



EUROPARC Conference 2012 Genk

**Workshop: My park is your park.
What are the benefits of working transboundary?**

Case: Dutch-German cross border park Maas-Swalm-Nette



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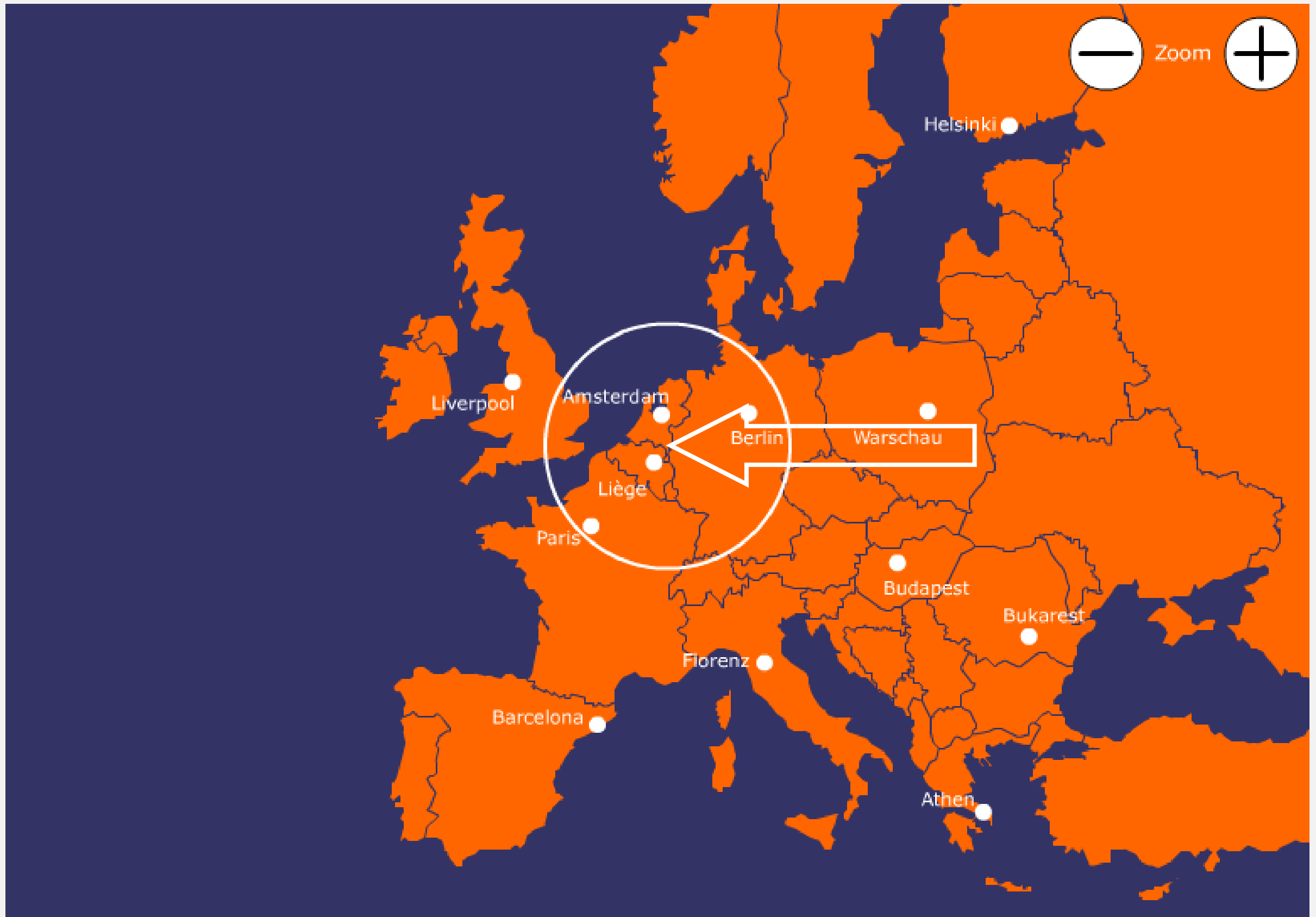
[**www.naturpark-msn.de**](http://www.naturpark-msn.de)

