



EUROPARC
FEDERATION



Siggen Seminar Report

Youth Involvement in Protected Areas
18-21 March 2019



Participants:

- 3 EUROPARC Staff
- 1 Professional facilitator
- 19 Participants: from 10 countries, representing protected areas, regional and local authorities, environmental education NGO and a private business. Two youth representatives were among the delegates.

Objectives:

Review what is currently happening in terms of youth involvement in PAs across Europe
Identify current needs, expectations, challenges and ambitions of Youth, PAs and Rangers.
Find out and propose solutions, review current programs, propose new actions and initiatives
Focus on JR, Youth+ and Youth Manifesto. Agree and further develop tools, programs and initiatives:
EUROPARC level and Park level.

Working method:

Participatory approach, peer learning, share case studies, present EUROPARC work and guidelines, group work, learning exchange, games, spending time together...

Tuesday 19th

- Round of presentations - Participants introductions and presentation of EUROPARC activities and priorities
- Participants' expectations: word cloud results



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Thematic session: Identification of challenges, expectations and needs - in terms of young people involvement – from the perspective of both: young people and protected areas.

Young People	Protected Areas
<p style="text-align: center;">NEEDS & EXPECTATIONS</p> <p>Outdoor, Health and wellbeing: Guidance and support in using nature to live better. Appropriate clothing and food. Lots of outside activities. Do and see new things.</p> <p>Learning and working: Use of outdoors and volunteering as part of educational curricula - Get information and experiences recognised at academic level. Improve leadership skills and get support in facilitating processes. Have paid opportunities in protected areas and rural areas (not necessarily connected with the PA management). Get work opportunities as a follow up of PAs schemes for YP.</p> <p>Social and Fun: Want to have fun together – opportunities for escapism and social life. Meet likeminded other young people</p> <p>Contribute to change: To be involved and have a meaningful role. Opportunities to express themselves Opportunities to make a difference: be in a position to make major changes for the future. Get recognition for the role and contributions. PAs to be more creative and innovative: in the way they support YP and in the opportunities they offer for YP engagement. Decision makers to be more responsive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEEDS</p> <p>Learning and working YP looking for opportunities for apprenticeship and progression into work; Opportunities for social volunteering.</p> <p>Support and funding: More support and promotion: managers should recognise the importance and value of investing and working with young people. Incentives to take part in projects</p> <p>Tools and knowledge: How to involve and get interest from young people disconnected from nature? Need to measure attitude, make surveys. Need toolkits and clearer picture. Agree indicators to use citizen science, environmental education programs, self learning... Better understand YP and their relation with PAs. Develop strategies to capture YP views Need better communication: positive messages to encourage young people to be active citizens YP inputs required over the whole process not just on spots...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHALLENGES</p> <p>Lack of accessibility: mental – physical</p> <p>Managing to make a living in their PAs Lack of paid jobs in rural areas</p> <p>Connecting with PAs authorities, public institutions: the unknown. Overcoming lack of confidence. Changing bureaucratic and slow systems.</p> <p>Creating real youth lead projects and initiatives</p> <p>Staying connected with each other and with nature. Finding time – busy lives</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHALLENGES</p> <p>Funding and capacity Irregular budget and frequent cuts on education sector, together with lack of long term planning, causing interruptions in programs with young people. Lack of staff and resources. <i>Curriculum doesn't support our work – lack of opportunities: parents, teachers, gardens??.</i></p> <p>Decision makers: High levels in authorities not pushing for young people involvement and environmental education. Decision makers lack in understanding young people.</p> <p>Young people: Some young people are not interested or don't care much; Many young people disconnected with nature Active young people tend to over commit and be very active also on other sectors, have lot of pressures also from school, sports... No time.</p> <p>Expertise – knowledge: Not easy to capture YP views. Easier to work in schools rather than outside.</p> <p>Society attitude: Overcoming negative perceptions of the outdoors: wilderness, cold, dirty, uncomfortable. Fear of the outdoors. Bad communication: negative messages about nature/risks/... those get easily reinforced</p>

Main outcomes:

Young people are looking for better access to the outdoor, for opportunities to live and start working in their rural and protected areas. They are interested on social activities, international exchange and are willing to have fun together. They are also willing to contribute to make a change for a better future and to play a meaningful role in their PAs. Still they face difficulties in having their voice heard, in getting recognition and opportunities to act.

