



**Natura 2000
Networking
Programme on behalf
of the European
Commission**

**Natura 2000 Networking Programme
managed in partnership by project partners
EUROPARC Federation, Eurosite and
European Landowners Organization (ELO)**

**Natura 2000 Networking Programme
Train the Trainers event - Report
Danube Floodplain National Park, Austria – 23rd – 27th April 2007**

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Summary

The Natura 2000 Networking Programme is managed on behalf of the European Commission through a partnership with Eurosite, the EUROPARC Federation and the European Landowners Organization (ELO). The Programme involves a programme of training, thematic workshops and a communication strategy targeted at key individuals involved in or influential to the management of Natura 2000 and also the general public.

The first key element of the Natura 2000 Networking Programme is the 'Train the Trainers' event. This training programme is the backbone to the success of the entire programme. The motivation of the Ambassadors involved, their ability to successfully implement their own follow-up events and to cascade their experience gained is dependent on the success of the training event. Therefore, the training event links all the other parts of the programme.

The training was developed to positively influence the implementation and management of Natura 2000 network at the local level. It was organised to ensure maximum multiplier effect. It involved Ambassadors from within the three partner organisations that work daily in Natura 2000 sites and are involved in the necessary management, communication or implementation decision-making processes. As a result of the training event, they will be equipped with the skills and practical tools necessary to run their own follow-up event at a national level, focussing on those specific themes and priorities that are relevant to their country.

The 'Train the Trainers' event was an extremely successful event. Fifty-four participants from seventeen different countries took part and contributed to the programme. From the thirty Ambassadors, concrete action plans for follow-up events were created. From these action plans, fifteen follow-up events will take place in various member states. These events will cascade the lessons learned and Natura 2000 Networking Programme messages to an estimated three hundred people and many different organisations throughout Europe.

The excellent outcomes from the training exceeded expectations and the fantastic integration realised was testimony to the partnership approach at the heart of the programme. This was achieved through the three partner organisations working very closely together both before and throughout the training event. This achieved a motivational and inspiring effect, which proved highly engaging and rewarding for the participants. The legacy of the contacts created and relationships formed during the 'Train the Trainers' event will continue to develop throughout the programme and is vital for Natura 2000 beyond the lifetime of the programme.

Introduction to training programme

The 'Train the Trainers' event is a central element of the overall Programme. The event took place from 23rd – 27th April in the Danube Floodplain National Park in Austria. The training involved 30 Natura 2000 Ambassadors from across Europe who work daily in Natura 2000 sites and are involved in the necessary management decisions or implementation. Overall there were fifty-four participants at the training event. This included Ambassadors, speakers, observers and organisers.

The training aimed to address the needs of the Ambassadors and to give them the skills that they need to address the issues relevant to their daily work in Natura 2000 sites. Throughout the five days, the training focused on developing good practice management for Natura 2000; also, the problems often associated with the implementation of Natura 2000 were openly and frankly discussed, to share experience and seek out common solutions for site managers, private stakeholders and public authorities.

The topics covered in the training included: *stakeholder involvement, effective local level communication, conflict resolution, practical management issues and economic development synergies (identifying funding opportunities)*. The training was participatory and interactive,

including formal presentations from invited speakers, case-study presentations from the participants, plenary sessions, panel discussions, group work and an educational excursion. By working together the participants were encouraged to discuss issues, share experiences and develop practical solutions, which can be applied through the programme for their own national and local benefits. The programme for the five days was designed with 'real life' problems and positive experiences in order to provide an informative, stimulating and motivating backbone to the entire Natura 2000 Networking Programme.

Training concept and objectives

The training concept was based on the following pillars:

- The partnership between Eurosite, the EUROPARC Federation and the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) assures a different set of outcomes than if the training had been designed by and for one of the partners individually. The training benefits and gains energy from the mix having different stakeholder backgrounds represented in the training venue.
- The event is an externally facing one as participants will provide training for others or organise events after returning into their home countries. Participants will be well equipped to train others back home capitalising on the experience exchange and the acquisition of new skills provided for thanks to the 'Train the Trainers' event.
- During the event practical site management issues fed in as individual case studies. These were to be discussed as cases connected to the training themes, such as communication or stakeholder management.