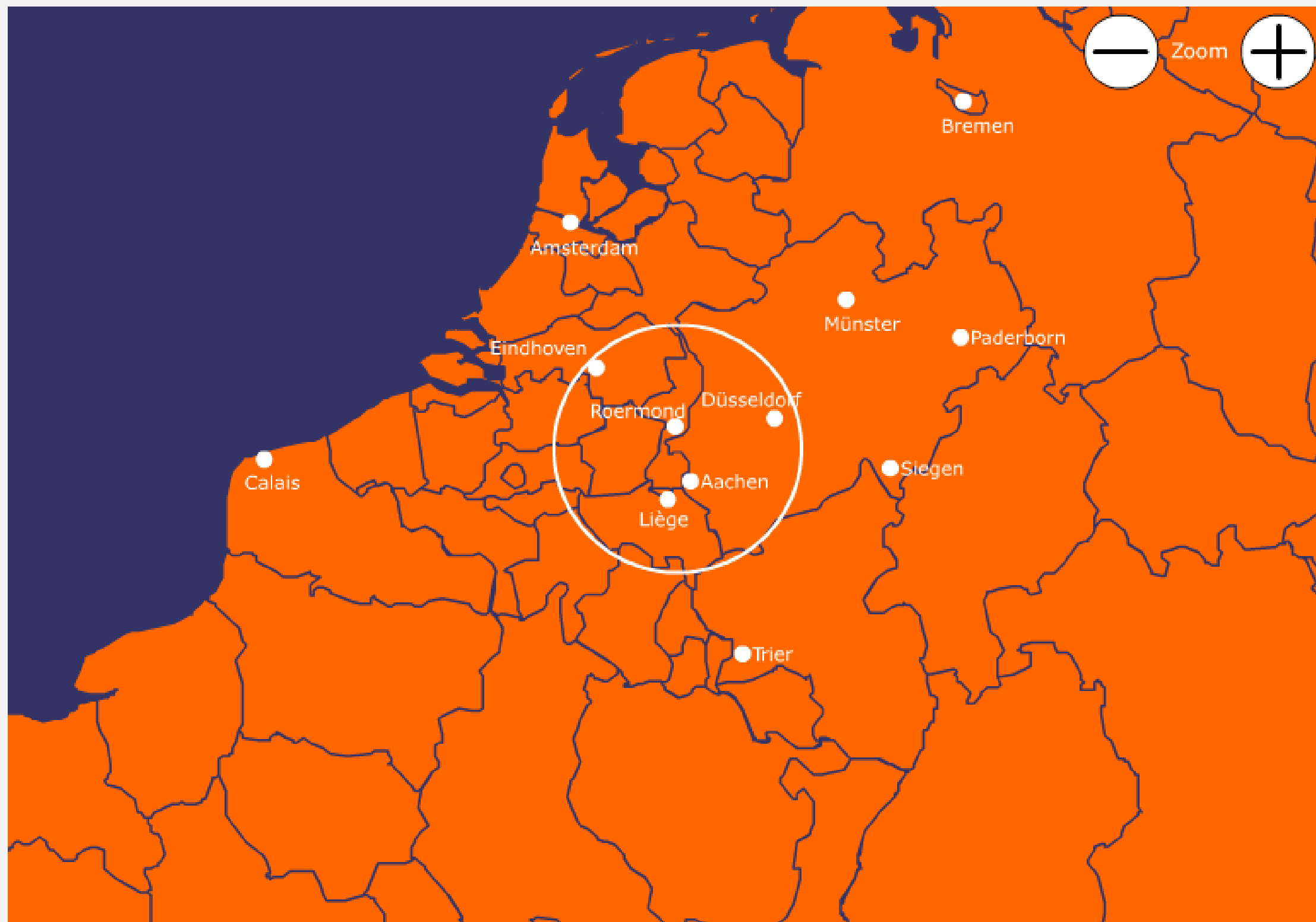


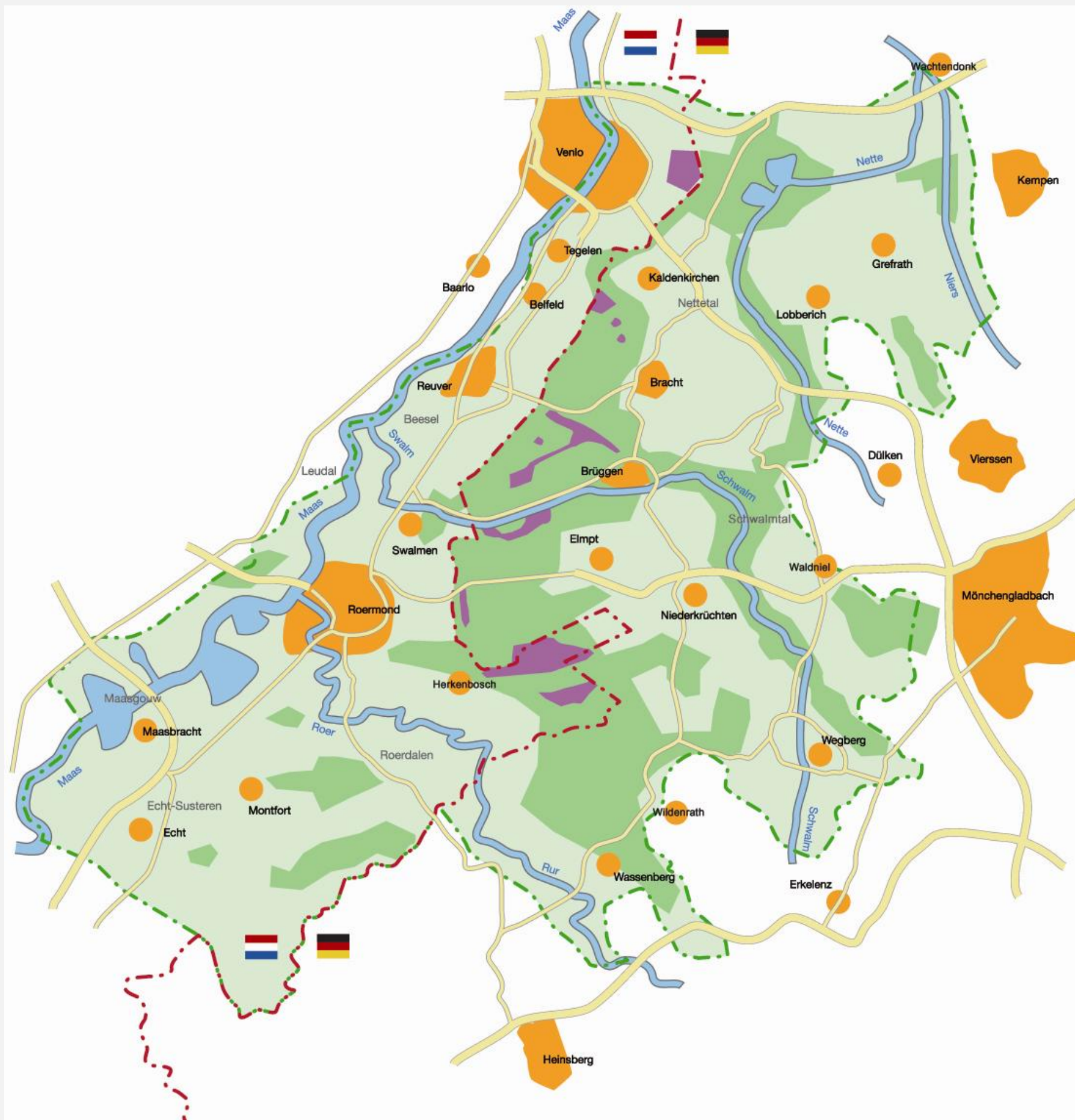
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The cross border park
is a special purpose
association formed by
the German association
nature park Schwalm-
Nette
and 7 Dutch
communities in the
Province of Limburg

