



# What is happening in Europe on Volunteering?

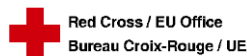


- 2011 is European Year of Volunteering
- 3 strands
  - European task Force
  - Alliance of NGOs
  - European Parliament working Group
- Many conferences –
- 2 key documents



# EYV 2011 Alliance

- Alliance Steering Group**



## Wider Alliance





## Important documents

- Communication from the Commission –realised on Monday
- P.A.V.E from the Alliance



- They will set the parameters for volunteering for the next 10 years
- They may help to remove barriers
- Improve quality
- Reduce bad practice and exploitation
- Show the value of volunteering
- Get more people involved
- Help with further funding?

# Volunteering in Parks

- 2 European funded projects using Grundtvig to develop learning and good practice and supporting the development of volunteering in Protected areas





# European Volunteers in Parks

- To promote the culture of active citizenship
- Develop infrastructure for volunteering and remove barriers
- Improve volunteer management
- Help park managers understand the value and importance of volunteering
- Create opportunities to volunteer in other countries





- Workshops
- Exchanges 19
- Website and learning platform
- Publication
- Park staff contact with volunteers
- Network of Volunteer co-ordinators







# GRUNDTVIG Multilateral Project (2011-2013)

- **Aim to advance existing approaches to Lifelong Learning**  
through conservation volunteering at a European level and  
to find means of consolidating these as integrative parts of  
protected areas' volunteer management
- **to create highly skilled volunteer coordinators**  
who can deliver effective opportunities for local people to  
volunteer in their local park administrations
- **to reach a higher quality and acceptance of informal  
lifelong learning**  
through volunteering and to improve the required  
support through professional volunteer  
management and a higher public valuation

# Project partners

1. EUROPARC Atlantic Isles (UK)
2. BTCV (UK)
3. Rodna Mountains NLP (Romania)
4. EUROPARC España (Spain)
5. EUROPARC Deutschland (Germany)
6. Federparchi-EUROPARC Italia (Italy)
7. The Association of Lithuanian state parks and reserves (Lithuania)
8. Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia (Latvia)
9. EUROPARC Federation (Germany)
10. The Environment Agency of Iceland (Iceland)

# Project aim I

- **highly skilled volunteer coordinators** in European protected areas who can deliver
  - effective opportunities for people to volunteer in protected areas,
  - sustainable high quality and efficient volunteer management in protected areas

# Project aim II

- **learning opportunities** for volunteers, park staff and hosting protected areas that enhance
  - practical and vocational skills,
  - communication,
  - inter-personal and project organisation skills,
  - opportunities for volunteers und park staff to broaden their horizons in educational and cultural terms



# Project aim III

- promotion of the culture of active citizenship (volunteering in parks as active and creative means of being European citizens)
- higher park and public awareness about the value of volunteering
- higher quality and acceptance of informal lifelong learning through volunteering

# Work package 1: Project Management

## **EUROPARC Germany & all other project coordinators:**

- General project management
- Kick-off meeting, 2 days, Germany
- Mid-term meeting, 2 days, Italy
- Final meeting, 2 days, Latvia

# Work package 2: Training of volunteer coordinators

## **BTCV (UK) & EUROPARC Germany:**

- Workshop I, 4 days, Romania (basic vol. management)
- Workshop II, 4 days, UK (train-the-trainer)
- Workshop III, 4 days, Spain (train-the-trainer)

# Work package 3:

## Tutoring in foreign parks - Exchange of park specialists

**The Environment Agency of Iceland & specialists, single parks, project coordinators in all countries:**

- In total: 18 specialists
- 5-21 days per exchange

# Workpackage 4:

## Learning material for volunteer coordinators

### **BTCV (UK)**

- Collection and comparison of existing volunteer management learning material and methods in European protected areas
- Compilation in a guidebook



# Work package 5:

## Quality standards for volunteer management in European protected areas

### **Rodna Mountains NLP (Romania)**

- Research on existing quality standards for volunteer management in parks
- Formulating common quality standards

# Work package 6:

## Communication & Dissemination

### **EUROPARC Federation & project coordinators of all parks**

- Public relation work on national and European level
- Relaunch of [www.volunteers-in-parks.eu](http://www.volunteers-in-parks.eu)

# Work package 7: Research on impact of volunteering in European protected areas

## **EUROPARC Federation & subcontractors & representative parks**

- Research on basis of scientific literature and interviews in representative parks with volunteers, park staff and representatives of local communities (administration, NGOs etc.)
- Summary of the results in a report

# Work package 8:

# European Year of Volunteering

# 2011

**Latvia & subcontractors & Single parks in each country as venue and/or event partner, all project coordinators**

- In each participating country one event in 2011 for promoting volunteer management in protected areas, plus one event in Brussels





- Training of trainers on Volunteer management
- Production on guide to volunteer management in protected areas







