

## Abstract:

*At the present situation, relationships between universities and parks are often lacking, disrupted or occasional, both at a national and especially at the international level. This leads to several problems. On one side, the transmission of knowledge and research, with new applicable discoveries, from the academic world to the system of natural parks and protected areas is usually slow and it happens in a patchy, unmethodical way; this hampers the expertise's update for parks' staff. On the other side, the educational programme offered by the universities about the topics of conservation of natural or cultural heritage is often almost only theoretical, lacking of practical subjects such as the effective management and valorisation of protected areas; this hampers the professionalization of young new-graduates and their likelihood of getting a job in this field. Moreover, lack of cooperation between academic and non-academic worlds, and lack of connection between conservation of nature / environment and that of cultural heritage, hampers the popularisation to nonspecialist public and its engagement on conservation topics.*

*Our project aims at creating a solid and long-lasting network between universities and parks of different European countries in the Mediterranean area, that share a partially common historical and cultural background. This network will be finalized at creating an efficient system of knowledge-sharing between universities, parks and universities/parks. Through a programme of seminars, staff's and students' mobility, and a conclusive summer school both universities and parks will share and exchange their most recent knowledge and best management practices; those seminars will be open to public access and their content, altogether with every other intellectual output of the project, will be available on an open-source and user-friendly project website. This approach will allow all partners of the network, including undergraduate students and parks' staff but also nonspecialist public, to get a holistic approach to the issues of natural and cultural conservation; our aim is to conjugate scientific knowledge to management and educational capabilities and to close the gap between conservation of nature and biodiversity and conservation of archaeological and cultural patrimony. The creation and maintenance of our network shall favour the possibility of establish future joint/double degrees or eventually post-graduate courses, and such a more complete approach will favour popularisation to common people and public engagement in forms of active ecotourism and citizens' science*

Allo stato attuale, i rapporti tra università e parchi sono spesso carenti, non continui o occasionali, sia a livello nazionale e soprattutto a livello internazionale. Ciò porta a diversi problemi. Da un lato, la trasmissione della conoscenza e della ricerca, con le nuove scoperte applicabili, dal mondo accademico al sistema di parchi naturali e aree protette è in genere lento e si verifica in modo disordinato; ciò ostacola l'aggiornamento del *know-how* per il personale dei parchi. D'altra parte, il programma educativo offerto dalle università sui temi della conservazione del patrimonio naturale e culturale è spesso quasi esclusivamente teorico, privo di materie pratiche come la gestione e la valorizzazione efficace delle aree protette; ciò ostacola la professionalizzazione dei giovani neolaureati e la loro probabilità di ottenere un lavoro in questo campo. Inoltre la mancanza di cooperazione tra mondo accademico e non accademico, e la mancanza di connessione tra la conservazione della natura e dell'ambiente e del patrimonio culturale, ostacola la divulgazione al pubblico non specialista e il suo impegno su argomenti di conservazione.

Il nostro progetto mira a creare una rete solida e duratura tra università e parchi di diversi paesi europei dell'area mediterranea, che condividono un *background* storico e culturale in parte comune. Tale rete sarà finalizzata alla creazione di un efficace sistema di condivisione delle conoscenze tra università, tra parchi e tra università e parchi. Attraverso un programma di seminari e di mobilità di personale e di studenti, e una scuola estiva conclusiva, sia le università sia i parchi saranno in grado di condividere e scambiare le proprie conoscenze più recenti e le migliori pratiche di gestione; tali seminari saranno accessibili al pubblico, e i loro contenuti, unitamente ad ogni altra produzione intellettuale del progetto, saranno disponibili in una piattaforma *open-source* e su un

1/4

sito web *user-friendly* del progetto. Tale approccio permetterà a tutti i partner della rete, tra cui studenti universitari e del personale dei parchi, ma anche al pubblico non specialistico, di ottenere un approccio olistico ai problemi della conservazione del patrimonio naturale e culturale; il nostro obiettivo è di coniugare le conoscenze scientifiche con la gestione e con le capacità educative, e di colmare il divario tra la conservazione della natura e della biodiversità e la conservazione del patrimonio archeologico e culturale. La creazione e il mantenimento attivo della nostra rete dovrà favorire la possibilità di istituire in futuro diplomi congiunti o, infine, corsi post-laurea; un tale approccio, più completo, favorirà la divulgazione alla gente non esperta e un impegno più attivo nelle forme di ecoturismo attivo e della conoscenza dei cittadini.