Protected areas have difficulties in involving young people mainly due to a different internal order of priorities – with youth not really at the top - and lack of resources and capacities. There is also the current attitude of society that doesn't push young people to reconnect with nature, sending negative messages and overcrowding their agenda. Specific trainings for PA staff and toolkits would be useful.

The Junior Ranger Programme

Introduction and presentation of the EUROPARC Junior Ranger scheme



Learning exchange: presentation of **case studies** from participants, focusing on challenges faced, needs, and solutions.

- Youth Ranger Scheme. Tom Moses, Pembrokeshire Coast NP – Wales.
- National Junior Ranger program in Estonia. Kerli Koue, Environmental Board – Estonia.
- An educational program for sustainability with schools. Milene Matos - Portugal.

Thematic session: Towards a more effective JR programme: ambitions, challenges and solutions. The following ideas and proposals were developed and presented by participants:

- Create a safe online space/platform for Junior Ranger: where they can get to know each other, feel connected to young people across Europe; share ideas and issues. It has to be very engaging to ensure it is used! The platform should also contain: educational tools for schools; educational tools for PAs; tools for interested young people;
- EUROPARC to develop a registration process for Junior Ranger programmes: access to branding, social media and network platform; access to supporting material, handbooks and guidelines; updates and monitoring of activities and impact. Option to charge a small fee to parks.
- Have national and regional (international) JR camps to meet the increasing demand for international events. Challenges: language, costs, staffing.
- Increase the number of PAs involved in the JR programme: more countries and more parks. Raise the awareness across the network, share case studies, regular communication, present benefits.
- Create a Junior Ranger award scheme: local, national and international. Applications to be made only by JR on their own! JR to vote for it.
- Lobby at European level to obtain a EU scheme to bring all young people (11-12 years) into nature for 1 day. Education providers will be encouraged to establish links with their PAs to arrange a visit. Support for activities will be provided. Need to lobby to have outdoors learning embedded in education and health services.

- Develop a European programme of annual scholarships and internships for young people. Learning/working exchanges opportunities.

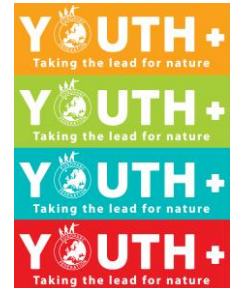
Wednesday 20th

The EUROPARC Youth+ program

Introduction about the Youth+ program: guiding principles and objectives.

Learning exchange: case studies from participants

- New vision for the engagement of young people in a periurban park. Liesbeth El Bazi, Landscape Park Bulskampveld – Belgium.
- The Zapovednaya Academy for Youth and the 2019 International Youth Congress. Victoria Kosmatova, Environmental Education Centre Zapovedniks – Russia.
- The Youth Advisory Board. Leonardo Cerno, Prealpi Giulie Natural Park - Italy.
- Next Generation vision. Jennifer Manning, Dartmoor National Park – England.



Thematic session: towards a more effective Youth+ programme.

Ambitions, challenges and solutions. The following ideas and proposals were developed and presented by participants:

Delegates were asked what they thought the goals of the Youth+ programme should be. These were collated and ranked, and the top three selected. For these three, delegates were asked what training they thought might be necessary to achieve them, as well as what initiatives may be required, what challenges and solutions might be faced and any other relevant issues.

Summary outcomes

Participants identified the followings as the main **priorities** for the Youth+ programme.

- This program should help to build up a cohesive and close-knit group of young people with a strong sense of belonging for their protected areas, an interest for nature and capacity to advocate and contribute to decision making.
- Through training sessions, practical activities and learning exchanges (including internships, volunteering, international events) the program should provide young people with adequate skills to live and work in their areas.
- The Youth+ program should help protected areas in securing better involvement of local communities, intergenerational exchange, the inclusion of youth perspective into planning and sustainability of action and plans.

In order to make the programme functional and improve youths' skills, specific **trainings** would be crucial:

- To improve communication: how to speak in public; how to make messages effective; how to represent/speak on behalf of your area; how to influence decision.
- To improve understanding and knowledge of protected areas roles, functions and management.
- To get skills on project development and management, together with the capacity of leading processes.
- Some trainings should be provided for staff for an effective management of the program: team building and group management; listening and mentoring; use of IT and communication; youth involvement.

