



# Action for youth in Parks



## Short project description

### **Context**

There is today a clear need to actively involve new generation in environmental activity to directly contribute to face global environmental challenges. Rangers, who are in charge of nature interpretation, conservation and environmental education in protected areas, are key staff who ensure young people have positive opportunities to engage in environmental activities.

Through discussion with IRF and with Rangers from European PAs, it was identified that Rangers need to enhance their role in youth environmental education. Many excellent programmes already exist, but there is the need to share views and to better coordinate efforts, finding common guidelines to improve the quality of their work with youths.

### **Project Objectives:**

The project is seeking to improve quality standard in the delivery of youth environmental education across Europe and, through a better coordination of European Rangers, to enhance opportunities for young people to participate in Junior Ranger activities and new youth environmental education programmes in protected areas. The project will seek to produce an agreed course of action, identify new project opportunities and a road map for future training of rangers in youth education.

### **Project description:**

The core project activity will be a four day participatory workshop which will take place in the Avnoe Naturcenter, an environmental education centre in Denmark. 27 participants will attend the workshop: representatives from National Ranger association, individual Rangers, Nature Interpreters.

The workshop will examine Rangers' training needs, enable the sharing of experiences and best practice of youth education, look at how to develop common guidelines for youth environmental programmes, deliver better focused training for Rangers and promote new projects for youth in parks. Participants will come from: France, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, UK, Hungary, Romania, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Spain, Slovak Republic.

During the workshop an identification of training needs, and a training needs analysis will be undertaken to enable Ranger Associations to explore future options to deliver further training for R in the field of youth environmental education. An experienced Ranger trainer, with support from the project partners, will professionally facilitate this workshop.

At the end of the seminar a final evaluation will be made to assess if the objectives have been reached and the expectations satisfied, and to highlight the learning outcomes.

A final project report showing the analysis of what is needed to improve the quality of youth environmental education, will be produced and distributed to the network of European protected areas.

**Project Timeline:**

- Project start: 22/08/2011
- Workshop: 07/11/2011 – 12/11/2011
- Project end: 21/12/2011

**Project Partners:**

1. EUROPARC federation (Lead Partner)
2. Danish Ranger Association
3. Romanian Ranger Association
4. International Ranger Federation
5. Scottish Countryside Rangers Association

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