## Description of the Project

### What is the rationale, issues and needs to be addressed by this project?

This project aims at creating an international network between universities and natural parks focused on conservation of Nature and preservation of cultural heritage. This network could supply the previous lack of communication between academic and non-academic worlds, allowing a more efficient diffusion of both scientific innovations and best management practices and developing a synergistic and multidisciplinary exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Through this reciprocal exchange, the project points at fulfil the needs of:

- implementing the transnational cooperation between European universities, by encouraging internationalization of *curricula* and academic programmes;
- supporting the parks in facing new conservation problems (e.g. genetic conservation issues) and developing efficient conservation strategies through the scientific support of universities, such as the production of new intervention protocols;
- improving the management of *in situ* conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage, and their appeal for the public, through the sharing of best practices applied by each single park which can represent exportable models for the other protected areas;
- shaping young professionals who hold both a scientific background (concerning conservation of Nature and of cultural heritage), and practical skills in regard of the territory and management of protected areas;
- increasing the awareness of the public (tourists, local communities) on the topics of conservation and eco-tourism by involving people in following seminars and conferences and also to participate actively to some practical activities on the field.

### In what way is the project innovative and/or complementary to other projects already carried out?

At present, the cooperation between Universities and parks often happens just occasionally or at a national or sub-national level and only on personal initiative. This project aims at developing a transnational, European and long-lasting cooperation network between Universities and parks.

The real innovation of this project is to develop a much wider and international framework in which both the academic and non-academic institutions have a dialogue between each other and transfer knowledge and expertise at different levels. Specifically:

- the universities will enter the parks through seminars and possible training activities to the staff, and they will develop new intervention protocols to cope with the most compelling conservation problems and priorities;
- the expertise of parks will enter the universities through seminars and practical lessons made by the administrative and technical staff of the protected areas; this will favour a vocational training of students and new-graduates thanks to strongly professional didactic pathways;
- the dialogue between different parks and the consequent exportation/import of best practices, integrated with the knowledge and the scientific support of the academic staff, will favour the developing of successful protocols for the implementation of wildlife conservation and management in protected areas;
- the involvement of non-specialized people (tourists, local communities, visitors, amateurs) will be achieved through some public workshops and conferences, and by their active participation to practical activities on the field, such as animal censuses, educational excavations in archaeological sites, etc. This form of "citizen science" could promote active eco-tourism and, hopefully, it could increase the flow of visitors and amateurs which would help to sustain the economy of parks.

### How did you choose the project partners and what experiences and competences will they bring to the project? How was the partnership established and does it involve organisations that have never been previously involved in a similar project?

The partnership involves institutions of countries historically related in the Mediterranean area: Italy,

Croatia, Slovenia and Corsica (France).

The academic partners will provide the fundamental framework of scientific knowledge in the fields of conservation of Nature and preservation of cultural heritage. In such a perspective, this partnership with an ancient institution as the University of Pisa, with its Master Course in Biodiversity, Conservation and Evolution that is something unique among the countries of this network, could represent an incentive and a model for the most recently founded academies such as the University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli, established in 1981, or the University "Juraj Dobrila" of Pula, which was founded in 2006.

More in detail, the University of Pisa will manage the botanical and zoological aspects of the project, the University "Juraj Dobrila" of Pula will manage the archaeological sites, and each partner will organise the translation of all produced material (including the web site of the project) in its own language (French at University of Corsica "Pasquale Paoli", Slovenian at University of Ljubljana, Croatian at University of Pula) and in the languages most commonly used for transnational communication (English and German).

Natural parks will provide the practical expertise and techniques of *in situ* conservation regarding the administration and management of protected areas.

Both older and more recently established parks will participate to the project; this shall favour the development and implementation of recently established protected areas by making available the expertise and best practices of the already successful older ones.

Moreover, the presence of Italian language minorities in the countries belonging to the partnership could be an added value in order to favour the exchanges and integration between stakeholders.

How will cooperation and communication happen among all project partners and with other relevant stakeholders? What will be the purpose and frequency of the transnational project meetings and who will participate in them?

Cooperation and communication among all project partners and with other relevant stakeholders will take advantage of modern and efficient virtual means of communication, such as periodical video-conferences, e-mails and Skype connections between representative people of each institution; these delegates will:

- plan in a synergistic way all short-term and long-term activities scheduled;
- manage the staff and student mobilities;
- monitor the results and achieved goals *in itinere*;
- periodically update the databases and web sites regarding the project.

