

ELECTIONS FOR A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPARC FEDERATION



EUROPARC
FEDERATION

Who will be the 1st Youth representing Europe's Protected Areas?

BACKGROUND

Since 15 years EUROPARC is leading European programs to promote the engagement of young people in Protected Areas. The **EUROPARC Junior Ranger Program** was launched in 2002 as a pilot project embracing four partner parks. In 2016, the program involves around 80 Protected Areas across 20 different countries, working with ~5000 youths every year. An increasing number of young people (aged 13-17) involved in Junior Ranger programs turn youth (18+) and are keen, motivated and passionate about their PAs and want to stay involved. **"We want to be heard"** was the clear message from youth to PA managers at the EUROPARC Youth Conference 2013. Youth called in 2013 and again in 2015 for EUROPARC and its members to provide greater opportunities for them to participate in parks governance, to develop programs for youth and provide better networking opportunities.

Therefore EUROPARC developed an outline **Youth + program** to provide skills and experience in leadership, advocacy and communication, to enable young people to more fully take part in the governance, management, activities and support of protected areas. Additionally EUROPARC is now seeking to provide such a leadership and training opportunity through a youth representative on EUROPARC Council.



Youth Conference 2013 Hungary © Gabor Nagy

ROLE of the YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

- Assist and advise the Council on how to oversee the work of the EUROPARC Federation;
- Bring extra insight to Council: a youth perspective to identify and solve problems arising from the changing agenda for biodiversity and sustainable development in protected areas;
- Work with the Directorate, as necessary to provide regular reports to the Council on the development of the Youth + programme;
- Represent the EUROPARC Federation, where appropriate - in dialogue and exchange with youth organisations and networks at the European level;
- Assist EUROPARC to increase involvement of young people its decision-making and in the work of protected areas;
- Share information and provide feedbacks to youth in protected areas across Europe;
- The Youth representative should attend at least 2 council face to face meetings per year.

The Directorate and Council will provide induction information and a mentor to support the youth representative in the course of its mandate.

EUROPARC will cover travel and accommodation costs for the participation to relevant meetings and events.



Youth+ Camp 2015 in Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park (Spain)

REQUIREMENTS

- Be between 18-25 years at the submission of the application;
- Have been part of a Junior Ranger programme or have undertaken relevant and regular volunteer work in a Protected Area member of EUROPARC. Have been a participant in the Youth Conference (2013) and/or the Youth+ Camp (2015) is an asset but not considered as indispensable.
- Be highly motivated, willing to learn and have a good English; this engagement should be an added value in the curriculum of the candidate and not causing negative impacts on his/her involvement in university or others;
- Be officially supported by his/her protected area of origin.

MANDATE

The Youth representative is elected for 2 years, and its mandate lasts until the end of the mandate of the current EUROPARC Council (October 2018). The youth representative can be re-elected once if the age requirements are still fulfilled.

How to apply:

Candidates to this position must submit their application **before the 4th April 2016**, sending an Application form, a motivation letter and a short video message (3 min max) to introduce themselves, their motivations and to present how they are willing to contribute to the work of the EUROPARC Council.



Youth delegates on stage at the EUROPARC Conference 2015 © Jakob Kaspar

Election procedures:

- Once the applications received, a jury, composed of representatives of the EUROPARC Council and Directorate, will evaluate the candidatures and select those suitable for the position. The selection will be made taking into account the fulfillment of the requirements and the quality of the application submitted.
- Successful candidates will be informed, and their video and motivation letter will be made available on the EUROPARC website.
- All participants of the Youth Conference 2013 and the Youth+ Camp 2015 will then be invited to express their vote.
- The elected candidate will be announced in early May and invited to attend the **EUROPARC Council Meeting from 27th June to 1st July 2016 in the Cinque Terre National Park in Italy.**

Are you willing to apply?

- submit your application online **on this page**
- send your motivation letter and your video via wetransfer to **d.dechanterac@europarc.org**

This should be received by us **before the 4th of April 12:00 (GMT)**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

For further information, please contact Damien at **d.dechanterac@europarc.org**



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EUROPARC Junior Ranger Programme