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PARKS and BENEFITS

Environmental Board / Nele Sõber
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Part-financed by the European Union
 (European Regional Development Fund
 and European Neighborhood and
 Partnership Instrument)

Parks&Benefits is a network of protected areas, regional authorities, stakeholders in tourism & environment, and academic institutions in the BSR backed by EUROPARC Federation aiming to:

- implement the “European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas” (devel. by EUROPARC Federation) as practical instrument to jointly develop, test & transfer solutions of generating socio-economic effects within protected areas of BSR benefiting regional development;
- develop integrative & harmonized spatial planning: linking protected areas to their regions;
- establish PPP between protected areas, SMEs & regional authorities;
- increase the quality of eco-tourism offers by a BSR quality standard;
- promote BSR Charter Parks via European-wide EUROPARC brand & increase the identity/recognition of BSR across Europe;
- to provide verified arguments in policy making & secure political commitment to nature protection.

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Partners:


- Europarc Federation;
- National and regional parks (Matsalu, Kemer, Müritz, Kurtuvėnai, Zemaitija, Biosphere Reserve South East Rügen, Dovrefjell-Sundalsfjella, Maribosoerne);
- Others (and strategical partners): universities from Germany and Denmark, VCD, Latvian Rural Tourism Association, Tourist Board Mecklenburg Lake District, etc.

Total amount for 2009-2012 is 2 912 660,30 EUR

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Results of the project:

- Strengthened cooperation of regions with protected areas on generating socio-economic benefits by a sustainable management;
- Increased interest in BSR natural heritage & its tourist products;
- Lessened problem of social exclusion in project areas implementing accessibility for all;
- Closing a gap by implementing the European Charter as European-wide policy at BSR level & establishing a BSR network of protected areas.

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