

# Update on the first months of the EUROPARC Youth Council

The present report is aimed at giving to the EUROPARC Council an update about the activity of the Youth Council in the past few months.

## The objectives

The main objectives for the past few months were:

- Give the group an internal structure.
- Decide what to do during the two-year term.
- Create a safe and friendly space for all the members.

## The progress

The first few meetings were dedicated to the internal organisation of the group. Each member of the Youth Council now has a defined role. The roles are entirely internal; therefore, they will not be shared with third parties.

The second step was discussing the actions to take during the two-year mandate. The EUROPARC 2030 Strategy and the Youth Council Strategy were integrated, and a target audience has been defined (figures 1 and 2).

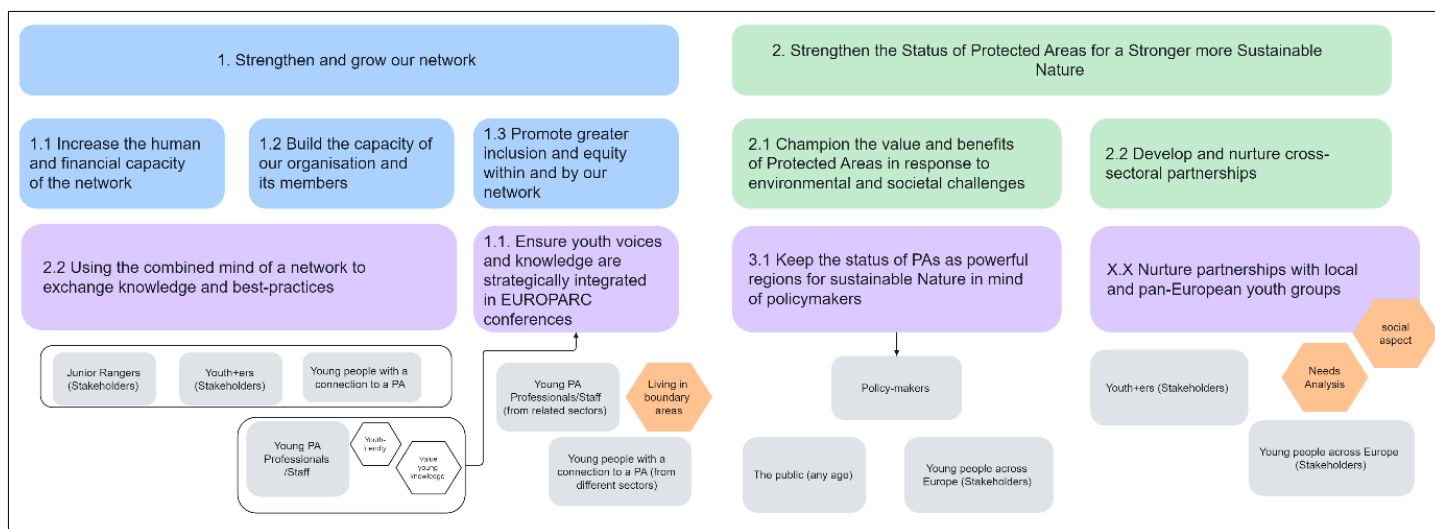


Figure 1

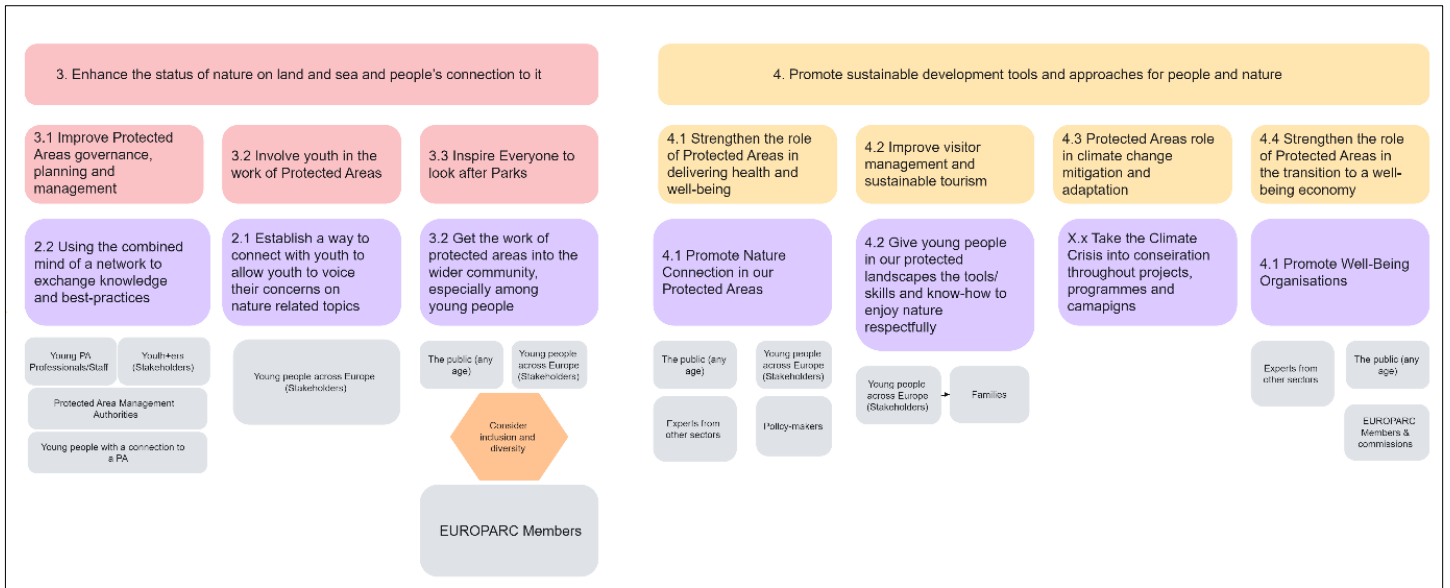


Figure 2

Then, the objectives have been matched with tools, events and partners (figures 3 and 4). The focus was mostly on EUROPARC’s tools and events, but external ones were considered as well.

