EUROPARC CONFERENCE
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for People and Nature in Europe
Modern Park Rangers – improving skills for effective Ranger teams

Frank Gruetz,
European Representative IRF
President ERF
Case Study 1: Ranger Training in Germany
Part 1: Ranger Training
“Governmental Approved Manager for Nature” (since 1998)

- The first non-academic profession in nature conservation
- Established in 1998 as a governmental recognized profession based on further training

Institutions: Governmental approved provincial academies for nature and land management/ for agriculture/ for forestry and private agencies

Duration: 640 hours; 9 – 18 months (extra-occupational)
Fee: approx. 1.000,- € + teaching material + accommodation
Required qualifications:

- Professional qualification in a “Green Profession” (woodsman, gardener, farmer,… but also Biologist, Geographer,… ) + 3 years of working experience
- Or a comparable qualification (e.g. many years of voluntary activities in nature conservation, many years working as Ranger,… )
Training topics:
1. Basis of nature conservation and land management
2. Visitor information and visitor management
3. Nature conservation and land management measures
4. Economy, law and social topics
Part 2: Bachelor’s degree course in “Land management and nature conservation”, Advanced training: „Management of protected areas“

- Established in 2014
- Qualification: Bachelor of Science
- Institution: University for sustainable development in Eberswalde/ Germany
- Duration: 3 years
- Tuition fees: yes, depends on university
Required qualifications:

- Entrance requirement for higher education (grammar school, high school)
- Or a professional qualification in a profession which is similar to the study + 2 years of working experience
- Or a qualification which furthers the study (e.g. master craftsman’s diploma,…)
- Or a similar qualification which was received in a foreign country
- A work placement is recommended
Curriculum:
• Compulsory subjects of the study (e.g. ecology, land management, …)
• Management of protected areas
• Education for sustainable development/ environmental education
• Project elaboration (project has to be linked to the duties of rangers)
• Final assignment (has to be linked to the management of protected areas)
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