



Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

LIFE e-Natura2000.edu

EUROPARC Conference 2019

Protected Areas & Natura 2000 site managers – how can we meet their professional capacity building needs?

Latvia

25 September 2019

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Europe – our operating context

- Europe is an anomaly!
- Europe is the 2nd smallest continent ... or 6th largest (of 7!) & occupies one-fifteenth of total land area
- Europe has no simple unity of geologic structure, land form, relief or climate
- 50 countries span 7 time zones
- Population 742,648,000 (2017) – one-tenth of the world's population
- 225 indigenous languages

.... Europe is made up of *'infinite riches in a little room'* (Christopher Marlowe)



The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Capacity landscape – political institutions & policy frameworks



- An enabling environment?
 - The European Union – Council (28 MSs), Parliament (751 seats) & Commission (32,000 staff)
 - The Natura 2000 network of protected sites:
 - Designated under the Birds (79/409/EEC)⁴ & Habitats Directives (COM/88/0381)⁵
 - > 27,000 sites covering > 1.3m km²
 - Capacity building networks & organisations
 - The EC's LIFE Programme – €196.2m (2018)
 - Research e.g. H2020
 - Emerald Network – 46 Member States + observers

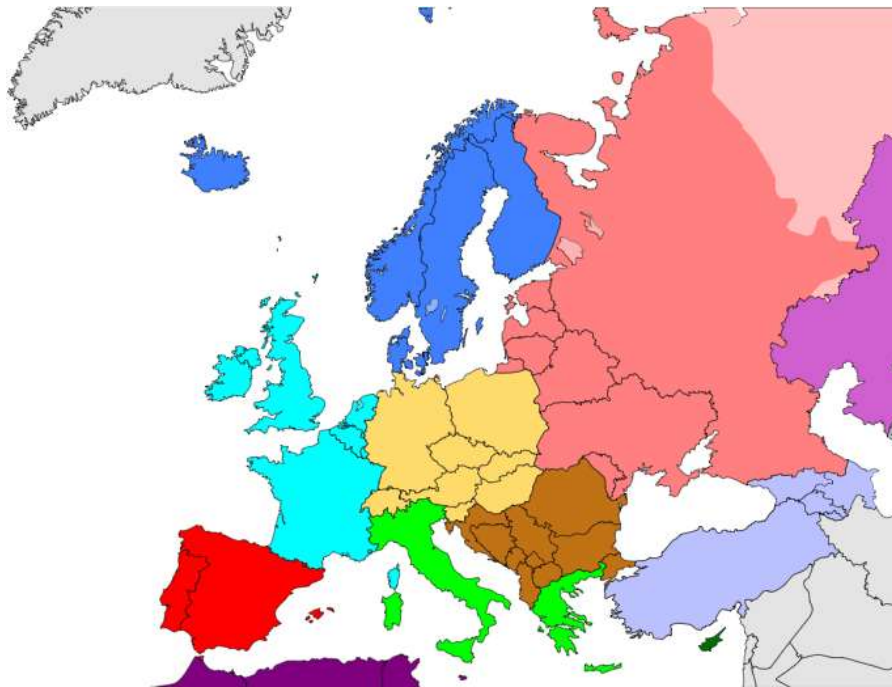
*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Europe – nature management / capacity challenges



- Nature management practice needs to be more consistent & continuously improving
- Europe's multilingualism poses real challenges for pan-European capacity building programmes
- Changing nature - differences in culture & socio-economic variables:
 - Site condition – pressures & threats
 - Devolved & flexible / hierarchical & fixed management
 - Divergent attitudes to citizen participation
 - Austerity policies / average monthly salaries
 - Access to finances
 - Access to & use of technology

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and open education
for Natura 2000 Managers

Improving management of Natura 2000: the role of Protected Areas



- Differences in legal status & management structures, but clear overlaps in terms of nature management goals & functions
- PAs host millions of EU citizens who live, work & visit – this gives indispensable potential to raise awareness about Natura 2000 & the value of our natural heritage
- Showcase effective & sustainable management practices
- Connect people, nature & economy in inclusive ways
- Knowledge & skills required of practitioners are common

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

LIFE e-Natura2000.edu ... in a nutshell

A LIFE Preparatory Project made possible with the support of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community

Full name: LIFE e-Natura2000.edu: supporting e-learning & capacity building for Natura 2000 managers

Total budget: €845k

Project period: 1.4.2018 to 31.07.2021

Involves: 6 partners from 6 countries

Participants from across the EU in private & public land

Includes: 6 Implementation actions

5 Communication actions

5 Project management actions

23 Deliverable outputs

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and open education
for Natura 2000 Managers