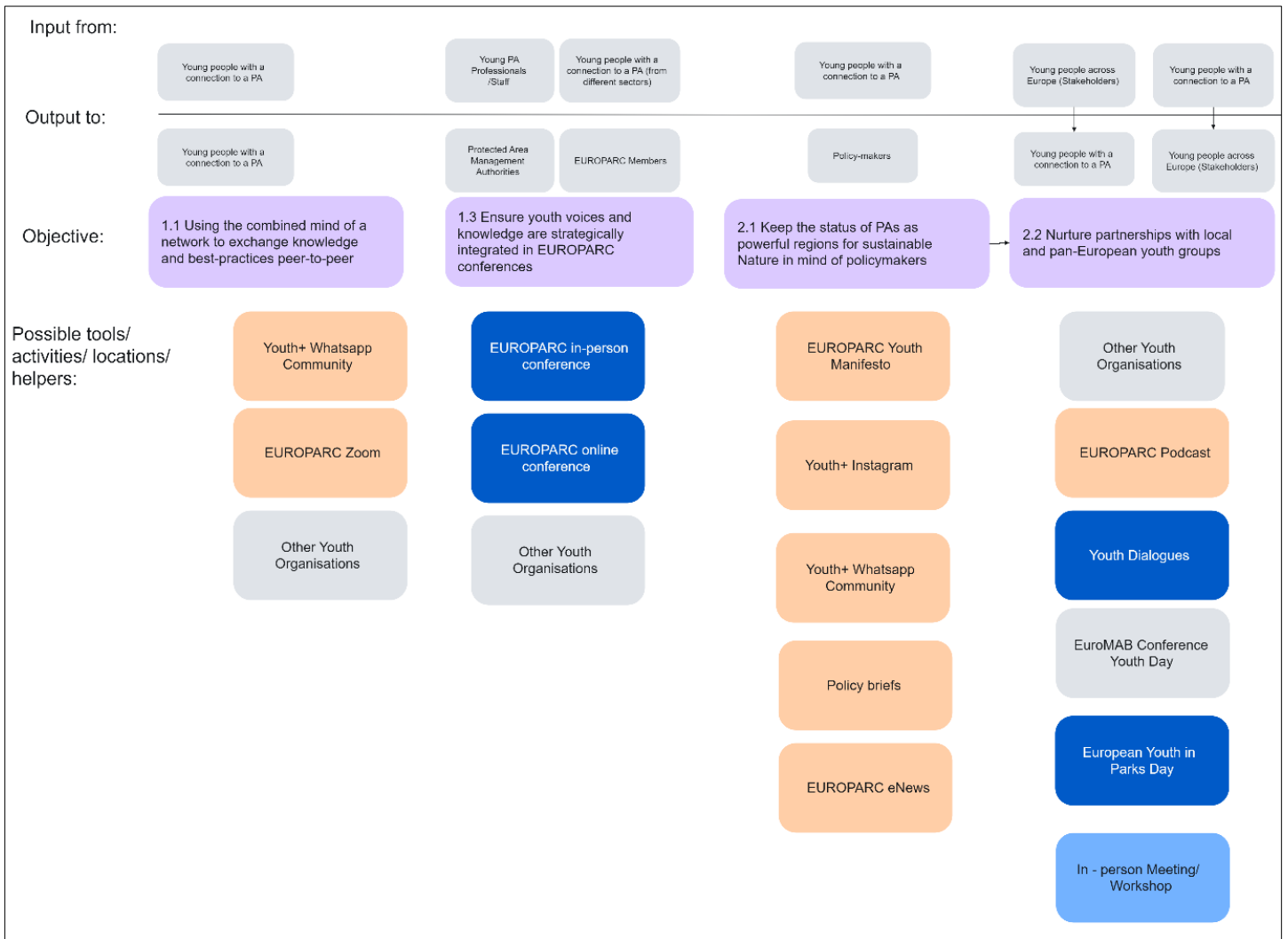


Figure 3

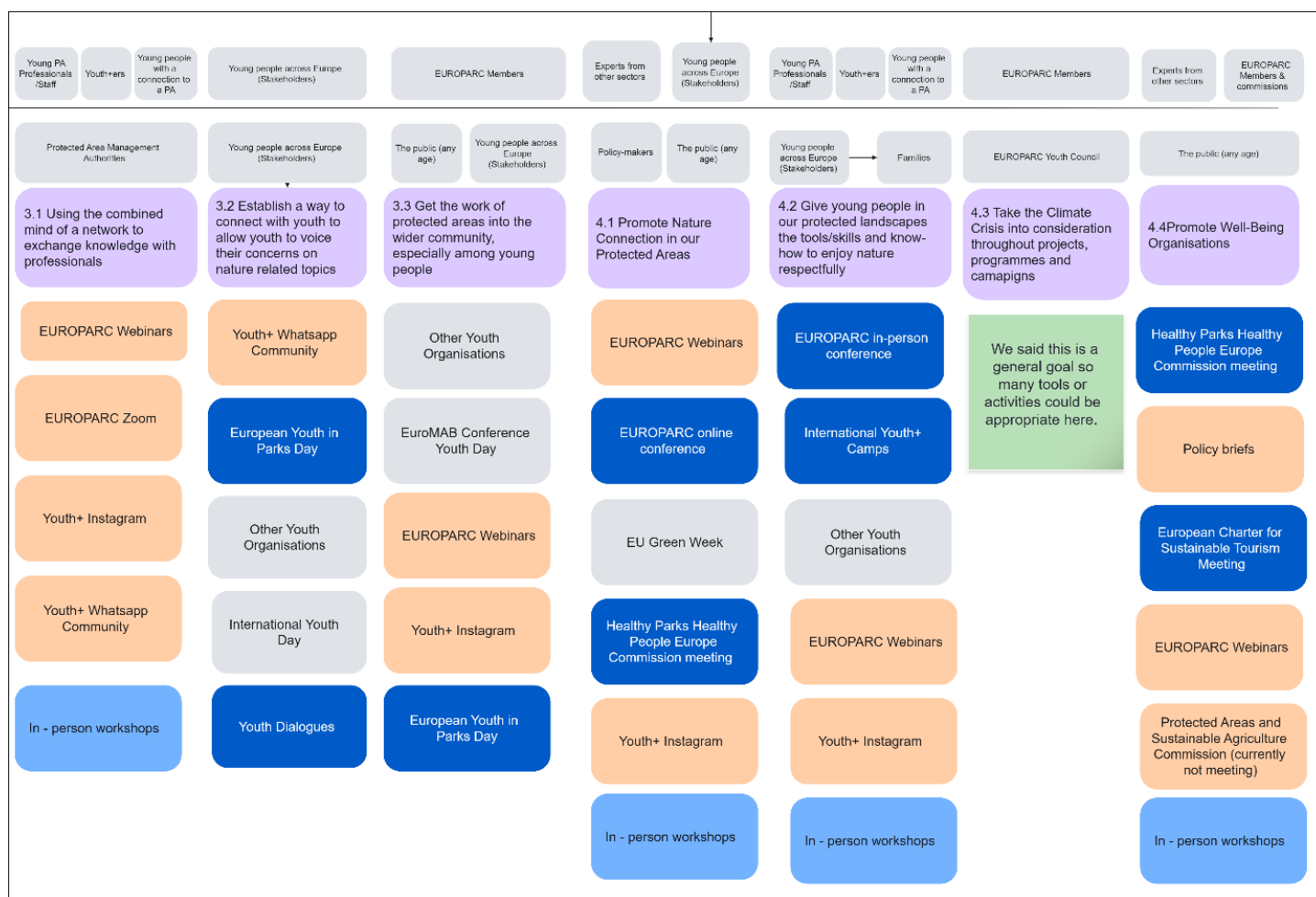


Figure 4

The members of the Youth Council expressed their interest in the objectives and events they would like to work on (tables 1 and 2).

Objective	Who
1.1 Using the combined mind of a network to exchange knowledge and best practices peer-to-peer	Alberto Madrassi, Marla Schulz, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
1.3 Ensure Youth Voices and knowledge are strategically integrated in EUROPARC Conferences	Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Marc Castellón Durán, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
2.1 Keep the status of PAs as powerful regions for sustainable Nature in mind of policymakers	Marc Castellón Durán
2.2 Nurture partnerships with local and pan-European youth groups.	Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Marla Schulz
3.1 Using the combined mind of a network to exchange knowledge with professionals	Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Krišs Atvars Saberovs

3.2 Establish a way to connect with youth to allow youth to voice their concerns on nature related topics.	Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Marc Castellón Durán, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
3.3 Get the work of protected areas into the wider community, especially among young people.	Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
4.1 Promote Nature Connection in our Protected Areas	Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger
4.2 Give young people in our protected landscapes the tools/skills and know-how to enjoy nature respectfully.	Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger

