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EUROPEAN COMPETITION “PARKS, YOUTH AND OPPORTUNITIES”

Foreword

Since its very beginning, the Parco Nazionale dei Monti Sibillini planned to implement in its own territory a shared management model enabling the youth to become real players in the Park management and, through a training process, give them an active role in the Park animation and in sustainable development activities.

In order to reach this goal, it started the “Case del parco” project which presents very original features within the context of the international conservation and development policies, and has thus gained widespread recognition. It was selected amongst the meaningful European projects and presented in Lisbon in December 1999 during the Conference organised by European Commission DG XI on the subject “Sustainable Tourism and Nature 2000”.

Within this scenario the Park and asked and obtained to host the Annual General Assembly of Europarc Federation which, this year, shall focus on youth issues.

The Federation which involves as members Park and Nature 2000 areas operators throughout Europe has in fact planned to hold **in September next (from 27th to 1st October) in Norcia (PG) in the Parco dei Monti Sibillini area, its General Assembly EUROPARC 2000 on the theme “Young people in protected areas: a living heritage for Europe”**.

With the aim of offering young people an innovative training, exchange and co-operation opportunity, the Park has promoted **the First European Forum “ Young People for Life in European Protected Areas”** to take place during the days prior to the Assembly, with the patronage of EUROPARC, of IUCN /WCPA “Parks for life” programme, of the ITALIAN PARK and NATURAL RESERVES FEDERATION.

During the Forum, which sets a biennial appointment for the Park-youth, the young people operating in European parks and in Nature 2000 areas shall illustrate the positive cases and entrepreneurial activities carried out in Parks, protected areas and Nature 2000 areas. The meeting taking place in Norcia **from 23th to 27th September** shall close by issuing a mission statement (the Sibillini's Declaration) to be brought to the attention of the General Europarc Assembly, of the IUCN, and of the European Union, the European Governments, and the National Park Federations. An activities schedule shall be attached to the Declaration, to be carried out during the two years following the first Forum, in partnership amongst the various countries.

The project shall be carried out by the Park through funding by Gal Sibillini Umbria (LEADER II) and includes a **European Competition “ Parks, Youth and Opportunities”**.

With the aim of creating a “pool” of positive cases to the benefit of the Forum participants, including the best ideas and implementations particularly as regard positive cases of sustainable tourism, during the months prior to the Forum the Park shall identify the positive experiences implemented in Parks, in protected areas and Nature 2000 Areas which resulted in the development of new job opportunities for young people and which attained meaningful results at creative, ethic, social and financial level. The most interesting projects shall be selected by a Technical-Scientific Committee created to this purpose, and shall be illustrated, analysed and discussed within the framework of the Youth Forum.

The Parco Nazionale dei Monti Sibillini

in co-operation with EUROPARC, IUCN, the Italian Parks and Natural Reserves Federation,
on the occasion of the First Forum “Young people for life in European Protected Areas”
announces an

EUROPEAN COMPETITION “PARKS, YOUTH AND OPPORTUNITIES”

What are the European Competition’s objectives?

- a) to identify positive cases of entrepreneurial activity with both traditional and innovative approach that the young people carried out in Parks, protected areas and Nature 2000 areas. The scope of these activities must include the area conservation and development and must **already** have obtained meaningful and measurable results under the environmental, creative, ethic, cultural, social and financial point of view.
- b) to assess the level of effort of the young people in Parks, protected areas and Nature 2000 areas, in entrepreneurial activities with both traditional and innovative approach, finalised to the conservation and development of the area, when these activities have **not yet** attained measurable results, in order to understand whether their effort is bound to produce actions leading to meaningful results.
- c) to evaluate the necessary effort to support and help the young people in the activities quoted in point (b), so that they can generate a multiplying and job-creation effect.

To whom is the European Competition addressed?

