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

- Shops
- Aisles & Shelves
- Store managers, sales assistants, after-sales
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 – Penegon - 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 - c
Dudley - wm
Dumfries - ne
Earlam - 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 – Dartford - lo
London – Datchet - lo
London – Twickenham - lo
London – Kings Cross - lo
Londonderry - ni
Maidstone - se
Manchester – nw
Mingulay - 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
Ponypool - wa
Preston - nw
Radcliffe - nw
Ravensthorpe - yo
Reading - se
Rhymney - wa
Rochdale - 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
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 measurable environmental, 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 in green spaces
- Offer reasons to get out into green space

500,000 fitter & healthier
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
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
• 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.
• 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
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 50th Birthday
- Carbon Army
- Green Heroes
Whole lot going on......
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