Moreover, one or two transnational project meetings per year between the legal representative or administrative people of each involved institution responsible for the project will be organized, with the purpose of discussing and supervising the proceedings, management and further development of the project.

What are the most relevant priorities addressed by your project?

- Implementing the management of protected areas and conservation actions through the exchange of successful and exportable best practices between parks.
- Developing new intervention protocols and conservation strategies to be applied in the parks, through the collaboration with the academic staff of universities; this shall guarantee the best possible scientific approach in facing the compelling conservation issues and problems.
- Including practical lessons and training experiences of *in situ* conservation and management of protected areas in the didactic pathways offered to students by universities.
- Creating and defining a new professional profile, able to cope both with the scientific, administrative and educational/communicational aspects of protected areas' management (with the aim of offering new possible career solutions to young new-graduates).
- Involving local communities and non-specialized visitors both in occasions of scientific information and popularisation and in direct and practical experiences on the field. This shall contribute to stimulate and increase their awareness on the importance of conservation of Nature and preservation of cultural heritage, and could help to develop new forms of active eco-tourism to sustain the local economy.

### What are the most relevant topics addressed by your project?

The most relevant topics addressed by this project are:

- Increase of international attractiveness and students mobility for the universities participating to the project, which would open the possibility of establishing future medium-term or long-term partnerships between these institutions.
- Reciprocal exchange of knowledge and competences between academics and parks.
- Development of new conservation strategies and intervention protocols by seminars of academic staff in the parks.
- Integration of didactic pathways for students with practical lessons and seminars by the parks staff in the universities.
- Integrated administration of environmental resources and archaeological sites.
- Export/import of best practices between older and more recent parks, in order to favour the implementation of the last ones.
- Organization of a Summer School on the field for students and new-graduates with a naturalistic/conservation background; this Summer School will focus on practical aspects related to administration and management of a protected area, with the purpose of defining new professional pathways and profiles.
- Implementation of new forms of "citizen science" trough active eco-tourism in the parks; this would be achieved by involving visitors and volunteers in practical activities on the field (such as animals' populations censuses, plant and animal species monitoring, birds ringing, detecting and marking feeding or reproductive areas, collecting samples - feathers, faeces, etc. - useful for research or for didactic aims, working in archaeological sites, etc.), following the guidelines of protocols proposed by the universities.

What results are expected during the project and on its completion? Please provide a detailed description of the expected results (if they are not listed in intellectual outputs, multiplier events or learning, training, teaching activities).

### **Preparation**

Please describe what will be done in preparation by your organisation and by your partners before the project activities take place.

The first step is to strengthen the network of academic and non-academic institutions in order to strongly and efficiently collaborate in the project planning. For this reason, the University of Pisa has recently signed Erasmus+ Agreements for students mobility and staff mobility with all the universities involved in this project.

The next step for the academies will be to examine and compare their didactic programmes, in order to evaluate possible modifications to their didactic organization and regulations; this will aim at favouring the integration among universities and the possible creation of joint/double degrees or eventually Postgraduate Courses.

Moreover, the universities of the network will guarantee the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired, by means of certificates and documents which will attest the participation to every activity. They will ensure, indeed, the recognition and validation of ECTS assigned to students for both learning and training activities.

In support of e-mail and video-conferences, one or two transnational project meetings between the representatives of all partners involved in the project will be organized, in order to plan and discuss together all the technical aspects (number of mobilities, seminars schedule and contents, etc.).

### **Project Management**

How will you ensure proper budget control and time management in your project?

Budget control and time management will be ensured on the base of the agreements between all

partners, by means of an accurate evaluating of needs, priorities and costs, and through a constant monitoring of all the activities and results by the use of periodical reports.

How will the quality of the project's activities and results be monitored and evaluated? Please mention the involved staff profiles and frequency of such quality checks.

The project results will be monitored and evaluated in terms of number of students' mobilities and staff mobilities per year, intellectual outputs produced, number of applicants for the summer school, and level of involvement of non specialized people. This will be done through registration procedures, periodical statistics, and the visitors' counter included in the project web site.

Moreover, staff expert in communication and media will distribute assessment questionnaires and appreciation questionnaires to the public after each seminar or activity related to the project, even after the summer school.

Furthermore, the project web site will provide for a dedicated platform in which everyone can express his/her own appreciation level toward each activity within the project and about the web site itself. It will be possible to leave comments and personal suggestions in the specific forum created for this purpose.

