



Minutes:

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Members Meeting 2013

Plateliai, 26 March 2015

Participants

Giedrius	Norvaišas	Žemaitijos national park	Lithuania
Paulius	Mika	Žemaitijos national park	Lithuania
Ramūnas	Lydis	Žemaitijos national park	Lithuania
Eugenijus	Drobelis	Dzukijos national park	Lithuania
Lina	Dikšaitė	Kuršių nerijos national park	Lithuania
Rūta	Baškytė	State service for protected area	Lithuania
Albertas	Stanislovaitytė	State service for protected area	Lithuania
Andris	Širovs	Nature conservation agency	Latvia
Arto	Ahokumpu	Metsähallitus	Finland
Kaja	Lotman	Environmental Board	Estonia
Rolands	Auziņš	Nature conservation agency	Latvia

Minutes

1. Activity plans for 2015, topic for workshop this year

We had a 16 suggestions for workshops from our members. We discussed about each topic, shared good examples, thoughts concerning topic. We all agreed that this years topic should be “The effective communication methods in the protected areas”. This topic should touch ideas how to communicate with visitors and local inhabitants, how to ensure double – sided communication, what dissemination methods and canals are most effective etc. We also agreed that it is not enough to talk about these concerning topic's in the meeting so section's coordinator will create internet forum where members can share their experience. Section's workshop will be organised in the end of October by Lithuania.

2. What new happened since our last meeting



All members shared their activities, what they have done in the end of last year. Rūta Baškytė from Lithuania's state service for protected areas presented a short presentation about projects they had in the last year. One of the greatest projects is the construction of Lithuania's visitors center, where people can learn about all regional and national parks in Lithuania. Andris Širovs and Roland Auziņš talked about reorganization they had last year. Now there is only one administration in Latvia for protected areas and the staff is more specialized in their field of work. Kaja Lotman from Estonia shared her experience how the NB section helps for the members. Now they have cooperation agreements with Latvia and Finland. Arto Ahokumpu from Finland shared his experience controlling the burning of the forest.

3. Siggen meeting, Little Sidney and other Europarc events

Section's president Giedrius Norvaišas will attend the Siggen meeting. There was a discussion about what message will be brought from the NB section to this meeting. There was a discussion about protected areas that are not in the Europarc federation, but belong to one of the sections. We believe that there should be some rules for these members e.g. these members can use the section's emblem, but not Europarc's emblem. In the new Europarc strategy there are empty spaces that will lead to work in strategic objective actions. Finland could lead work in nature and health, because they did great work in previous years. After the Siggen meeting, the section's representative will send information to other members about a meeting.

In our internet forum there will be a field for "events" where members can share opinions about upcoming Europarc events and their own events.

4. Other discussions

Our Facebook page is growing little by little and it would be good to write about each member's protected area. The idea is that each member can send some information to the coordinator (a little story about the protected area, few of the most visited sites, internet page, location of the visitors center if there is one and some photos). It will be put on the Facebook page every 2 weeks.

Our section has some members who don't want or can't participate in the activities. We need to connect with few members from Norway and Denmark and find persons who are willing to represent their protected area or even their country.

Paulius Mika
Nordic-Baltic section coordinator
March, 2015