Table 1

Event	Who
EUROPARC online conference	Marla Schulz, Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Karlijn Barf
EUROPARC in-person conference	Marla Schulz, Alberto Madrassi, Hilda, Pascal Ertzinger, Patrick McConigley, Hermione Pocock, Marc Castellón Durán, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
Youth Dialogues	Alberto Madrassi, Hilda Hoti, Hermione Pocock, Patrick McConigley, Marc Castellón Durán
European Youth in Parks Day	Marla Schulz, Alberto Madrassi, Patrick McConigley
Healthy Parks Healthy People Europe Commission	Alberto Madrassi Madrassi and Hermione Pocock Pocock
2024 Youth+ camp	Alberto Madrassi, Pascal Ertzinger, Karlijn Barf, Hermione Pocock
European Charter for Sustainable Tourism Meeting	Marla Schulz, Hilda Hoti, Pascal Ertzinger, Patrick McConigley
In-person Meeting/Workshop	Hermione Pocock, Marla Schulz, Marc Castellón Durán, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
General communications	Hilda Hoti
2024 EuroMAB Conference	Marla Schulz and Hermione Pocock
Participating in events by other youth organisations	Marla Schulz, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
2025 Youth+ Camp	Karlijn Barf, Pascal Ertzinger, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
Selection of the new EUROPARC Youth Representative	Karlijn Barf, Marc Castellón Durán, Alberto Madrassi, Patrick McConigley, Krišs Atvars Saberovs
2024 Junior Ranger Camp	Patrick McConigley

Table 2

According to those preferences, working groups have been created.

The first concrete outcome of this internal work is a survey that is open to young people aged 13-30. The thoughts and concerns of the community will be used to shape the first Youth Dialogue and orientate the action of the Youth Council. At the time of writing, there were 181 responses. You can find the latest data in the attached document. The survey will be open until the middle of June.

## **The challenges**

No major challenges were experienced by the Youth Council in the past months. The only thing worth mentioning is that in March the group lost one of its members. After failing to be an active member, Robert Cain informed the others about his decision to step down due to work and study reasons.

## **The next steps**

As anticipated above, the survey outcome will be used to shape the action plan of the Youth Council.

Hermione Pocock and Marla Schulz will attend the EuroMAB Conference from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. Alberto Madrassi will participate in the Youth LEADER Forum from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. Both experiences will be useful for networking.

A Youth+ Camp is in the planning phases and is expected to happen from the 29<sup>th</sup> of July to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August in the Netherlands.

The Youth Council intends to organise an event for youth at the next EUROPARC Conference. It will probably be in the evening, considering that most young people are not able to participate during the day.

Finally, the group is thinking about the selection process of the next Youth Representative. Laura Peters and Leonardo Cerno will be involved to learn from their experiences.