Size:
800 km²

Inhabitants:
ca. 390.000

Rivers:
Maas
Nette
Niers
Roer/Rur
S(ch)walm



Characteristics

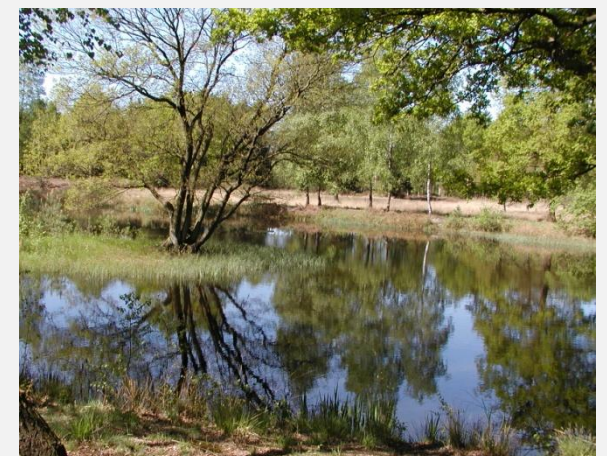
- Rivers, forests, lakes, heath land, moors and agricultural landscapes
- 10.000 ha big forest region (Flora-Fauna-Habitat-Directive and the Bird Directive, NATURA 2000) and national park De Meinweg in the Netherlands
- The Maas and the Nette play an important role for recreation, for tourism as well as for water depending species
- Within a radius of 100 km a potential of more than 7 million people live
- Several places with culturally and very interesting historical buildings and sites





History 1965 - 2012

- 1965 Founding of the **German nature park Schwalm-Nette** as an association by statutory regulations by four German districts (representing 17 German communities)
- 1976 **Enlargement** of the German nature park to the **Dutch-German cross border nature park Maas-Swalm-Nette** on behalf of a treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the federal state of Northrhine-Westfalia (management by an advisory board)
- 2002 Foundation of the cross border **association** Dutch-German cross border nature park Meuse-Swalm-Nette





Administration

- The cooperation, the policies and aims of the Nature park are determined by the **statutory regulations** of the association accepted by the participants in 2002
- The association is ruled and controlled by a **general board** (and the **board of directors**) representing the participants on both sides of the border
- A trans national **office** in Roermond
- Employees:
director (biologist)
project manager (agricultural engineer)
- The employees are **bilingual** and used to **live and work in both countries**





The general board

- 10 members (5 Dutch, 5 German) representing the 7 Dutch communities and the German Nature park Schwalm-Nette
- On **Dutch side members are professional politicians** of the participating community authorities
German side members are **elected and honoured members of the district council**
- Further the board consists of **5 advisory members** from national and regional authorities





The goals and aims of the cross border cooperation statutory regulations:

- Maintain and develop, reconnect nature and landscape
- Support and development of recreation and tourism
- Environmental education
- Support the Dutch and German cross border cooperation and participants
- To create identification with the nature park Maas-S(ch)walm-Nette





Tasks of the office

- Interface for cross border contacts and the exchange of information
- Bringing together project partners
- PR for the cross border nature park MSN
- Planning, organisation and coordination of projects and their (international) fundraising (INTERREG-Programmes)





Finances 2010 –2014

The basic budget for the office is about 220.000 € per

- 25 % Federal State of North Rine-Westphalia
- 25 % Province of Limburg,
- 12,5 % German Nature park Schwalm-Nette
- 12,5 % 7 Dutch communities
- 25 % Funds through project management





Projects of the cross border nature park MSN

Projects	project period	Budget (€)
INTERREG III A MSN in the picture	2002-2008	815.000
INTERREG III A Ecological Network of Wetlands	2004-2008	1.200.000
Reintroduction of Red deer in the ecological corridor	2004-2008	112.000
INTERREG III A Former II. WW Air base Venlo	2005-2008	90.000
People2People Projekt TRAP Beesel-Brüggen	2009-2010	50.000
People2People Projekt EcoTop MSN	2010-2011	45.000
INTERREG IV A National park region MeinWeg	2009-2012	950.000
INTERREG IV A Water.Walking.World	2010-2012	435.000
INTERREG IV A Natural Border Waters	2010-2012	<u>4.070.000</u>
	total	7.767.000,- €