The European  
Year of Volunteering  
2011



# ***Our Products and Services... . . . ... ....What we do***





## *Products and Services*

- Shops
- Aisles & Shelves
- Store managers, sales assistants, after-sales



The European  
Year of Volunteering  
2011



Allenheads – Mineyard - ne  
Ashford - se  
Auchin - sc  
Aylesbury - se  
Ayr - sc  
Bangor - wa  
Bangor - ni  
Barnsley - yo  
Bedford - ea  
Belfast - Beech House – ni  
Birmingham – Aston - cs  
Bishop Auckland - ne  
Bristol - Bower Ashton - sw  
Brockworth - sw  
Camborne – Pengegon - sw  
Cardiff - Forest Farm - wa  
Carlisle - nw  
Catsfield - se  
Caversham - se  
Cheltenham - sw  
Chester-le-Street - ne  
Chesterfield - em  
Chichester - se  
Coatbridge – sc

Colchester - ea  
Coleraine - ni  
Consett - ne  
Cromford - cs  
Cumbernauld - sc  
Denny - sc  
Derby - em  
Doncaster - cs  
Dunfermline - ne  
Dunham - ne  
Eartham - se  
Ebbw Vale - wa  
Edinburgh - sc  
Exeter - sw  
Fife - sc  
Foucaussie - sc  
Gainsborough - em  
Gateshead - ne  
Gloucester - sw  
Grangemouth - sc  
Hebden Bridge - yo  
Holton Lee – Poole - sw  
Hull - yo  
Kendal - nw

Leamington Spa - wm  
Leeds – Hollybush - yo  
Leeds – Skelton Grange - yo  
Leicester - em  
Liverpool – nw  
London – Croydon - lo  
London – Dentford - lo  
London – Dulwich - lo  
London – Twickenham - lo  
London – Kings Cross - lo  
Londonderry - ni  
Maidstone - se  
Manchester – nw  
Milngavie - sc  
Munlochy - sc  
Norley - nw  
Northampton - em  
Norwich - St Ann Lane - ea  
Nottingham - em  
Paisley - Renfrewshire - sc  
Penketh - nw  
Penzance - sw  
Peterborough - ea  
Peterlee - ne

Petworth - se  
Pex Hill - nw  
Plymouth - sw  
Pontypool - wa  
Preston - nw  
Radcliffe - nw  
Ravensthorpe - yo  
Reading - se  
Rhydymwyn - wa  
Roche - nw  
Salisbury - sw  
Sheerness - se  
Sheffield - cs  
Skewen - wa  
South Shields - ne  
Southampton - se  
Southwater - se  
Stafford - wm  
Stirling - sc  
Sunderland - ne  
Swansea - wa  
Swindon - Beaver House - sw  
Telford – cs

Torquay - sw  
Toryglen - sc  
Trafford Watermill - nw  
Trowbridge - sw  
Tuckingmill - sw  
Uckfield – se  
Wakefield - yo  
Wallingford - se  
Washington - ne  
Well - yo  
West Malling - se  
Whitefield - nw  
Wigan - nw  
Workington - nw  
Wrexham - wa  
Yeovil - sw  
York - yo

