

# Terms of Reference for Member Participation Working Groups



## Context

The EUROPARC Federation is a membership organisation. It exists to serve the needs of our members as they have identified them in the statutes of the organisation and its recently approved strategy.

However, the services expected by the members may not always be able to be provided fully by a team of staff, further one might want to consider that as a membership organisation, the role of and functions of the members in running the organisation and delivering on its goals should form a part of the Federation's governance and structure.

With that in mind the creation of the new strategy offers an opportunity for some renewed thinking on how members can have a role in the functions of EUROPARC.

## Participation groups

Groups working together with a common purpose are good for people in that they can provide members with important social interaction, support and enriched opportunities for learning.

### **A well-functioning participation group can be**

- Good at finding problems;
- Promoting innovation;
- Can make better decisions than individuals on some kinds of tasks;
- Can be good tools for implementation, in that group decisions to which members are committed will be carried out willingly;
- Can also help fend off the negative consequences of large organisational size, by keeping communication lines short and hierarchies relatively flat.

However, it must be noted that groups can turn sour and be ineffective. The Federation would need to be aware of any difficulties that arise in order to manage such eventualities.

**EUROPARC should endeavour to create differing types of groups, suited to the needs and tasks required by the Federation, but ensure we maximise the positive opportunities indicated.**

## Participation in working groups functions

As well as the group dynamics needed for a group to be effective, indicated earlier, the functions of the working groups would also need to meet some or all of the following:

- To address a given theme of interest to Protected Areas of Europe,
- To provide analysis of a theme or topic,
- To propose and develop policy,
- To develop projects that deliver outputs of relevance to protected areas,
- To investigate and develop funding streams to resource projects.
  
- To give support input and advise to a particular area of work

A well-functioning group , with good participation by its members, will also bring the following benefits for members

## **OUTLINE OF BENEFITS : for a member participating in EUROPARC working groups**

As a member association, it is really important for the organisation to provide opportunities for its members to participate. Working on the common goals agreed as an association, that are intended to provide benefits to the membership as a whole , individual offering their time , expertise and ideas to specific workings could benefit in the following ways

- Improved personal competencies- better communications skills, improved language ability (in a second language). better collaboration skills working with others from differing backgrounds, and cultures
- Sense of common achievement, pride and satisfaction and celebration of their role and success.
- Being part of a working group team with people with different skills and abilities, , being exposed to different ways of working will develop skills in each individual, adding those skills into the members' organisation
- Learning from others.- bringing together experience from across Europe will enable members to gain detailed intelligence about the area of work which will also benefit the member's own organisation.
- Increasing collaboration, working on a common project in getting more ideas on the development of the topic and builds capacity in the individual as well as EUROPARC and their own organisation
- Building a social and professional network that the member can connect with both on the topic of interest but across wider Protected Area work

Different types of groups are set up by the EUROPARC council or by the Directorate as technical groups to help deliver on operational priorities that need or would benefit from specific member expertise and input.

These are described in the Guidance document

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j8HpUc7tx5jciUPBMOpQODvB6Nwll9Y7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117779641480566542367&rtpof=true&sd=true>

For each group a Term of Reference is created that guide the group's work.

Please complete the following. It will be really helpful in planning and supporting your planned work. It needn't be overly ambitious, but take forward our strategy in an achievable way.

Feel free to chat with other council members, directorate and section representatives and others, who may ensure you can synchronise with other work, and help bring the vision and purpose of the group to life!

## Terms of Reference

<b>Name of Group - Sustainable Agriculture in Protected Areas</b>	
<p><b>Purpose</b> Why is this group being formed</p>	<p>EUROPARC Strategy to 2030: Protected Areas will have an enhanced role in supporting sustainable agricultural policies and practice.</p> <p>EUROPARC considers there is a need to improve the development of a sustainable agriculture in and around European Protected Areas in harmony between economic, environmental, and social factors. This objective can be achieved only building a trustful relationship with the farmers acting inside or nearby the Protected Areas.</p> <p>The EUROPARC Federation Partnership Scheme for Sustainable Farming and Natural Protected Areas is a practical management “approach” that enables Protected Areas to improve partnership with farmers to develop sustainable agriculture in the territory.</p> <p>It is NOT a certification of standard of sustainability of the agriculture, or of the quality of the products. Important is how do we reach an integrated approach for the benefit of Nature, farming, regional biodiversity and economy.</p> <p>EUROPARC will award and give visibility to the work done by Protected Areas and farmers in improving their partnership following this approach.</p> <p>In promoting this approach, EUROPARC aims to support Protected Areas to improve the quality of partnership with farmers, offering a sort of general toolbox and specific recommendations. Moreover, EUROPARC will promote exchange of experiences (nationally and internationally), good practices, and tools, in animating the network of the awarded PAs.</p> <p>EUROPARC will use the results of the approach and the experiences of the awarded Protected Areas to increase lobbying and advocacy in sustainable agriculture and PAs toward national, European, and international institutions.</p> <p>EUROPARC is aware of the diversity of approaches, regulations, and kind of agriculture within different countries across Europe and the methodology will be flexible enough to respond to different situations and needs. Moreover, the methodology must be as simple as possible.</p> <p>The commission will also support the EUROPARC in policy and advocacy, namely the support and preparation for policy and position papers, representation in meeting and conferences also technical and critical analysis support and review.</p>
<p><b>Links to Strategy</b> What specific area of the strategy this work is linked to?</p>	<p>The commission has as a strategic reference the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Green Deal, Farm to Fork and CAP. The commission have already produced several documentations that supports the Europarc strategy regarding this issue. The commission will specifically contribute to achieve</p>