Results cross border projects

- 1 Transportable expositions of the nature park
- 2 Network of 20 visitor's / information centres
- 3 Annual international tree planting day for schools
- 4 Annual nature park working day
- 5 Environmental education programmes for D-NL guides
- 6 Bilingual publication of cross border event/excursion programme
(more than 600 events)
- 7 Bilingual internet site (60.000 visits / year)
- 8 And a restored and (re-)connected nature (ponds, fens, rivers and heathlands) and corridors for species and visitor infrastructure

Wasser ist Leben im Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette
Water is leven in het Grenspark Maas-Swalm-Nette



Naturparktag Grensparkdag
Sonntag 28.08.2005 Zondag 28.08.2005
mit Aktionen zum Thema met activiteiten rond het thema


Wasser Water

am/ bij het Naturparkzentrum Wachtendonk Haus Püllen -D
bei der /bij de NABU Naturschutzstation Wildenrath -D
beim/ bij het Watercentrum Heel (Beegden) -NL
sowie an anderen Besucherzentren im en bij andere bezoekerscentra binnen
Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette het Grenspark Maas-Swalm-Nette

Das aktuelle Programm erfahren Sie unter www.naturpark-msn.de
Kijk voor het actuele programma onder www.grenspark-msn.nl

euregio e
IVN Consilienschap Limburg
Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette
Grenspark

Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette Grenspark



21X
Besucherzentren
überraschend grenzenlos
Bezoekerscentra
verrassend grenzeloos



Openbaar Lichaam Duits-Nederlands Grenspark Maas-Swalm-Nette : Activiteiten - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Adresse: <http://www.naturpark-msn.de/index/lang/nl/top1/Activiteiten>

Activiteiten

alle evenement-vormen elk evenement-thema's

zoeken naar van tot land
Fietstocht 01.03.2005 22.03.2005 beide landen zoeken

Het zoeken naar **Fietstocht** heeft de volgende resultaten opgeleverd (7 / 781):

Fietstocht door het grensgebied
fietsexcursie / landschap
dinsdag, 01.03.2005 tijd: van 14.30 tot 18.00
Fietstocht door het Duits-Nederlands grensgebied rondom Venlo-Tegelen-Nettetal-Schwalmal.
Trefpunt: D-Nettetal-Lobberich, Wewelinghoer Str. 151
Begeleiding: Klaus Nielebock
taal: NL, DE
overige: Gezamenlijke pauze in een café