What measures are foreseen to handle project risks (e.g. conflict resolution processes, etc.)?

Project risks such as conflict resolution processes, cultural mediation and similar issues will be managed by the staff of academic and non-academic institutions within the partnership; in each single phase of the project, priority will be given to a constant communication and mediation between all the stakeholders.

Which activities and indicators of achievement (quantitative and qualitative) will you put in place in order to assess whether and to what extent, the project reaches its objectives and results?

Periodical and annual reports on the proceedings and results of the project will be provided by each partner institution.

Moreover, one or two transnational project meetings per year between the legal representative or administrative people of each involved institution will be organized; those meetings will have the purpose of discussing and supervising the proceedings, management, results, and further development of the project.

Assessment questionnaires and the forum for comments and suggestions on the web site will provide an immediate and interactive feedback on the level of involvement and appreciation of public for all the proposed activities.

## **Implementation**

Please describe briefly how you intend to organise your project's activities.

The project's activities will be organized as it follows:

- First year: organization and planning

One or two transnational project meetings will be scheduled, supported by e-mail exchanges, video-conferences and other web-communication tools; those meetings will be needed to discuss, define and plan all the issues related to the project: budget management, number of students and staff mobilities per year, seminars schedule and topics, any further organisational detail.

The universities will work on their own didactic organization and didactic regulations, with the aim to further integrate and internationalize their academic programmes. This will be the primary effort to attract an increasing number of students and guest lecturers in mobility.

In this outlook, new medium-term and long-lasting forms of partnerships between the academic institutions participating to the project could be developed, such as joint degrees, double degrees or Postgraduate professionalizing Courses.

A web site specifically dedicated to the project will be created and translated in Italian, French, Croatian, Slovenian, English and German. This web site will contain the links to all universities and

parks involved in the partnership, and a visitors counter.

- Second/Third year: information and popularisation

Seminars/workshops will be organized both in the universities and in the parks (some of them accessible to public), in all countries partners of the project, in order to:

- describe some practices/ techniques/ protocols successfully used in the parks involved;
- develop new intervention strategies to cope with new conservation problems;
- inform the public concerning conservation issues.

All seminars, conferences and workshops will be broadcasted and living recorded in streaming modality on the project web site.

- Second/Third year: implementation and training

The parks interested in will import the best practices illustrated by other parks and try to apply them in their local area; they will have the scientific support of the protocols developed by the universities and will organize practical activities for visitors and tourists.

Students will be involved in seminars, practical lessons and training activities on the field by the staff of the parks.

- Third year: multiplier events and discussion of results

Organization of a Summer School on the field, specifically addressing unemployed new-graduates on the topic of Conservation of Nature and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, with specific focus on Administration and Management of Protected Areas.

The aim of the Summer School will be to create and define a new professional profile with holistic skills, combining bio-naturalistic and historical/archaeological knowledge, with expertise in history of landscape use, preservation of natural and archaeological resources, eco-sustainable use of the territory and educational/communicational capabilities.

Production of informative material (slides, manuals, protocols) about the activities related to the project, to make available on-line. All the material produced within the project will be uploaded on the project web site, in an open-access and user-friendly format. Scientific material will be uploaded in English; less specialized and more educational material will be uploaded in all the languages of partner countries.

Possible conclusive conference, accessible to the public and living recorded, to show and discuss the results of the project.

What target groups do you address in your activities plan?

- Academic staff: professors, researchers, PhD students (scientific knowledge).
- Administrative and technical staff of parks (practical and management competences, knowledge of the territory, awareness of local issues and problems).
- Undergraduate students and new-graduates.
- Non-specialised public (parks visitors, amateurs, volunteers, tourists, local communities...).

### **Involvement of Participants With Fewer Opportunities**

Does your project involve participants facing situations that make their participation more difficult?

Possible participation of people from lower socio-economic background, disadvantaged groups, such as refugees relatives, war victims' relatives (in regard of the recent history of some of the countries involved in the project), disabled people, economically disadvantaged people (unemployed new-graduates).

How many participants (out of the total number) would fall into this category?

An accurate selection among students/new-graduates to finance for mobility will be carried out, by evaluating their social and economic status, and by taking into account gender balance and belonging to ethnolinguistic minorities.

How will you support these participants so that they will fully engage in the foreseen activities?

74

By finance them with mobility fellowships to confer to those candidates who satisfy all the requirements provided for by the public announcements, and by providing multilingual support in all activities.