Main actions needed:

- EUROPARC to build the identity of the program with guidelines, registration process, branding and communication support.

- PAs to get engaged in the programme and start ensuring representation of youth in their structures.
- Development of training material and implementation of trainings.
- EUROPARC and PAs to organise of international exchanges, events and online networking activities for young people involved.

Further details are provided in the following table:

<p>Aim 1: Belonging Create a sense of Belonging and Ownership. A friendship group and safe place for YP to meet, have fun and share interests and experiences.</p> <p>Training: For YP: Co-creating and communication skills; expertise/knowledge on PA (explore and know your area), how to represent/speak on behalf of your area. For Staff: Mentorship and team building trainings.</p> <p>Initiatives Have guiding principles of Youth+, with clear vision and mission. Build the identity of the program, also with clothing/logos. Regular exchanges, camps, online networks...</p> <p>Challenges and solutions: Co-design and co-creation Collecting opinions to inform and build group Consistency, maintenance of involvement How to communicate amongst each other Inclusive of community</p> <p>Anything else? Managing expectations of local community/stakeholders Support progression/links to next steps</p>	<p>Aim 2: Advocacy To be listened to and consulted in the management plans of protected areas. A section of PAs management plan should be dedicated to the vision of YP To ensure fresh input from YP are taken into account. To create pressure groups to best make changes and influence decision makers To get YP to raise awareness with other YP about their/other PA and help each other! Local communities – strong connections</p> <p>Training For YP: Public speaking; Public policies Presenting; PA induction; Media training For PA staff and boards about media use/access; how young can be involved and what they can contribute.</p> <p>Challenges Time Existing structures (Status quo) Communication Funding No buy in from senior staff and board</p> <p>Initiatives Peer to peer learning (with staff, communities and young people)** Make links with other advocacy projects – learn from their successes, challenges or join forces. Valued youth forums Better youth representation on boards that exist – ie a seat, presentations, documents and updates.</p> <p>Solutions ** Go into schools, reach out to other youth groups (YP are aware of). Get their views on management plans – better to come from youth – relate better. Digital x direct. Identify appropriate communication methods Influences. Use existing training resources – e.g. Participation Cymru (ask Tom!!) Local media awareness. Partnership Local elections- work to encourage YP to engage with local elections/politics – it’s an effective way to influence action</p>
<p>Aim 3: Skills development The Youth+ programme should give continuity to the JR programme, keeping YP dedicated and connected. (We don’t want to lose the JRs).</p>	

Should provide opportunities for YP to live/work/volunteer (& other benefits to their lives) in their area.
Provide skills for future jobs, with specific trainings, workshops and internships for YP.

Training

Best results from being trained by experts with appropriate skill set
Flexibility is required from trainers
Mentoring skills – useful

Initiatives

Online courses and webinars for the PA specialist and YP
Develop shared resource of training/lesson plan/templates identifying learning outcomes and activities to achieve them.

Challenges and solutions

Funding – Use existing resource/projects/funds
- New bids

How to implement. (Time, series of workshops, online, residential)
combine training
Crash courses
Residential courses can make better use of time

How to engage
Combine with attractive activities (adventure, unique experiences)

Resistance from (senior/older) staff
Help them see how they will benefit – make their job easier

Who to do the training delivery
Don't try to force really resistant staff
Make use of your "stronger" staff
Need enthusiastic and engaging trainers
Use younger staff/volunteers

Training for YP

Organisational/professional skills, inc responsibility, punctuality etc
Team work
Communication (social media, press releases, presentations, interpretation)
Influencing decision makers
Practical skills
Project development and management
Learning about special qualities
Planning activities
Leadership skills

Training for adults/staff etc

Leadership/group management/team skills
Involving YP – Youth led
Issues relevant to YP and hot to overcome. Different abilities and how to...
Using IT/other equipment
Listening/mentoring.
How to come along with changing world and work manners

The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto

Introduction by Alan Smith, Cairngorms National Park – Scotland.

- Implementing the Youth Manifesto: the experience of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Katy Foxford, Yorkshire Dales National Park – England.



