



**EUROPARC Federation**

**Report to Council**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

**8\_ Working Group's report**

**Annex 1 "Health & Protected Areas"**

# EUROPARC Working Group: Health & Protected Areas

## Report 8.10.2012

### 1. Members of Working Group

- Matti Tapaninen, chair Metsähallitus, NHS Finland
- Nele Sober Europarc Nordic-Baltic Section
- Richard Blackman Europarc Atlantic Isles Section
- Bridget Finton Scottish Natural Heritage, UK
- Jan Woolhead Region Zealand, Denmark
- Lynn Crowe Sheffield Hallam University, UK
- Rolands Auzins Europarc Council representative

### 2. Implementation of roadmap of working group

- Desk study of good practices
  - ✓ Nordic – Baltic section benchmarking visit to Scotland, spring 2011
  - ✓ cooperation with Scandinavian project 'frisk i naturen' (health from nature), sharing good practices in webpage: <http://www.friskinaturen.org/>
  - ✓ decision to study and promote IUCN Healthy Parks, Healthy People platform <http://www.hphpcentral.com/> - recommendation to Europarc Federation and the network to use this as a tool to share good practices. European parks in global perspective.
- Go for resources – common project (Atlantic Isles and Nordic Baltic)
  - ✓ Workshop in Scotland, spring 2011. Result: draft of project plan
    - further planning in Finland in the planning project *Vire* . Good project plan, but unfortunately goals of funding programmes did not support international project. The project is now implemented in Finland with international dimension (OpenAir)
  - ✓ Workshop in Denmark, autumn 2012
    - draft project plan, based on findings from Scotland workshop. Under process.
- Parallel activities: formulate a message to governments, health sector, DG Health etc., identify partners and initiate dialogue with them
  - ✓ Implementation nationally, Work of WG has supported this (for example sharing of knowhow between Scottish Natural Heritage and Metsähallitus, Finland.
  - ✓ 'message of Europarc' has not been formulated. This is still a goal of WG

### 3. Connection to Europarc Strategy

- WG has given input to Strategy work in workshops and meetings
  - ✓ support also for N-B and AI Sections
- Recommendation to Federation (see memo from Copenhagen meeting)

4. Limitations to take work of WG forward

- The key limitation is connected to resources, both time and financial. Working Group has worked very efficiently whenever there have been possibilities for workshops and planning meetings.
- Work of WG could improve if health theme was better integrated to Strategy of Europarc and WG could then input better directly to the Strategy and its delivery.
- It has been very important to have two active Europarc Sections to support the work of Working Group and this is the key for further improvement in the implementation of roadmap.
  - ✓ challenge for the future is to widen the perspective of health theme to other Sections of Europarc

5. Main objectives for next two year period (more detail provided in memo from Copenhagen meeting)

- Study good practices from Baltic countries (this is not yet done)
  - ✓ update from Atlantic Isles and Scandinavia
- Workshop / Posters / presentations in next Healthy Parks, Healthy People World Congress
  - ✓ launch of a Europarc message
- Build up better connection to Europarc Strategy (delivery and next update of Strategy)
- Green Exercise Partnership (Scotland) – connecting with Area Health Boards to improve greenspace around hospitals. Connecting with doctors and voluntary sector to promote healthy outdoor activity – also relating to mental health (introduction and discussions)
- finding expertise and support from Health Sector to WG work
- work in cooperation with IUCN Health Task Force (Matti Tapaninen/WG is a member of Task Force)
- new Europarc seminar on health and nature. Continuation of Maribo seminar organized by Nordic-Baltic Section. AI and N-B Section organize together.
- launch of [www.hphpcentral.com](http://www.hphpcentral.com) webpage to Europarc network
  - ✓ if idea is supported by Europarc Council
- Further study about the idea of health Charter

Europarc Working Group 'Health and Protected Areas' is willing to continue its work for next two year period and asks Council permission to do so. WG understands increasing resource limitations of Europarc Federation. The idea is to continue the work with the same method as 2010 – 2012 period with strong support from Nordic-Baltic and Atlantic Isles Sections.

On behalf of Working Group Health and Protected Areas

Matti Tapaninen, chair