#### Which types of situations are these participants facing?

These participants face situations of social and/or economic disadvantage that would not allow them to get involved in the project without an economic support.

### **Project Activities**

#### Intellectual Outputs

The project provides for the production of intellectual outputs as a result of knowledge sharing and best practices development activities. These materials will have both technical and educational nature, with the aim to spread and preserve the knowledge and results derived from the project activities.

More in detail, slides of seminars, best practice protocols, periodical reports, some e-guidebooks and manuals mainly focused on biological/naturalistic and conservation topics, archaeological aspects and eco-tourism will be published on-line, in an open-access and user-friendly format, on the web site specifically dedicated to the project.

The web site will be created *ad hoc*, and it will contain the links to all universities and parks involved and the updated news about all the initiatives organized in the parks. All the information will be available in English, Italian, French, Croatian, Slovenian and German languages. The choice of languages is determined both by the spoken languages of the participating countries, by the need of a transnational language and by the prevailing nationality of tourists in such countries (English and German).

The activities related to this project could also produce some scientific publications on low impact factor specialized journals, published in open-access format.

#### Multiplier Events

Most of informative seminars and conferences organized in the parks, even the conclusive congress in which the results of the project will be examined and discussed, will be accessible to the public and living recorded on streaming modality on the web site. This will confer to the whole project a strongly educational and instructive mark.

Some publications in the local languages will be produced on non-specialized journals and science popularisation periodicals, and on local newspapers, in order to spread as much as possible all the initiatives and intellectual outputs related to the project, involving as much people as possible not only at an international and European level but first at the local and regional level.

Moreover, a Summer School in Conservation of Nature and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, with specific focus on Administration and Management of Protected Areas will be organized; this will be the crowning achievement of three years of development and testing of ideas and practices, and production of intellectual outputs. This Summer School will be a crucial and conclusive multiplier event which will involve all interested people, such as students and new-graduates in the field of conservation of Nature. It will be an intensive course, both theoretical and practical, focused on the issues of the project and on the analysis and discussion of the obtained results. The Summer School will have a pivotal role for training new young professionals with both theoretical, scientific knowledge and practical skills in the management of protected areas, eco-tourism and public popularisation.

#### Learning/Teaching/Training Activities: Do you foresee the inclusion of learning, teaching or training activities in your project?

This project will include many Learning/Teaching/Training Activities, from seminars and practical lessons in the universities to stages and practical activities in the parks.

Certificates of participation will be provided to students, researchers and public attending the seminars or the summer school, in order to ensure the curricular validity of the activities promoted by



the project.

All the participating universities will guarantee to students the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired, by means of ECTS recognition and validation system both for learning and training activities.

What is the added value of these learning, teaching or training activities with regards to the achievement of the project objectives?

The added value of all learning, teaching, and training activities included in the project is that they will address an international and largely heterogeneous target of people: students, parks staff, non-specialized public (tourists, volunteers, amateurs, local communities, visitors), in order to ensure as widest knowledge sharing as possible, at different levels, by involving in a close and dynamic network people coming from different contexts and realities. This indeed will stimulate an active and fruitful exchange and development of new ideas and of a new awareness between academic personalities, technical and administrative staff of parks and simple passionate.

Please describe each of the learning, teaching or training activities you intend to include in your project:

The project will include:

- Seminars and practical lessons by the parks' staff in the universities, mainly focused on those management aspects often lacking in the traditional didactic pathways.
- Informative and educational seminars by the academic staff in the parks, accessible to the public, about the aim and the proceeding of the project, focused on the importance of conservation of Nature and preservation of cultural heritage.
- Practical activities on the field involving non-specialized public and passionate volunteers (such as animal populations censuses, plant and animal species monitoring, birds ringing, detecting and marking feeding or reproductive areas, collecting samples for research or for didactic aims, working in archaeological sites etc.) by following the guidelines of protocols proposed by the universities.
- Organization of practical stages for students in the parks, and a conclusive Summer School on the field for students and new-graduates with a naturalistic/conservation background, in which will be taught practical aspects related to administration and management of a protected area and to communication and public involvement.
- Moreover, all the material and intellectual outputs produced within the project (manuals, e-guidebooks, etc.) will be highly characterized by an educational mark.

### Follow-up

#### **Impact**

What is the expected impact on the participants, participating organisations, target groups and other relevant stakeholders?

