



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N



Transboundary Working Group Minutes of the meeting 2nd October 2014 Killarney Ireland

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| When | 2 nd October 2014 at 3.30 pm |
| Where | Killarney, Hotel Malton |
| Participants | Leo Reyrynk (chair), Franz Haider, Rolands Auzins, Stefano Santi, Jakub Kaspar, Riina Tervo (secretary) and STEC-members Arnold Boer, Martin Šolar, Handrij Härtel and Arto Ahokumpu |
| | Excused: Hans Kiener and Petra Schultheiss |

Minutes

1. **Welcome.** Chairman Leo Reyrynk welcomed the participants and opened the meeting at 3.37 pm.
2. **Presentation of final re-evaluation form and documents (Rolands and STEC).** Comments received during the last transboundary work group meeting were added to the documents and they were sent to Directorate for proof-reading by Rolands. Final form and other documents need to be sent to STEC for final approval. **Petra, could you please send them to STEC members.**
3. **Draft of the flyer (prepared by Riina and Petra).** Riina presented shortly the contents and lay-out for flyer and roll-up: informative, rather short texts, plenty of photographs. Petra has written the contents and Riina has commented, the design is made by Metsähallitus's graphic designer. The drafts of the products will be sent to members of the working group and STEC for comments. According to the lay-out of the flyer (and other required information), **Rolands and Jakub will ask for printing costs – 3000 and 5000 pieces – in Latvia and Czech Republic.** Aim is to get the flyer printed and the roll-ups produced in 2014. Flyer would serve well as electric version, where the pages are

leafed through – not scrolled down. **Riina finds out which program produces such a form. The possibility to get finances from the directorate for the printing costs will be checked by Leo.**

4. **Common project for EUROPARC (transboundary) parks (“Plastic soup”, prepared by MSN). Leo will send the draft** within few weeks for comments.
5. **Strategy for approaching new members.** Flyer will assist, but action is needed. Stefano and Martin are having their network of potential members in southern-Europe, and they will be in contact with them. Jakub knows three potential parks, which do not have the resources at the moment. The coming Central-European-section (replacing Czech Republic) has good possibility to work on this, but it takes time. It is time that the new leader of Thayatal NP will need also, but his attitude towards re-newing of the membership is positive. There was a transboundary meeting in Paanajärvi NP, Russia in September, where Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Russian and Finnish transboundary areas got together to share best practices. EUROPARC’s Transboundary Parks –programme and certification was presented there by Arto and Rolands. One potential member, Curonian Spit (Lithuania-Russia), was the outcome of that seminar. It was pointed out, that potential members should be always invited to annual TransParcNet –meeting.

Leo will update the list for potential members and define approach (who, what, when, deadline) for contacting those nature protection areas, and **send it** to TransParcNet -members.

6. **Work plan 2015.** In addition to what was listed above: planning a common project and contacting new members. STEC will have a meeting in January. The aim is to go through and update all the evaluation documents and prepare for the verifiers’ training to be held in June 2015 prior to TransParcNet -meeting. STEC will send a requiry to TransParcNet to collect a list of potential verifiers. **STEC needs Roland’s and Petra’s attendance in January’s meeting and monetary support for getting together.** Verifiers’ training and TransParcNet –meeting 2015 will be in Bayerischer Wald, Germany. **Leo will ask from Hans Kiener,** if he has got project-money for arranging these events.
7. **TransParcNet meeting 2015 in NP Bayerischer Wald.** Next TransParcNet –meeting will be hosted by Bavarian Forest National Park (DE) and Sumava (CZ) National Park in June 9th-12th. Verifiers’ training and next transboundary working group meeting will take place next to it.
8. **Other issues.**
 - Certification. STEC has decided that the certification is valid for five years. It is possible to postpone the re-evaluation with one year, but with good reasoning only.
 - Ecoregion Julian Alps will get re-certification award in the evening.
 - Other common project –ideas will evolve with the new programme period starting up (Interreg, Life +). It would be important to share and introduce project plans in the next TransParcNet –meeting.
 - Rolands has been the representative of Council in TB WG, the new council should nominate a new person. The council will be asked to nominate a new contact person for the Transboundary Work.
 - Transboundary work was shown in the general assembly, but the theme is not too obvious in the EUROPARC’s new strategy. Anyhow it is good, that there are active members forming workgroups.
 - Leo met Lasse Lovén, the leader of the sustainable tourism working group. Charter and transboundary programme are having different procedures and prizes. It is under discussion,

what kind of cooperation could evolve. **Leo and Lasse will make comparison of the two programmes and send it to Arto.** Ecoregion Julian Alps will apply for charter – it could be done as one area or as two areas. There will be example to learn from.

- Digital platform for video conferences to be used within TransParcNet is not yet found out, **Riina will ask from Kari Lahti the news.**

9. Closing of the meeting. The chairman thanked everybody for participation and closed the meeting at 4.30 pm.

In Inari, Finland, 13.10.2014



Leo Reyrink

Chair of Transboundary workgroup

Maas-Schwalm Nette Natur Park

Riina Tervo

Secretary

Metsähallitus

