Youth Involvement in PAs
Seminar Objectives:

- Identify current needs, expectations, challenges and ambitions of Youth, PAs and Rangers;
- Review what is currently happening in terms of youth involvement in PAs;
- Find out and propose solutions;
- Review current programs and initiatives;
- Propose new actions and objectives for future;
- Focus on JR, Youth+ and Youth Manifesto.
Questions:

• Why are we doing all this?
• What are the benefits of Youth involvement?
• Are we going on the right direction?
• Are we implementing what we committed / what we have been asked?
• Are we producing concrete results?
• How can we better guide the process?
The origins:
In 2002 – EUROPARC and 4 pilot parks, start the project “Junior Rangers: in action to preserve Europe’s Natural and Cultural Heritage”
60 students 12-18 years
Financed by the Bavarian Ministry Regional development and Environment.

Objectives:
Cerate a network of young people who contribute to nature protection acting as advocates of their PAs.
Raise awareness about natural, social, cultural and economic values of PAs.
Promote friendship among youngsters...
Progresses:
In 2006 20 parks involved. Among those: Bavarian Forest NP, Naturwacht Brandenburg, Lahemaa NP, Aiguestortes NP, Retezat NP, Yorkshire Dales NP, Muritz NP...

Some questions and challenges for future already identified soon after the initial project:
What follow up program?
Trainings for Staff?
Set up standards and framework at European level.
JR logo and name protection
Grow the network and manage it...
In 2008 we organised a summit in the Bavarian Forest to work on the future of the JR program:
JR guiding principles - JR program components - JR international camps - Networking and brand protection.

A follow up seminar organised with Rangers in Denmark in 2011: looking at youth involvement, JR guidance, Ranger needs and future actions.
Youth Declaration 2013:
• Youth representation: representation in boards, more JR opportunities, regular youth initiatives.
• Greater park network: among parks and with the public and private sector (investors).
• Green education in schools
Objective: Increase the awareness and participation of Youth and Junior Rangers

Action: Engage the next generation in Junior Ranger and Youth+ programmes to provide opportunities for youth leadership and advocacy for PAs.
THAKING THE LEAD FOR NATURE
Youth Camp 2015 - Aiguestortes National Park

The Aiguestortes Declaration:

We want to help and get more involved in our PAs! We can:

• Be powerful and passionate advocates for nature and PAs
• Volunteer to support environmental education programs;
• Give youth perspective on projects and policies;
• Be the voice of nature;
• Learn and work together and be the next leaders for nature conservation.

Too old is too late...
Youth representation:

• Since 2016 Youth representative within EUROPARC Council: Laura Peters;
• EUROPARC Youth Council (Prealpi Giulie, Triglav, Bavarian Forest, Drent-Friese Wold, Nuuksio)
• Youth actively part of EUROPARC Conference
INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Development of the Youth + programme

The YOUTH+ Programme supports youth to enable them to work with and represent Protected Areas, providing:

**Leadership** skills: to play an active role in supporting the work of PAs;
**Communication** skills: to speak on behalf of PAs
**Nature Conservation** skills: to contribute to the management of habitats and species in PAs
**Advocacy** skills: to become young ambassadors for PAs

- Guiding principles;
- Youth+ Handbook;
- First events lead by Youth
The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto
Living - Learning – Working in PAs
A call for change in Rural Communities and Protected Areas

It is a source of ideas and inspiration for decision-makers in Protected Areas and rural communities to ensure the involvement and empowerment of young people.
Investing in Young People

Young People make up to 20% of EU population! They are the decision makers of tomorrow…

The EUROPARC Federation’s Junior Ranger Programme seeks to assist parks to involve young people aged 12-18 in the work of the park. In 2016, the programme involved:

- 80 Protected Areas
- 19 countries
The Junior Ranger Programme:
Educational programme
Addressed to youth residents in PAs
Involving small group
Rangers/Mentors crucial knot between park and young people
Partnerships with schools, scouts, env org...
Contacts with parents and friends
Regularity and continuity of activities
Activities:
Regularity and continuity – minimum 5 days programme;
Outdoor and nature related, practical conservation work, cultural heritage and social activities...
Get involved in the international network;
Participate in networking and training events: workshops and trainings for Rangers, camps and events for JR.
INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Practical Experience
Make sure you have fun doing what you do
Build a team of friends
Emotions play an important role!

Explore... Learn... Take Care!
**From where to start?**
The Park to endorse and lead the process
Make a plan: 3 years
Start with a small group
Regular activities (5 days a year)
Create partnership with schools, scouts, environmental associations...
JR program part of the ordinary park work
Regular frequency activities
Camp at the end
Recognition and visibility: Uniforms or gadgets + Certificate/award
Involve parents and local communities
Attend EUROPARC activities: networking, training, events for rangers and JR
Plan follow up activities
EUROPARC International JR Camp
Every year in a different park
About 40 participants: JR and Rangers
Annual theme: biodiversity, health, food and nature, communication,…
Activities together: discover park, practical conservation work, fun, culture, know each other, languages…
Ranger meetings, seminars, workshops…
High environmental standards

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Explore... Learn... Take Care!

Explore...
Learn...
Take Care!