LIFE e-Natura 2000.edu - Project objectives



- Rooted in the EC's Action Plan for Nature, People & the Economy
- ***Competence-based, blended (e-)learning - focus on what Natura 2000 site managers need to know & be able to do***
- Work with a core group of 60 project participants & 500 other 'casual users'
- Test innovative e-learning tools & approaches
- Access information & connect with peers
- Demonstrate project impacts in measurable ways

The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

LIFE e-Natura2000.edu – what we will do

Actions

A1	Identify and assess specific competencies required for Natura 2000 management
A2	Recruit project participants and identify needs and usability of training methodologies
A3	Develop a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) tool for individuals to identify skills gaps.
A4	Develop a common Natura 2000 management training framework piloting new tools.
A5	Design, deliver and evaluate learning experiences in Romania+Spain+rest of Europe.
A6	Develop a ‘Virtual Hub’ to support Natura 2000 managers, including private landowners.



Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Competent Natura 2000 Managers

- [Global Register of Competencies for Protected Area Practitioners](#) (Appleton M.R., 2016) – *The PA Competence Register*

Tasks required by the Nature Directives

Biodiversity assessments	Practical conservation	Developing management/conservation measures	Management planning	Consider the socio-economic context	Enable participation
Understand the FCS	Non compliance procedures	Integrate conservation measures into other plans	Official reporting	Monitoring species & habitats	Monitoring, preventing & mitigating threats
Fundraising. mobilising resources	Organisational management	Building community support	Working with site owners / resource managers	Communication	Education
Understanding legal / policy contexts	Understanding and ... PAF	Connectivity Landscape scale conservation	Sustainable use of natural resources	Visitor management – if it is identified as a threat	

The project and all actions are made possible with support from the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community

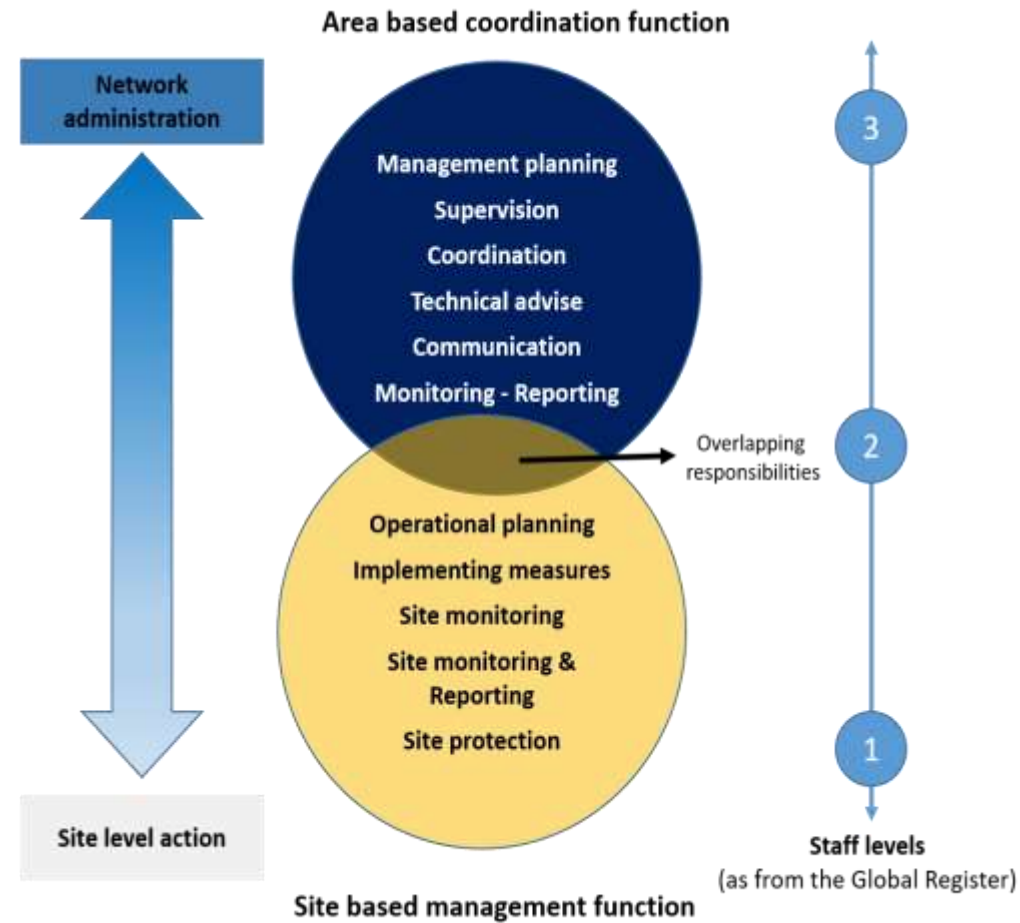




Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Competent Natura 2000 Managers