	goal 4 in the federation strategic plan for 2030, “Promote sustainable development tools and approaches for people and nature.”
<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>who is membership of the group open to? What kind of expertise or skills are needed?</p> <p>Are representatives from external organisations included who and why?</p> <p>Please list proposed members and their organisation</p>	<p>Members of this committee must have experience in the policy development and management of protected areas with experience in involving rural communities, farmers included, have knowledge of the strategic objectives of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork.</p> <p>Participants from other organizations are welcome, preferably with specific skills.</p> <p>Members must take an active part in the meetings, develop a collaborative relationship to exchange experiences and share knowledge. They must be able to analyse, evaluate and produce written technical notes to support the work of the commission.</p> <p>In terms of organizations that could be “invited” to work in partnership, I suggest, some already Europarc partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow Food (<a href="https://www.slowfood.com/pt-pt/">https://www.slowfood.com/pt-pt/</a>)</li> <li>• IFOAM (<a href="https://www.ifoam.bio/">https://www.ifoam.bio/</a>)</li> <li>• FAO (<a href="https://www.fao.org/home/en">https://www.fao.org/home/en</a>)</li> <li>• Soil Conservation Association (<a href="http://www.soilconservation.eu/index.html">http://www.soilconservation.eu/index.html</a>)</li> <li>• European forum on Nature conservation and Pastoralism (<a href="https://www.efncp.org/">https://www.efncp.org/</a>)</li> <li>• European Association for AgroEcology (<a href="https://www.agroecology-europe.org/">https://www.agroecology-europe.org/</a>)</li> </ul> <p>The actual member will be invited to stay but with new term of engagement regarding the specific objective of the commission. New member will be recruited among the Europarc member;</p> <p>The actual commission members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrado Teolfili - Italy Section, Federparchi</li> <li>• Maria Pia – Italy Parc Nord Milano</li> <li>• Tom Byrne – Ireland Wicklow Council</li> <li>• Kaja Llotman – Estonia</li> <li>• Kees van es – Netherlands</li> <li>• Guido Calvi – Italy Parco Adamello</li> </ul>
<b>What benefits will membership of this group bring to its members.</b>	Sharing of knowledge and experience, involvement in the process of recognition of their area of activity, participation in interdisciplinary work meetings at local and European level.
<b>Chair of Group</b>	João Cardoso de Melo
<b>Council Liaison</b>	Proposal Hendrik Oosterveld
<b>Directorate Liaison</b>	Proposal Stefania Petrosillo
<b>Term</b> What is the anticipated duration?	2 years

<p><b>Outcomes/Results</b> What are the intended results or conclusions of the group?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one project proposal, to test the methodology and allow proper funding to the implement the charter.</li> <li>• A network of successful case studies among members to share knowledge and best practices.</li> <li>• Members joining the Charter for Sustainable Agriculture initiative.</li> <li>• To run a successful survey among member to collect data about conflicts between PA and Farmers. (Could be done in partnership with some university/internship or integrated in the funding application)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outline workplan</b> What do you plan to do and achieve for the period to 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a successful application for funding, Interreg or other.</li> <li>• Dynamize the existing network, promote the exchange of experiences and good practices, recruit new partnerships to dynamize and have a more active network.</li> <li>• Continue to boost through the organization of an workshop at the Europarc conference.</li> <li>• At least one webinar per year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challenges and Opportunities</b> what do you envisage being the main challenges to a successful achievement of your workplan and what they opportunities can you take advantage of that would support assist or multiple your efforts.</p>	<p>The biggest challenge will be to find a source of funding to move forward with the project, as well as the creation of a dynamic enough team to prepare the application.</p> <p>We will be alert to opportunities and have a concept for the project prepared to facilitate and anticipate the elaboration process.</p> <p>To continue to lobby the European Commission in particular DG Agri and DG Envi as well as other entities such as the association of farmers and landowners</p>
<p><b>Working methods</b> How will the group function? Meetings/online access/F2f etc approx. how many/when How will the group be managed?</p>	<p>It will depend on the availability of committee members, the proposal will be a monthly online meeting, that may be delayed in time, however, during the period of preparation of the application, extra meetings can be scheduled to guarantee the necessary flow of information.</p> <p>If possible, at least one in-person team meeting depending on the funding opportunity, in addition to the one planned during the annual conference</p>
<p><b>Reporting</b> How will the group report its work, when and by whom. All working groups will need to ensure their work is recorded in EUROPARC's annual report and may too be subject to technical reports from funders if the work is related to projects or NGO grant.</p>	<p>It is suggested to monitor the work of the commission through a quarterly preliminary report, based on performance indicators to be defined monthly. These indicators will be defined by the members of the commission and relate to their tasks</p> <p>This information will be annually compiled into an activity report by the commission chair and Europarc project manager.</p>

<b>Review</b> How and when will the work of the group be reviewed	The commission work will be review annually by the directorate and the chairman and council member.
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Include section member in the team to have a wide broad participation