

Julie Ewald – 09/05/2017

Comments for Launch of Perdixnet

Thank you, Michael for the introduction and to the whole team who organised this wonderful launch of the Perdix Portal. The organisation of this event has been first rate and we have a very impressive range of artwork to admire in addition to our portal.

I do not want to hold you very long but I have been asked to just cover a bit of the thinking that has gone into the Perdix Portal.

The portal sets out to meet two goals. Firstly, it illustrates how to use technology to provide conservation on the ground across Europe and beyond. This goal has been part of what has kept ESUG together for some time and it is shared by IAF. Most of us who work on “Conservation through Wise Use”, know that the way to make progress is to get information on how best to manage species and habitats to land managers on the ground. To do this that information needs to come in the language that land managers use. Few Polish farmers will access a site in English, and even fewer English farmers will access one in Polish (as an American farmer’s daughter, I know the truth behind these statements). Moreover, due to central coordination of the portal, the ideas from different countries cross-pollinate. English biologists may have conceived conservation headlands, but German farmers saw the added value of harvesting ‘Blumenstreifen’ for biomass after the game-bird breeding season.

It also needs to be obvious to those farmers how to measure success, in a way that can be done by the farmers themselves or hunter colleagues. Those land managers should understand how to change their management based on those measurements, in order to reach their own goals. By demonstrating how to achieve such adaptive management, the Perdix Portal has fulfilled its original second goal.

However, thanks to a North Sea Region INTERREG project started at the same time, we now have the option to compare methods of modifying land management and measuring success across countries. That could enable standardisation on the best practices and best measures for use in other regions, even beyond the European Union, as Perdixnet is in Ukrainian and

Russian languages. Who knows, perhaps we may help other parts of the world to improve their agriculture with less devastation to their biodiversity.

So by organising project work from international level to local level, with national level coordination of local languages, Perdixnet is achieving three goals: firstly knowledge transfer from scientist to manager and country to country; secondly tools for adaptive management at local level; and thirdly international collation of the information on success gathered in standardised ways. That in turn gives scope to improve the whole system, and perhaps even adaptive governance of agri-environment policy, in a virtuous cycle.

We hope you get the chance to have a go at seeing what the Perdix Portal consists of now on the screens available to us here. Robert and I stand ready to help you with that. The information on the Perdix Portal will expand, with the results of ongoing research and demonstration projects on Grey Partridge conservation contributing to it in the future. We also hope it serves as template for other projects covering other important conservation topics in the future.