The youth+ program and the Youth Manifesto are to be seen as closely connected, with the Youth programme as a good initiative to contribute implementing the ambitions expressed in the manifesto.

Thematic session: how protected areas and EUROPARC should implement the schemes and what procedures to subscribe the Junior Ranger program, the Youth+ and the Youth Manifesto? Participants developed the following proposals:

Junior Ranger Programme:

- Organise a survey online to collect data from members and have more updated information on the implementation of the JR program at local level.
- Set agreements with members interested to run the program. This should be broad and “light”. Should help to regulate the followings: outline programme regular feedback to be provided by members; contact persons; EUROPARC to provide guidelines, info on logo and branding, supportive material (case studies), templates for communication.
- Fee payment might be challenging to be put in place – still could encourage commitment and support quality services.

Youth+ programme:

- PA should register. PA should provide contact, annual updates and info, including strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned. EUROPARC to provide info about upcoming events and initiatives. Fee payment can encourage commitment and in exchange resources, use of logos, handbook (printed), access to international exchanges. Still an extra fee can be difficult for some PAs and associations.
- PA registration via online form, which would create a document about the PA/case study. Include section on wants, needs, support. Provide group pictures. Info to become accessible to those on Youth+ net. Provide also info on main group activities identifying the heart of youth+. Indicate how the PA is going to meet Y+ expectations and address interests / challenges. Link to social media and website. Info on how to facilitate exchanges, networking opportunities. Map to find others. Funding information and links to other projects.
- Contact info available to youth interested; pointers to youth+ projects in university locations and virtual contacts for those at university.
- Option for Youth+ to input on data: to help evaluation and getting feedbacks.
- Template case study page: pro, cons, projects, benefits, changes. Videos.
- Enews letter; merchandising; Y+ able to communicate to each other: what platform?

The Youth Manifesto

- Online form to collect the main activities and best practices taking place across Europe, displayed in an online map.
 - o Collect project title, type of activity, n° of people involved, age of groups, description, contact data, photo(s)
- Once system is in place, intense campaign with the youth involved to collect what has been done to date.

More ideas that were collected to promote the Youth Manifesto:

- Increase presence on EUROPARC website and stronger use of the hashtags.
- EUROPARC members to become manifesto ambassadors at local level
- Create a badge for parks / authorities / organisations to use in their websites, as a supporter of the manifesto
- Involve youth in the creation of short videos, challenging other groups to share what they're doing
- Assure presence at EUROPARC 2019, with examples of what has been achieved so far (involve youth)
- Provide clear guidance and support in the implementation of the manifesto.
- Explore link with the SDGs (Alan currently doing it in the CNP)
- Include the manifesto in the wider picture of other organisations
- Explore connections with schools or existing groups at local level

A campaign to deliver the Manifesto program in Europe's parks: Barbara Pais, EUROPARC Federation.

Participants were asked "What is missing?" in the Youth Manifesto visibility. Their answers could be gathered in 4 main areas:

<i>Higher validation and recognition</i>	<i>Increase visibility</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>New versions needed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spreading among ministries of education - send it formally to government and public bodies besides parks and PAs - make it law that it should be adopted by all bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - young people who will present the manifesto to local authorities everywhere (specially in places that were not involved in the process) - involve periurban and urban communities - work with clubs - it hasn't reached public schools (direct to students or teachers) - generally needs more advertisement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a page with a "to do list" - an "end image" on what it can become – to see the bigger picture and to stimulate youth - methodology for registering - monitoring process - practical examples for implementation, special ideas - implementation plan and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a periurban/urban version? - Different language versions ex Catalan and Finnish.

Thematic session: how can we better empower Parks, Youth and government organisations to implement and advocate for the manifesto? To understand how EUROPARC can better support them taking action, participants were divided into 3 working groups to work on each of the target groups, using an empathy map.