The expected impacts of this project are:

- Implementation of *in situ* conservation strategies and attractive actions related to the tourism management in protected areas, with the scientific support provided by universities.
- Development of new conservation strategies and protocols through the sharing of scientific knowledge by the academic staff in the parks.
- Integration of academic didactic pathways offered to students by universities with practical lessons, training activities on the field and seminars about administrative and management aspects by the parks staff, with the possibility to activate new Master Degrees based on the

model of "Biodiversity, Conservation and Evolution" Master Degree experienced at the University of Pisa.

- Definition of new professional profiles and career solutions, especially for unemployed new-graduates with a naturalistic/conservation related background, thanks to the participation to the Summer School on Conservation of Nature and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, with specific focus on Administrative and Management aspects.
- Education of the non-specialized public about the topics related to conservation of Nature and preservation of cultural heritage, especially stimulating a new awareness of their importance through the involvement and active participation of local communities, volunteers, visitors and amateurs to practical activities on the field, which can represent new forms of eco-tourism that could help to sustain the local economy of parks and of the surrounding territory.

What is the desired impact of the project at the local, regional, national, European and/or international levels?

The desired impacts of this project are:

- at the local and regional levels, the increasing awareness of local communities of the importance to institute and preserve protected areas, even as a resource of possible economic growth;
- at the national level, the creation of a synergistic network of institutions which actively and usefully cooperate and sustain each other by the exchange of knowledge and best practices which allow each park or university to grow avoiding the risk to remain an isolated entity, even by creating new integrated *curricula*;
- at European level, this project could represent a model to be exported also to other countries, in a framework of international and multidisciplinary cooperation between universities and non-academic institutions which aims to a wider and deeper integration between the European Community members. This approach is in line with the internationalization process which already characterizes many universities of European countries and that should be further encouraged; this process could favour the establishment of medium-term and long-lasting partnerships between the universities involved, possibly resulting in future developments such as joint degrees, double degrees or Postgraduate Courses which would be professionalizing for young new-graduates and formative for parks' staff.

The project could represent also the starting point for: possible LIFE+ projects involving the protected areas of the partner countries; other Transnational Cooperation Programmes focused on conservation of natural resources, preservation of cultural heritage and eco-sustainable use of the territory, such as the ones Italy-Slovenia, Italy-Croatia, and Italia/Francia "Marittimo".

How will you measure the previously mentioned impacts?

The previously mentioned impacts could be measured in terms of:

- level of public involvement in the activities of the parks and number of visitors of the project web site;
- number of best practices successfully imported and of realized and usefully applied protocols;
- number of students and staff mobilities per year and quantity of applications for the participation to the Summer School;
- [number of new master degrees, double degrees and other kind of long-term cooperation programmes established between the partner institutions after the conclusion of this project.]?

#### **Dissemination and Use of Projects' Results**

*You are requested to elaborate dissemination plans. Please provide answers to the questions below.*

To whom will you disseminate the project results inside and outside your organisation? Please define in particular your target audience(s) at local/regional/national/EU level and motivate your choice.

The project results will be disseminated to local communities living in the surrounding territory of parks, to local and regional public authorities, to administrative and other staff of the universities, students and moreover to a non-specialized public, in order to ensure the maximum spread as possible

of all scientific and educational outputs.

Who will be responsible for the dissemination activities within your partnership and which specific expertise has it in this area? How many resources will you make available to allow for the proper implementation of your dissemination plans?

Communication and web sites management qualified staff will be responsible for the dissemination activities within the partnership. The staff will be appointed by universities and parks, and it will be responsible also for the translation of all educational materials in the local language. If some institutions would lack such expertise or such resources for this purpose, partners may agree to set aside a small fraction of budget to pay one person or some persons (offering brief stage periods for young unemployed new-graduates) who will be specifically responsible for the dissemination activities.

What kind of dissemination activities do you intend to carry out (relevance) and through which channels?

- Popularisation of activities related to the project and dissemination of results through web-sites of universities and parks, and through social networks.
- Realization of a web-site specifically dedicated to the project, which will include a visitors counter, the links to all universities and parks involved in the project, all news and updates about the activities and results, and uploads of both scientific and educational material.
- Dissemination of information through seminars accessible by the public and living recorded to make them available in streaming modality on the project web site.
- Publication on-line of new conservation protocols developed within the project, slides of seminars, etc. This material will be accessible in an open-source and user-friendly format.
- Scientific publications on low impact factor specialized journals, published in open-access format.
- Publications in the local languages on non-specialized journals and periodicals and on local newspapers.
- Illustration and discussion of results in a conclusive multiplier event such as a transnational project meeting accessible also to the public and living recorded and visible in streaming modality on the project web site at the end of the third year.
- Teaching of practical techniques and best practices implemented by the parks in the Summer School in Conservation of Nature and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, with specific focus on Administration and Management of Protected Areas, such as crowning achievement of the three years project.

