

EUROPARC Conference 2017

Good for business, good for biodiversity & good for the planet : case of study

Natural regional Park of Livradois-Forez' network

7th september 2017



l'Auvergne, **côté soleil levant**





UROPA









Part II of the ECST in Livradois-Forez : a strong network

« Ladybirds of Livradois-Forez » : the collective intelligence at the service of sustainable tourism in Livradois-Forez

Informal network : part 2 of the ECST + brand "Valeurs Parc naturel" (French federation certification)

2016 = 50 businesses involved

- Accommodations: B&B, cottages, hotels, holiday villages, campsites;
- Heritage sites: museums, castles;
- Natural sites : volcano, lake ;
- Outdoor activities : mountain bikes, treetop adventures, golf

In progress: Tourist offices, travel agencies + 15 new businesses

Strategic position: discovering the treasures of Livradois-Forez with the ladybirds











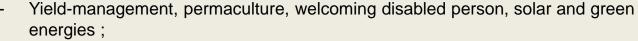


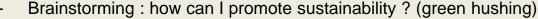
Ladybirds of Livradois-Forez : tools 1/2

Group training plan



- Study trip (1/year);
 - E.g..: promoting our local produces Monts d'Ardèche Park
- Discovery visits: « unbeaten tracks » (infamous tourist offers)
 - Heritage, biodiversity, ...
- Informal meetings :
 - « speed-meating »: kind of speed-dating between farmers and hosts;
 - « Sustainable tourism snack » (open-door days)
- Lessons :





E-tourism: social network, e-reputation, OTAs, ...

















Ladybirds of Livradois-Forez: tools 2/2

Group's Tools:

- Sustainable management information: practical records
 - 12 subjects: water, electricity / energy, waste, cleaning products, ...
 - To hosts:
 - Information and local contacts:
 - 2 « energy cases » : water (tap-nozzle, flowmeter, ...) and electricity (green / LED bulbs, wattmeter, ...)
 - To customers / visitors : awareness campaign/communication
- Discover information:
 - « Treasure trunk »: hiking maps, books about landscapes, local novels, binoculars, family games, ...
 - Wildlife guide and posters (birds, insects, flowers, trees, ...)
- Goodies and affiliation tools: slab, certificate, pen, badges, ...
- Shared space: online Drive, Facebook page (forum)

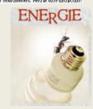


























Ladybirds of Livradois-Forez : towards excellence ?

Partnerships:

- Commercial partnership:
- All inclusive offers (// Part 3),
- Activity diversification,
- Professionalization, ...





Solidarity:

- Swop: knowledge, equipment, ...
- Volunteering project: architectural renovation, communal garden, educational pond, ...

Projects in progress:

- Zero waste holidays: doggy bag, waste repurposing challenge, land 'art exhibition
- Mobility challenge: promotion of alternative transports for travellers (partnership: car share, local bus, rental bike...)
- CSR and Local food: drive of local food for customers, edible plants routes, "top chef challenge", trend of healthy food, ...















Communication: green hushing?

Individual support: Help tourist businesses and visitors through alternative and responsible acts and practices (strategic goal)

- Special expert assessments: website ergonomics and tree-views;
- Personalized support : strategic position, communication plan ;
- Brainstorming about green hushing, ...



- Specific promotion of Ladybirds in tourist edition / e-communication ;
- Actions to promote Park Livradois-Forez and sustainability (fair, exhibition)
- Partnership with travel agencies

Affiliation tools

- Slab, certificate, pen, badges, ...
- Shared space : online Drive, Facebook page (forum)

Partnership for communication plan:

- Link between other certifications :
- Promotion with our networks: French federation, ATD, ...
- Press relations: #IY2017
- Events to promote sustainable tourism : Instagram challenge











Conclusion

Benefits

- Creation of local partnerships between businesses
- A real and strong solidarity into the network
- Reducing the negative impacts of tourism industry and creating job / economic benefits

Difficulties

- Mobilisation of businesses
- Lack of time
- Different kinds and sizes of business
- Livradois-Forez : a big territory
- French bureaucracy
- Get indicators of results

Challenge-opportunities

- Customer trends : responsable holidays
- Internet and social media : easier to communicate
- Professionalization of businesses
- New topics to work on: accessibility, healthy food, carbon offset, GLOCAL position (thinking glocal, acting local)

Threats

- Competition between businesses inside the network
- Cut of budget to coordonate the network
- French Institutional evolution