1) Park ranger Luca

What he thinks / Feels	What he sees	What he hears
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losing contact with older youth people • He wants to continue to work with youth • "Do I have time / money for this?" • "Where do I find young people? How do I engage with them?" 	<p>What: Bore young people hanging around the park; Ex-volunteers not involved Less and less young volunteers.</p> <p>Where: websites of NGOs who work with young people, social media, personal contacts working with yp elsewhere; mails from europarc about youth manifesto (not acting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From young people: there is nothing for me here; I want to do things, get skills and experience; I want a job; I want to be heard, I have ideas • From colleagues: How can young people help me? Do we have to work with them? what a waste of time; this is hard, not my job • From the boss: I can spare a ranger to work on this, we need to reach the young people; there is no money; I'd like you to do a project here.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the community: young people are causing problems; where are the young people?; we don't understand young people
What can he do	What can he say	What are the challenges (pains)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share youth manifesto with colleagues, youth groups, communities, schools • hold workshops in context of your PA – 1) Staff, 2) schools, groups of young people, 3) communities • support young people to engage with other groups – id. actions + put it in motion • support young people with advice, checklist, tips on what next • find experts to help • poll about young people, their needs, ideas 	<p>Questions for all: “Is the Manifesto true for you” “what else do you think?” “What would you like me to do?” What benefits programme has for PA, people, communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st steps are the hardest • Not everyone agrees • Some complaints “need more resources” • Not finding answers / people to get involved
What he gains?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people more engage in PA + Nature • YP get benefits • Social change benefiting all • Physical / mental health • Living/ learning/working issues addressed. No longer issues. • Happy ever after 😊 	

2) Young person involved in the Youth Manifesto project

What he thinks / Feels	What he sees	What he hears
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To live and work in the area • Connection with local area • Interest in the future sustainability • Dissatisfaction with current policy makers • Frustration about lack of public services and cost of life 	<p>What: Bore young people hanging around the park; Ex-volunteers not involved Less and less young volunteers. Where: websites of NGOs who work with young people, social media, personal contacts working with yp elsewhere; mails from europarc about youth manifesto (not acting)</p>	<p>From friends, parents/family, teachers, PA people: there are no opportunities. Why don't you move away?</p>
What can he do	What can he say	What are the challenges (pains)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the manifesto in a positive way through social media • Get in touch with other youngsters/ associations/clubs • Present it in universities, schools, local authorities and other groups of interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he can address friends • he can take any opportunity to speak about the manifesto: in schools, uni, local events • he can use social media, create films, podcasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effort, time management, energy waste • lack of understanding of the people we are trying to communicate to • lack of understanding of policies
What he gains?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction, self-realisation • Better environment to live in • More channels to implement the YM • A voice in the decision making process 	

3) A politician, male, 50y – Montgomery Donald Burns, the 1st

What he thinks / Feels	What he sees	What he hears
What matters to him is legacy and self promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to be seen in a good light • Progressiveness • News • Opinion-makers • Other politicians • Secret documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What: complaints; Demands; Article writers/ news anchors; Fake news comments on articles/ posts • from: Opposition; Businessmen; Stock market; Wife and family; their political party
What can he do	What can he say	What are the challenges (pains)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate better job than opposition • show they try to solve problems • gaining public & institutional support • lobby for the change • involve young people in what they do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • politically correct stuff • soundbite • to whom: other politicians, electors, crowd, media, economic forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk of bad image • accusation of having wrong priorities • throw money away (wasting tax money) • non-election
What he gains?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votes; get elected and have the power • New followers + support • Funding • Statute; Promotions; Personal benefits 	

Summary and conclusions

After the launch of the youth manifesto in September 2018, a lot of initiatives have multiplied in several countries, major attention given to the UK though. A system to collect and promote what is being done is missing. This system should be developed and implemented by EUROPARC. However, implementation in the field is more dependent on the direct work of the youth, protected areas and local politician. Therefore, the role of EUROPARC is supporting these targets to become strong ambassadors of the youth manifesto at their local level. Through the thematic session, participants analysed how we can approach these targets and inspire them to take action.

Better support and ideas for implementing the manifesto are clearly needed. EUROPARC should create new comms tools to show good examples of the manifesto's implementation, and provide the different targets inspiring "to do lists". Once system is in place, new social media campaign needs to be done.

Also important, is to better connect with the youth involved in the manifesto project, for the creation of new content, such as case studies, short films or eventually podcasts.

Evaluation from participants:

Feedback have been very positive in terms of networking opportunities, learning exchange, ideas generation, working and training methods. The seminar provided inspiration for future action, project development and guidance for better implementation of youth programs in PAs.