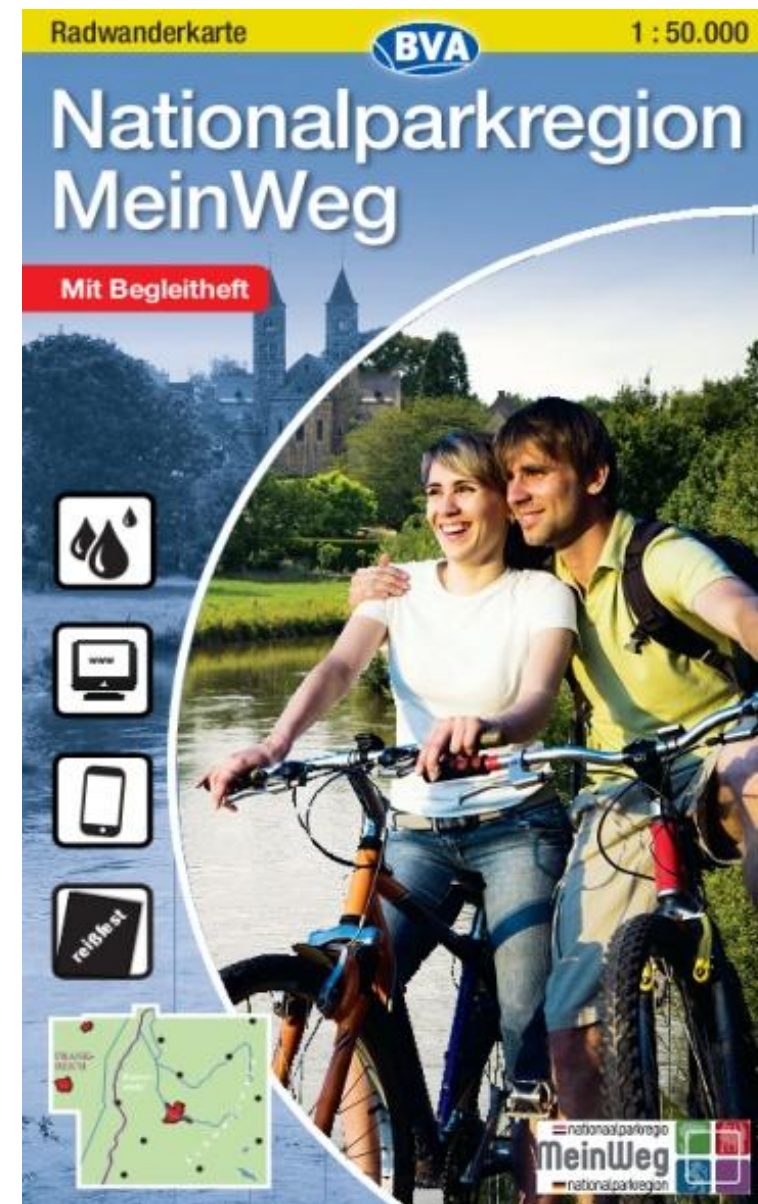
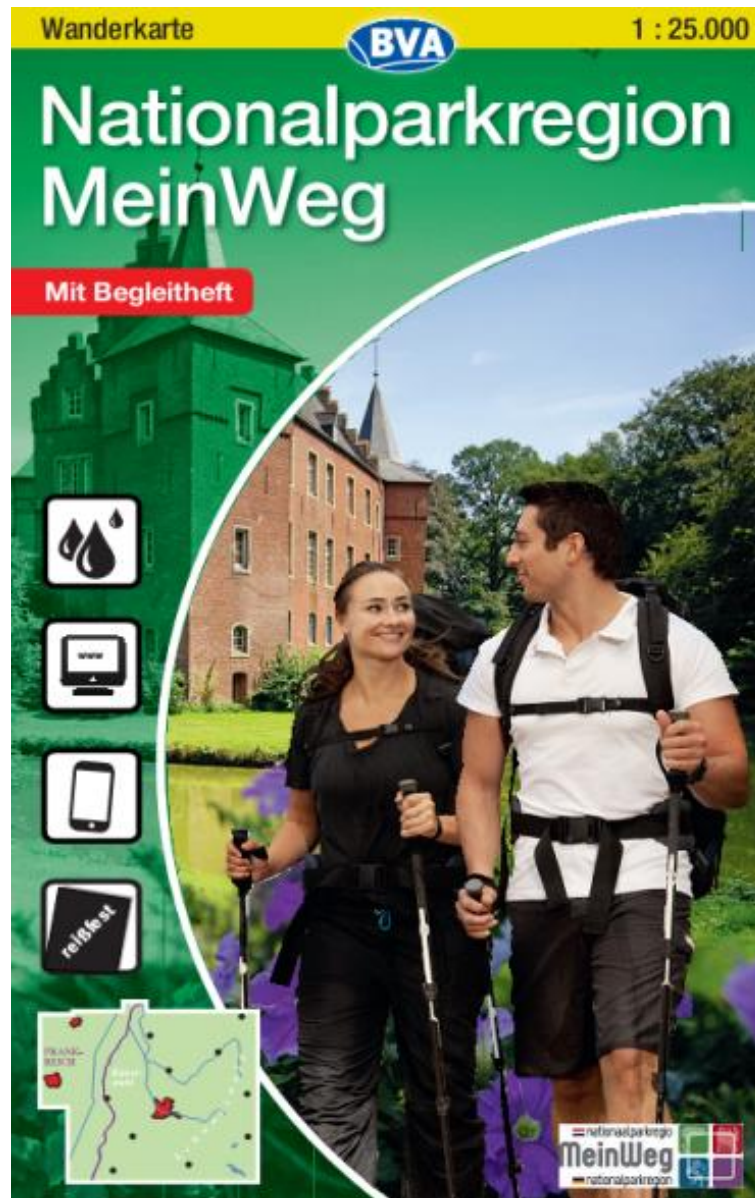
Stap op en fiets mee! Fietsen met de VN-Lobberich
fietsexcursie / natuur in zijn algemeenheid