How will you ensure that the project's results will remain available and/or will be used by others?

- All informative material will remain available open-source on web sites.
- Each partner will continue to keep in contact with the others.
- Parks will use protocols proposed by universities and will apply best practices imported from the others.
- The universities will carry on their collaboration between each other by reciprocal mobilities within the Erasmus+ framework and possible establishing of medium-term and long-lasting cooperation programmes.

If relevant, please provide any other meaningful information deemed necessary to give a comprehensive overview of your dissemination plans.

### **Sustainability**

What are the activities and results that are planned to be maintained after the end of the EU funding including the needed resources to sustain them?

In order to guarantee the availability of the results of the project and of the intellectual outputs, the web sites will be kept functioning and updated even after the end of the project. The partners will find the

necessary resources for such a maintenance, since the initial costs for the experimentation will be quite limited and then the project will self-finance through touristic packages and activities related to active eco-tourism with fee.

## **Budget**

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Role of Organisation Proposer subject of the partnership; administration of botanical and zoological aspects; translations in Italian

Name of the Organisation University of Pisa

Grant Requested 450000 €

Total 450000 €

### **TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETINGS**

Total No. of Meetings 3/6 (one or two meetings per year)

Total No. of Participants 20 (2 legal or administrative representative people from each partner institution)

### **INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS**

*Which concrete participating organisations' staff resources are you planning to use in the production of outputs that have a significant contribution in terms of potential impact and transferability (e.g. new curricula, pedagogical materials, IT Tools, analysis and studies, etc.)?*

Total 180000 € / 200000 €

### **MULTIPLIER EVENTS**

Event Identification Seminars, Workshops, Conference, Summer School

Grant Requested 30000 €

### **LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

#### **TRAVEL**

*NOTA BENE: AS DETAILED IN THE PROGRAMME GUIDE, THE GRANT SUPPORT FOR MULTIPLIER EVENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF 30.000 € PER PROJECT REGARDLESS OF ITS DURATION.*

#### **SUBSISTENCE**

Long-term Learning/Teaching/Training Activities

Short-term Learning/Teaching/Training Activities

### **LINGUISTIC SUPPORT**

...

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

...

### **EXCEPTIONAL COSTS**

*NOTA BENE: AS DETAILED IN THE PROGRAMME GUIDE, THE GRANT SUPPORT FOR EXCEPTIONAL COSTS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF 50.000 € PER PROJECT.*

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

At the present situation, relationships between universities and parks are often lacking, disrupted or occasional, both at a national and especially at the international level. This leads to several problems. On one side, the transmission of knowledge and research, with new applicable discoveries, from the academic world to the system of natural parks and protected areas is usually slow and it happens in a patchy, unmethodical way; this hampers the expertise's update for parks' staff. On the other side, the educational programme offered by the universities about the topics of conservation of natural or cultural heritage is often almost only theoretical, lacking of practical subjects such as the effective

management and valorisation of protected areas; this hampers the professionalization of young new-graduates and their likelihood of getting a job in this field.

Moreover, lack of cooperation between academic and non-academic worlds, and lack of connection between conservation of nature / environment and that of cultural heritage, hampers the popularisation to nonspecialist public and its engagement about conservation topics.

Our project aims at creating a solid and long-lasting network between universities and parks of different European countries in the Mediterranean area, that share a partially common historical and cultural background. This network will be finalized at creating an efficient system of knowledge-sharing between universities, parks and universities/parks. Through a programme of seminars, staff's and students' mobility, and a conclusive summer school both universities and parks will share and exchange their most recent knowledge and best management practices; those seminars will be open to public access and their content, altogether with every other intellectual output of the project, will be available on an open-source and user-friendly project website. This approach will allow all partners of the net, including undergraduate students and parks' staff but also nonspecialist public, to get a holistic approach to the issues of natural and cultural conservation; our aim is to conjugate scientific knowledge to management and educational capabilities and to close the gap between conservation of nature and biodiversity and conservation of archaeological and cultural patrimony. The creation and maintenance of our network shall favour the possibility of establish future joint/double degrees or eventually post-graduated courses, and such a more complete approach will favour popularisation to common people and public engagement in forms of active ecotourism and citizens' science.