The participants should be under the age of 40, individuals or associations (in case of enterprises, associations or so, the majority of the association members must be under the age of 40), and they must carry out or contribute to entrepreneurial activities in Parks, protected areas and Nature 2000 areas, whose aim be the conservation and development of the territory and whose results be significant under the environmental, creative, ethic, cultural, social and financial point of view.

What are the reference sectors?

The sectors involved in the entrepreneurial activities are: agriculture, artistic expressions, heritage/nature interpretation, cultural and/or training activities, social work, sustainable tourism, use of new technologies.

What results are expected?

- To select amongst the entrepreneurial activities described in (a) up to 20 positive cases that shall be illustrated and discussed in the Forum.
- To single out the experiences described in (b) worth helping and supporting.
- To assess the type of tools needed to help and support the young people’s initiatives.

How to participate?

In order to participate, in addition to the copy of an identification piece belonging to the candidate, the following form are mandatory:

1. Application Form including following data:

- First name and family name candidate (if association, company or similar, please name of association, company ..and of its legal representative):
- Place and date of birth:
- Personal address, phone, fax, e-mail:
- Address, phone, fax, e-mail, web-site of the Park/protected area/Nature 2000 area where the project is located:
- Project name:

2. Mandatory introduction by the Protected Area Management Body (where the candidate performs his entrepreneurial activity)

The form must include the Park/Protected Area's name, the project name, the name(s) of the person(s) or association or Company presenting the project.

3. Project scheme

see attached form

4. Documents and communication material

a map, 3 photographs, 5/7 slides, brochures if available, press coverage, publications, cd, video...

Following languages are accepted: Italian, English, French, German, Spanish

By what means and criteria the positive cases shall be selected?

The project quality shall be evaluated by a Technical-Scientific Committee created on purpose. The committee members shall all be highly qualified persons.

The projects chosen as positive cases shall be illustrated and discussed in the Young People Forum and shall be brought to the attention of the annual Europarc 2000 Assembly.

If approved by the Assembly they shall be awarded and authorised to use the mark:

“chosen by Europarc 2000 as positive case of youth initiative in Parks”.

Additional benefit can be gained by winners through the publication on the internet (Europarc, ECO-TIP...)

In order to be chosen as positive case, the project shall have to:

- Have reached significant and measurable results
- Be an original traditional or innovative project based on the following criteria:
 - a) contribution to the sustainable development (cultural, social, economic...) of the Park/Protected Area/Nature 2000 area
 - b) maintaining and defending the natural, cultural and social resources
 - c) the project must be applicable in other contexts
 - d) level of co-operation with the Park/protected area/other public bodies/private actors.
 - e) Capacity to sensitise the local population**

How to send the projects and deadline:

The envelope with the documentation required for the admission to the competition must be sent by registered mail with delivery receipt **within 10/8/2000** to the following address: Parco Nazionale dei Monti Sibillini – L.go G.B. Gaola Antinori 1 – 62039 Visso (MC) ITALY.

The above-captioned envelope must be sealed, stamped and signed on the closing flaps, and have on the external side the indication of the applicant's name, commercial name, and address, as well as the competition object and date.

For information about the European Competition please apply to:

-Parco Nazionale dei Monti Sibillini Internet: <http://www.sibillini.net>

- ACTA, Associazione Cultura Turismo Ambiente, Via Scarlatti 27 20124 Milano, Italy

TEL. +39 02 66980931 - FAX +39 02 66716371 e-mail :acta@galactica.it Internet:

www.galactica.it/acta

Objectives: _____

Process Description: _____

Results so far attained, quantitative and qualitative (environmental, creative, ethic, cultural, social, financial): _____

Expected results and next steps: _____

Innovative ways that characterise the project management (use of new technologies...): _____

Initiatives launched to rise awareness in the resident population, in the area players and Institutions: _____

Factors of success have been: (10 lines max) _____

Project documentation: (please enclose budget, official documents, publications, cd, video....):