main phase: finalizing the planning and construction of our *lighthouse demonstrators* - environmentally sound lighting solutions at our pilot sites. We will also focus on policy exchange aiming to foster the integration of light pollution reduction strategies into regional and national policies and policy-driven processes and initiatives.

Interreg  
North Sea



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## DARKER SKY

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[www.interregnorthsea.eu/darker-sky](http://www.interregnorthsea.eu/darker-sky)