



PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate release

Volunteer management in European Protected Areas

The EU-GRUNDTVIG Multilateral Project “Volunteer Management in European Parks” has come to its end after three years of international collaboration. Financed by a grant of the European Union within the Programme of Lifelong Learning/GRUNDTVIG, the consortium – consisting of European, national and regional networks of Protected Areas, as well as individual parks across eight countries – is proud to celebrate today the project achievements and its legacy for the benefit of “green volunteering” and Protected Areas in Europe.

It is amazing to hear Eveliina Nygren (volunteer manager at Natural Heritage Services of Finland) telling that she has delivered training to more than a hundred staff members developing volunteering in Finland, after having taken part in one of the project’s train-the-trainer seminar. The Natural Heritage Services of Finland has directly benefitted from the methods and contents delivered in the train-the-trainer seminar, one of several products of the EU-project. Stories like these show how the project has effectively contributed to ensure wider European capacity support for volunteer managers in Protected Areas all over Europe; a need clearly rose during a previous EU-Project “European volunteers in parks” (2008-10).

The EU-Project “Volunteer Management in European Parks”, with several national and international awareness raising seminars, with a research on the impact of volunteering, and with its wide communication activity, contributed to further a culture of active citizenship and lifelong learning in Protected Areas of Europe. Furthermore, delivering trainings, learning exchanges, and having produced a large number of innovative tools – among which guidelines and training material for quality management of volunteers – the project has directly supported volunteer coordinators in their daily work on the ground, and leaves a great legacy to continue improve volunteering across Protected Areas in Europe.

Dr. Elke Baranek, Managing Director of EUROPARC Germany, lead partner of the EU-project, highlights: “It is a great step forward having developed further possibilities for civil citizenship in Europe’s Protected Areas. With this project, the links between citizenship and learning opportunities in Protected Areas have been established, and we are looking forward to developing future cooperation and projects on this topic.”

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342 Words



Notes for Editor

Information about EUROPARC:

EUROPARC represents some 400 members in 35 countries, who themselves manage national, regional and nature parks, Natura 2000 Sites, biosphere reserves and marine Protected Areas: the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage.

Information and data about the Project:

Title: "Volunteer Management in European Parks"

EU Co-financing programme: EU-Multilateral Project in the Lifelong Learning Programme/GRUNDTVIG

Duration: 11/2010 – 10/2013

Partners:

- EUROPARC Germany (lead partner, DE)
- Rodna Mountains National Park Administration (RO)
- The Conservation Volunteers (UK)
- EUROPARC Atlantic Isles (UK)
- Environment Agency of Iceland (IS)
- EUROPARC Federation (DE)
- Foundation for natural landscapes Fernando González Bernáldez (ES)
- Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia (LV)
- Federparchi - EUROPARC Italia (IT)
- Association of Lithuanian State Parks and Reserves (LT)
- Estonian Environmental Board/EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section coordinator as coopt "silent" partner (ES, FI, SE, NO)

Countries: Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom

Main project outputs:

- Over 500 events on celebrating the European year of Volunteering (2011) reaching at least 20.000 European citizens across 185 PAs and 17 countries
- "Guidelines for high quality volunteer management in European Protected Areas" in all project languages
- "Study on impact of volunteering in European parks"
- 9 national seminars about lifelong learning and green volunteering in 9 countries.
- 48 trained volunteer coordinators from 9 European countries
- 18 learning exchanges of staff and volunteers among 15 Protected Areas and 7 countries

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www.europarc.org

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