Connecting Nature to Nature
is
connecting People to People





2007: Certified by the EUROPARC Federation as Transboundary Parc Following Nature's design

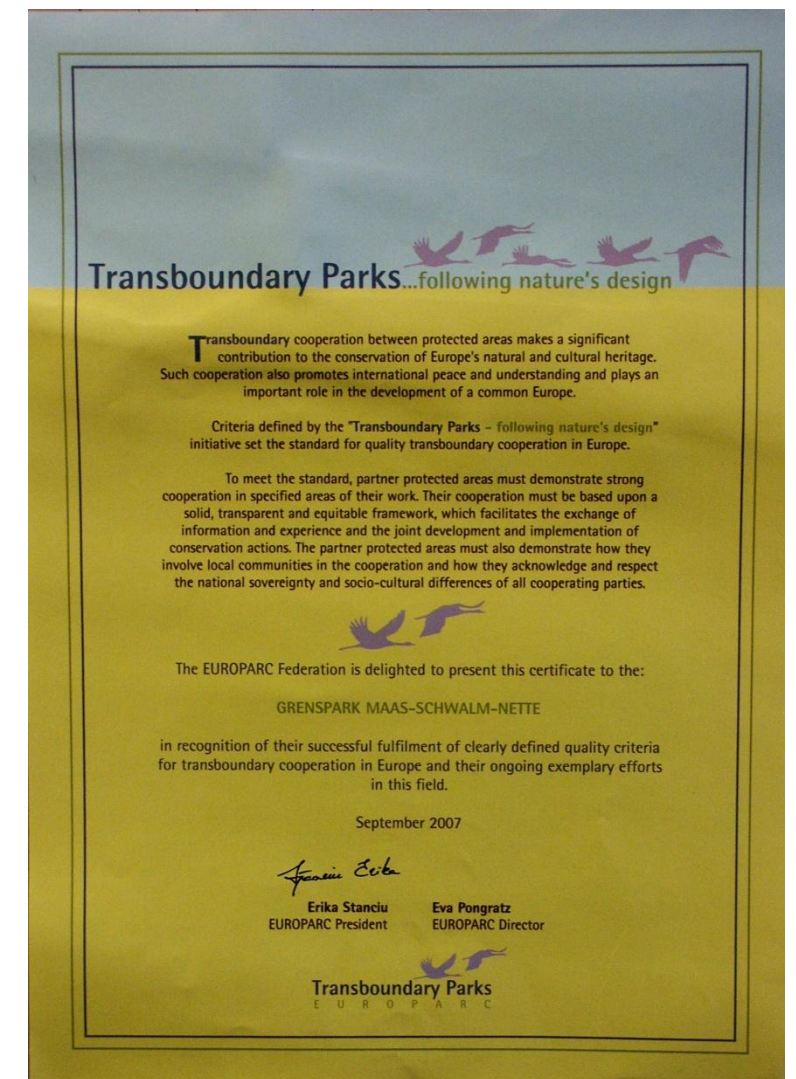
Verification proces

- Looking in the mirror
- Critical selfreflection

Visit of the verifiers

- Getting a good second opinion
- Experiences from abroad
- Strenghts and weaknesses
- Work to do: recommendations

2012: Reevaluation succesfull



Good to know for cross border cooperation

- Bilinguality helps you if you speak different languages
- Understanding of cross border similarities and differences in socio-cultural behaviour and societies are very important (even more then speaking the same language)
- Flexibility, patience and the wish to learn from each other

Succes

- Four eyes see more than two, four ears hear more than two, two people reach more than one
- Working cross border brings you new friends and opens your mind