## **SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**

### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

#### **Project Total Grant**

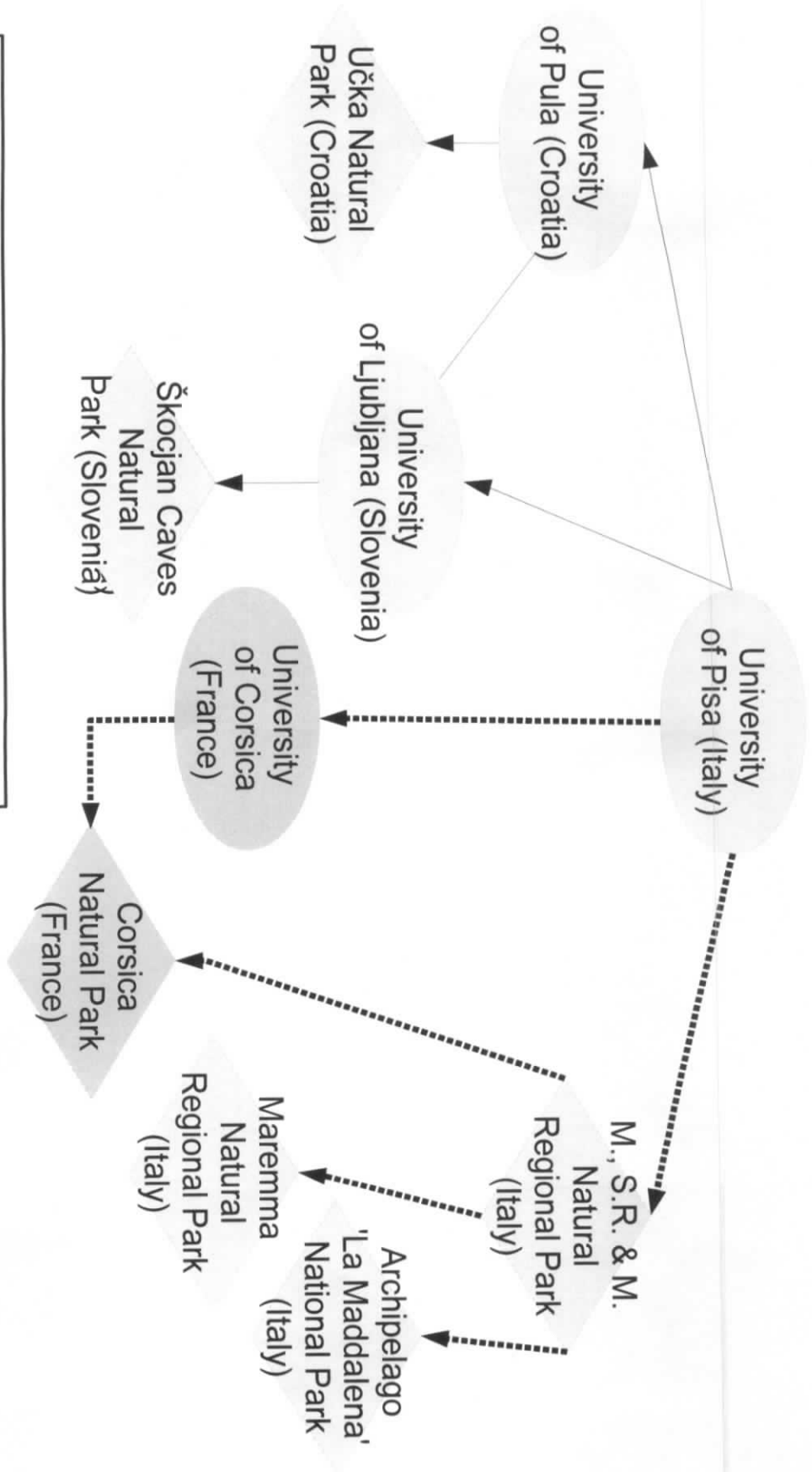
Grant Calculated 450000 €

Grant Requested 450000 €

#### **Checklist**

TBD

# Actual relationships' network



**Partial and disrupted net**, to be improved by implementing connections between universities, universities/parks, parks, and between the natural/environmental and cultural/archeological issues of conservation.

**Legend:**  
 — = links concerning cultural heritage preservation  
 - - - = links concerning conservation of nature/environment

*Handwritten signature*