N2k Functional Areas



The project and all actions are made possible with support from the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community





Supporting e-learning
and open education
for Natura 2000 Managers

Effective Natura 2000 management requires specific skills



- What you know is important, but how you apply it is more so
- Technical or specialist knowledge is not enough
- Effective Natura 2000 management requires ...
 - Know-how to develop & apply participatory processes
 - Ability to engage local communities
 - Consideration of socio-economic contexts
 - Willingness to think synergistically
 - Exceptional communication skills

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and open education
for Natura 2000 Managers

Core competencies that Natura 2000 site managers need



- Develop three core blended learning courses
- Core competencies identified as being specifically required by Natura 2000 site managers include:
 - Biodiversity conservation, policy, planning & project management know-how
 - Confident working with local communities & respect for local cultures
 - Abilities to communicate, collaborate & include & raise awareness to promote Natura 2000 & priorities for nature

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and open education
for Natura 2000 Managers

Competent inclusive communication: blended learning - tools & approaches



LIFEedu ... is for you!

- Webinars
- Demonstration videos
- Filmed 'master class' tutorials
- Highlight effective management (best) practices
- Practical assignments – for example:
 - Analyse best practices to understand why they work;
 - Apply learning & replicate where useful
- Workshops
- Summer school
- New smartphone app – 'virtual (twinning) hub'
- Think through problems to develop workable solutions

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Competent nature managers – what do we need in the longer term?

Focusing on the individual ...

- Continuous professional development systems need to be established
- ‘On the job’ (lifelong) practical learning matters
- Peer to peer experience sharing

Looking to the future ...

- Be proactive, not reactive
- Integrate
- Invest in people



<https://www.europarc.org/tools-and-training/life-e-natura2000-edu/>

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Thank you!



The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Nature on your mind - politics



“For way too long, the politicians and the people in power have gotten away with not doing anything to fight the climate crisis, but we will make sure that they will not get away with it any longer. **We are striking because we have done our homework and they have not.**”

*The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community*





Supporting e-learning
and capacity building
for Natura 2000 Managers

Personal prescriptions – diagnosis & treatment



EUROPARC Green Prescription

Doctor: _____
(your name)

PATIENT *(who - person or organisation - is this prescription for):*

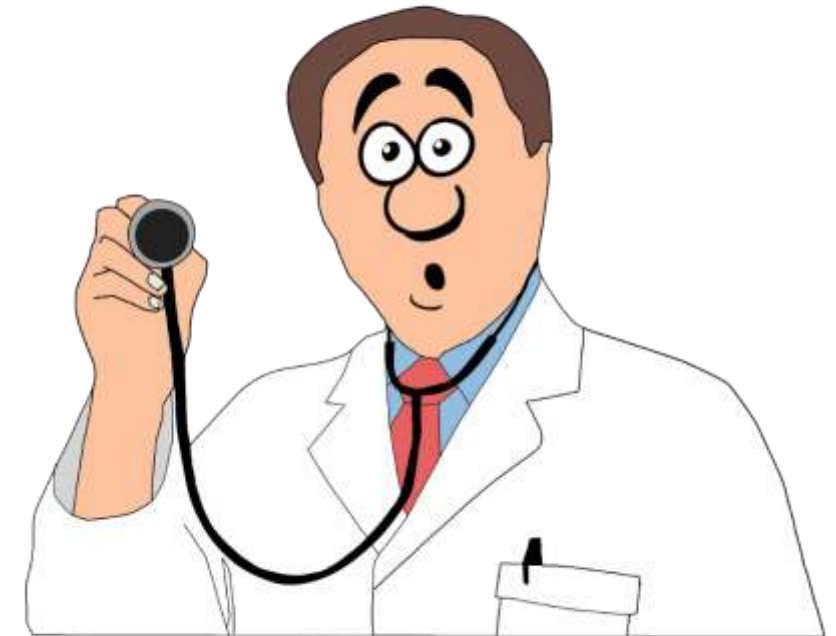
DIAGNOSIS *(what do you think is the main challenge/issue):*

TREATMENT <i>(recommended actions)</i>	DURATION <i>(when / for how long / frequency)</i>

NEXT APPOINTMENT *(check-up date):*

OTHER COMMENTS:

Doctor's signature



The project and all actions are made possible with support from
the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community

