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
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
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) & Habitats Directives (COM/88/0381)
    - > 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
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
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
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity assessments</th>
<th>Practical conservation</th>
<th>Developing management/conservation measures</th>
<th>Management planning</th>
<th>Consider the socio-economic context</th>
<th>Enable participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand the FCS</td>
<td>Non compliance procedures</td>
<td>Integrate conservation measures into other plans</td>
<td>Official reporting</td>
<td>Monitoring species &amp; habitats</td>
<td>Monitoring, preventing &amp; mitigating threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising, mobilising resources</td>
<td>Organisational management</td>
<td>Building community support</td>
<td>Working with site owners / resource managers</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding legal / policy contexts</td>
<td>Understanding and ... PAF</td>
<td>Connectivity Landscape scale conservation</td>
<td>Sustainable use of natural resources</td>
<td>Visitor management – if it is identified as a threat</td>
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Competent Natura 2000 Managers

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N2k Functional Areas
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
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
Competent inclusive communication: blended learning - tools & approaches

- 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

LIFEedu ... is for you!
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

Thank you!

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

Green Prescription

**PATIENT** (who – person or organization – is this prescription for)

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TREATMENT (recommended actions)</th>
<th>DURATION (when / for how long / frequency)</th>
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**NEXT APPOINTMENT** (check-up date)

**OTHER COMMENTS:**

Doctor's signature

Cēsis, 28th September 2019

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