How many 'shops'? – How many  
offices

130 Offices

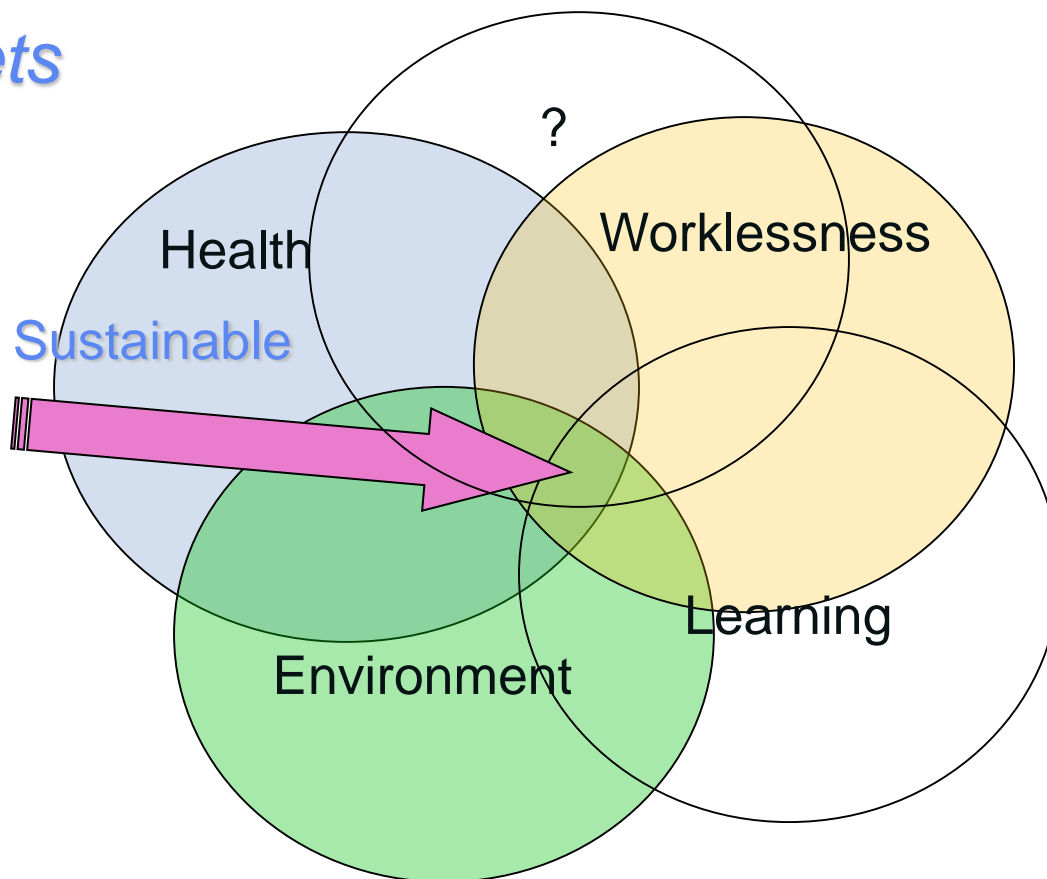


## *Strategic Outcomes*

- A better environment
- Environmentally active citizens
- Improved health & wellbeing
- Employment and skills for the future

## *Markets*

Investing in Sustainable  
Futures





## *Investing in a better environment*

**“Better environment” means many things to many people:**

- Improve the quality of green space and public places – matching our expertise with local priorities to find best solutions
- Maintain and create Carbon sinks
- Reduce heat islands
- Increase and protect Biodiversity
- Conserve landscapes – from National Parks to pocket parks
- Develop sources of local food for local people



*75,000  
places*

## *Investing in Environmentally Active Citizens*

**As a result of our support and encouragement, people will think and act differently;**

- environmental action has broad appeal - aim to generate a step-change in active participation in the community
- a mix of opportunities that result in more economic and social returns
- promotes environmental justice – working across social boundaries, empowering the most disadvantaged to tackle the poorest environments



*1.5 million  
people*

## *Investing in improved health & wellbeing*

**Encouraging people to use the environment to influence and improve their health;**

- **Reconnect people with their local environment**
- **Training and employment solutions that build self-confidence and self-esteem**
- **Increase personal wellbeing – natural workout**
- **Offer reasons to get out into green space**



*500,000  
fitter & healthier*



## *Investing in employment & Skills*

**Learning & skills are vital for civil society, where informed citizens can sustain better environments and stronger communities;**

- **Provide practical learning outside the classroom**
- **Accredited learning and qualifications**
- **Help develop skills for self-reliance**
- **Leads to Job outcomes**



*50,000  
jobs*

## *Strategic Track Record*

Enrich the lives of one million people through involvement with BTCV **815,028**

Improve the biodiversity and local environment of 20,000 places **70,100**

Actively support 5,000 community based groups **8,111**



## *Products & Services*

- Conservation Holidays - home and abroad – weeklong and weekends
- Midweek Groups / BAT – project teams, often led by volunteers, doing practical work
- Community Support teams – direct volunteering teams led by BTCV on community based projects
- VO Programme - volunteers looking for work experience & personal development in the sector








The European  
Year of Volunteering  
2011



- Green Gym – An initiative getting people to exercise through practical conservation work
-  volunteering initiative for young people
- Community Network – BTCV's support network for Community Groups
- Wellbeing comes Naturally – lottery funded project to work with those with mental ill health
- Other initiatives - Work with ex offenders, refugees, asylum seekers, special needs etc.



- Health & wellbeing  
- Active citizens  
- Jobs



- **Adult Education** – In partnership with FE Colleges for the provision of formal accredited training - Castle, Plumpton, Chichester, Cornwall - funded through the SFA (ex-LSC)
- **New Deal** – (Flexible) variety of Jobcentre Plus contracts aimed at getting people back to work – moving to the new Work Programme
- **Foundation Learning** (ex-E2E)
- **DWP** - Work Focused Volunteering, Community Task Force, Future Jobs Fund
- **Other Regional/Local initiatives** – ETN, Your Development



- Learning & skills  
- Health & wellbeing  
- Active citizens  
- Jobs  
- Better environment





The European  
Year of Volunteering  
2011



## Other Initiatives

- BEC
- GreenFlag
- Beach Wardens
- Tree and wildflower nurseries
- TRUE
- Environmental Education - Skelton
- Healthy Neighbourhoods
- Corporate EAD's
- Earn your Travel Back
- Natural Talent (Scotland)
- BTCV's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Carbon Army
- Green Heroes







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## Outcomes

- Improved volunteer experience
- More volunteering
- Awareness of park staff
- Challenges and issues raised
- New project







- Development of network of environmental volunteering organisations

Conservation Volunteering Alliance ( CVA)





# Big Green Weekend

- 21-23 October 2011
- 32 projects in 10 different countries so far
- Going for impact in media
- Message is much of Europe's nature is managed by volunteers
- Google map locates all the projects
- Others welcome to join
- Will happen again next year

