



## Minutes:

# EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Members Meeting 2013

Tallinn, 6 February 2013

## Participants

Andris	Širovs	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Arto	Ahokumpu	Metsähallitus	Finland
Giedrius	Norvaisas	Zemaitija National Park	Lithuania
Jan	Woolhead	Region Zealand	Denmark
Josefin	Olsson	Swedish EPA	Sweden
Kaja	Lotman	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section	Estonia
Leelo	Kukk	Environmental Board	Estonia
Liisa	Nikula	Metsähallitus	Finland
Nele	Sõber	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section	Estonia
Ramunas	Lydis	Nemunas delta regional park	Lithuania
Rolands	Auzins	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Signe	Kappel Joergensen	National Park Thy	Denmark
Thomas	Hansson	EUROPARC Federation / Swedish EPA	Sweden

## Minutes

### 1. Activity plan for 2013 follows below mentioned key principles:

- highlight upcoming events of interest to the members;
- arrange thematical seminars in cooperation with member organizations;
- support and facilitate exchange of staff for capacity-building and information exchange;
- provide the members with help in finding project partners for projects within the Nordic-Baltic member countries and in relation with EUROPARC Federation and other EUROPARC sections;
- maintain and strengthen the links between Nordic-Baltic section, the EUROPARC Federation and it's other sections;
- support working groups inside Nordic-Baltic section and facilitate other initiatives to experience exchange.

In more detail the activities include:

- organizing 2 member meetings (6.-7.02.2013 in Estonia and during EUROPARC Conference in Hungary);
- organizing 2 thematical seminars (3.-4.04.2013 "Protected areas governance" in Soomaa National Park, Estonia; September 2013 "Cultural heritage in protected areas" in Lahemaa National Park, Estonia);
- issuing section newsletter 4 times in a year;
- 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary seminar 28.-29.03.2013 in Nuuksio National Park, Finland;



- composing a flash presentation about section members and their values to celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- participating in working group “Health” activities.

**2.** Celebration event is held May 28-29, 2013 in Nuuksio National Park and organized by Metsähallitus. The event includes the following topics:

- ten years of Nordic-Baltic protected area cooperation
  - highlights in protected area management in Nordic-Baltic section countries
- interpretation and service design at Finnish Nature Centre Haltia
- civil society and protected areas
  - health benefits from hiking and voluntary work in national parks
- tour of visitor centre and hike in Nuuksio National Park

Metsähallitus expects 30+ participants from the Nordic-Baltic section network, EUROPARC directorate and previous Nordic-Baltic section chairs and coordinators.

The idea is also to celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at EUROPARC Conference 2013 by offering participants a taste of Nordic-Baltic. It was suggested:

- to have a small workshop on doing origami from Nordic-Baltic endangered or characteristic species;
- to make digital Nordic-Baltic cookbook;
- to show flash presentation on section members and their values;
- to have a common cake with EUROPARC Federation (40 years celebration) and Hortobágy National Park (40 years celebration).

NB! Members are encouraged to send celebration input & other ideas to the Nordic-Baltic secretariat!

**3.** EUROPARC Federation, EUROPARC Consulting, EUROPARC Atlantic Isles, EUROPARC Spanish section and EUROPARC Italian section have a Facebook account.

It was decided to launch a Nordic-Baltic section Facebook page to be more visible, to share experience and information more quickly and efficiently. It should be open in order to be accessed also by those who are not members of Facebook. Facebook account could be administrated by several people in the Nordic-Baltic section. Administrators will be determined over the next months.

**4.** It was proposed to renew existing Nordic-Baltic section brochure and it was decided that there is perhaps still need to do paper version, but in a smaller package. However the brochure will be renewed and uploaded as digital version on the section webpage.

NB! Members are asked to send quality pictures about their protected area to the secretariat!

**5.** EUROPARC Federation president Thomas Hansson gave an overview on what has been discussed in the Council meeting just before the Nordic-Baltic section Members Assembly.

- December 2012 was busy with Charter events – handing out certificates on sites.
- January 2013- Organization Development Committee kick-off meeting for the EUROPARC/Eurosite merger. Proposal must be made in 5 months in order to present it at the



General Assembly in October 2013. By 2014 there should be one network organization with common strategy and common budget.

- In 2013, Spanish section will chair EUROPARC sections.
- Several working groups have been given mandate for the next 2 years.
- EUROPARC Federation will have NGO grant decision at the end of February.
- Charter administration and management is now handled by the Federation, who contracts EUROPARC Consulting for the verification process. The owner of the Charter is the Federation.

Some members have received double invoices, which must be administrative issue and could be solved easily. However it was proposed that the invoices could be sent out already in the end of the year as many organizations have at that time left-over resources. On the other hand, this solution is not favourable to all.

6. Over the Nordic-Baltic section history there have been numerous events including seminars, Members Assemblies and meetings. The existing statistics will be further developed and amended, but it shows that members are actively participating in the section work.

The Nordic-Baltic section president Kaja Lotman introduced a publication “Management guidelines for semi-natural landscapes”, which is the result of the Central Baltic project “Natureship – Integrated Planning and Management in the Baltic Sea Region” and also gave an overview about her attendance in RENA (Regional Environmental *Network of Accession*) project meeting in Vienna, Austria, where she presented the Nordic-Baltic section work. She suggested to invite a speaker from Croatia to give a presentation at the spring governance seminar.

Members were positive towards the opportunity to introduce evermore the Nordic-Baltic section cooperation to the countries joining EU.

Nele Söber  
Nordic-Baltic section coordinator  
February 2013