



Towards the EUROPARC
programme for Youth



YOUTH+

Guiding principles

The Youth+ is a **flexible and adaptable programme** that offers local and European perspective on PA management, focusing on the role of youth. It is **coordinated** at European level by EUROPARC and managed locally at park level.

Principles of the Youth+ programme

- It is based on learning components of communication, advocacy, leadership and nature conservation activities, to enable youth to be **ambassadors of their local PA**;
- It is a non-discriminatory, **inclusive** programme, which requires a professional approach and high quality standards;
- It promotes **international exchange**, to develop positive, cooperative and social skills, and encourages the active citizenship of youth;
- The programme should be **implemented** into work managed by Ranger Service/PA staff in collaboration with others involved in the area's management;
- Enables youth **previously involved in Junior Ranger**, or other equivalent programmes, to maintain and develop a relationship with the protected area and staff;
- It aims to develop **youth responsibility** for actions;
- It provides **real nature conservation work experience** but can also include cultural and social topics;
- It develops **skills** in Rangers and PA staff to deliver and maintain the programme with youth at high quality standards;
- It is built on the **partnership** between rangers/field staff, youth+, the PA and EUROPARC: a partnership agreement to be subscribed between EUROPARC and parks interested;



YOUTH+

Guiding principles

What needs would the Youth+ European programme fulfil?

- **Assist Rangers.** Rangers need to be up skilled to assist Youth+. Assessment of skills and competences required of Rangers and youth +
- **Raise standards** of ranger and youth. Through peer learning and exchange of experiences on a good international programme.
- **Support local protected areas.** The programme would help with local agenda 21 requirements re local participation, improves governance for PA with more and wider participation and representation. Can ensure an intergeneration exchange if whole community of the park area is involved, providing social benefits.
- **Ensure engagement of younger generation at a local and European level.** Parks need to engage with youth+, recognise and address the lack of connection. The involvement of Youth+ would help PA in managing JR programs and other for young kids.
- **Protected areas need volunteers.** Well trained and experienced youth+ can contribute to the work of the PA, making management more efficient and effective. To get training the youth need to volunteer and Rangers need support for management = youth + programme.
- **Help nature.** Youth+ working in PAs is good for nature, therefore good for people in the long term: more people looking after nature should ensure healthy functioning ecosystems.
- **Sustainability and Longevity.** The programme itself needs to be sustainable in term of resources and be on going, so it's not just one off.



YOUTH+ Guiding principles



Main components of the Youth+ programme:

The programme for youth will be composed of training modules covering theory and practise in:

Leadership – of JR programmes or similar in the host/local PA, or other activities agreed with the PA, to have a role in the governance of the PA.

Advocacy – being the voice and ambassador for their local PA, raising local and European campaigns.

Communication – using a range of communication skills to be able to act as good leaders and advocates.

Nature conservation – youth being involved and contributing to the management of habitats and species in their protected areas.

The fundamental principles of learning will be through exchange and networking and **practical experience**.

Is aimed at **young adults 18-25yrs;**

Specific learning material and training opportunities are being developed for Rangers and staff to provide them with the skills and training technique to deliver the youth + programme to the young adults.

www.europarc.org/youth/