The objectives of the training included:

- To build a lasting support network among all the Ambassadors
 - To deliver an Action Plan from each Ambassador for a follow-up event
 - To equip all Ambassadors equipped with a useful training manual
 - To increase understanding and effective communication of Natura 2000
 - To share a broad experience of Natura 2000 management
 - To develop and plan the 15 follow-up events at the national level
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Overall programme

The training event took place over five days. At the beginning of the first day, the trainer set out and discussed the objectives for the training. These objectives were continually reviewed and discussed during the week. The desired outcomes of the Ambassadors had been submitted by the Ambassadors through the training questionnaires, which were completed, returned and analysed by the organisers before the training event. The needs and desired outcomes of the Ambassadors were considered throughout the training.

The aim of the first two days of the training was to discuss, identify and address the wide variety of issues associated with the management and implementation of Natura 2000 for the participants, their organisations and their specific countries. Through presentations, case studies and group work this was achieved. During the third day (Wednesday), the discussions moved towards finding common problems and solutions within the various countries taking

part in the training. On this day various mediation techniques were explored along with the various agreement types available and in use within Natura 2000. The financial opportunities for various member states along with various communication strategies were also explored. These topics encouraged the participants to work together to discover their common issues and to explore common solutions.

Group work – methodology and procedure

In order to enable the Ambassadors to develop their own issues in more depth and to exchange knowledge and experience among the various participants, five 'working groups' were created (see background documents: working groups). Each working group had a facilitator who assisted and advised (when necessary or requested) in all the discussions. Before the training event, a plan was created for each working group session (see Table 1: summary of group work methodology). This included defining desired outcomes and establishing guidelines for facilitators. The facilitators proved to be important to the process, as they supported the group and ensured that both good progress and comprehensive conclusions were achieved. The Ambassadors remained in their 'working group' for the most of the training. This enabled them to work together, build effective working relationships and develop discussions over the five days. In order to encourage interaction between different people and integrate stakeholders, each working group included participants from the three partner organisations. During this time, the groups discussed each others' questionnaire results to compare approaches for Natura 2000; to develop practical skills, for example, the groups created a press release together and took part in role-play exercises. This was designed to foster understanding of different perspectives and opinions. They also communicated and assisted each other with their problems and issues regarding their daily work in the management of Natura 2000. At the end of each working group session, each group elected a spokesperson to present the discussion points, conclusions or issues of their working group to all the participants. This enabled everyone to understand the various discussions, which took place in each working group and thus gain a better understanding of the issues and opinions of the other participants.

As the training came to an end, the groups were opened up and the Ambassadors were encouraged to work and network with others from outside their working groups.

The method of using working groups to facilitate constructive discussions proved extremely valuable and useful for participants and also to achieve the training programme's objectives. Often, because discussions were so fruitful and engaging, the facilitators had a difficult job to keep to time! The Ambassadors were extremely enthusiastic and integrated whole-heartedly with each other. This resulted in many opinions and different viewpoints being understood and communicated during the training, which otherwise may not have been so successfully realised.

Programme by day:

Monday 23rd April

During the first day of the training, the chairperson invited each participant to introduce the person sitting beside him or her. This was an effective and welcoming method to enable the participants to get to know each other and to understand where each person came from and their daily work within Natura 2000. The chairperson then gave a short summary of the objectives of the training. He also asked participants to agree and establish ground rules for the event - 'good practices' in order to ensure that all the objectives were achieved and to ensure a productive training event. Participants were welcomed on behalf of the organisers, which were represented by Eurosite Director Gernant Magnin, EUROPARC Director Eva Pongratz and ELO Secretary General Thierry de l'Escaille (Marie-Alice Budniok speaking on behalf of Thierry de l'Escaille-delayed). Viktoria Hasler, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management represented the hosting

country Austria. Viktoria Hasler explained that the majority of Austria's Natura 2000 areas were forests and Alpine pastures, and that competences did not lie with the national ministry but with the provinces (*Länder*). She also saw a potential advantage in this system, as ministries on province level are probably closer to stakeholders than the national ministry.

The following presentations took place:

'Natura 2000 facts and perspectives'

(Marta Ballesteros, Eurosite, Belgium)

Marta Ballesteros presented a concise overview of Natura 2000 and the development of the relevant Directives, issues concerning specific articles and the current situation in various Member States. This presentation proved informative because when the presenter asked who in the room was previously aware of these facts, approximately 50% were not!

'Natura 2000 & the Natura 2000 Networking Programme'

(Marita Arvela, the European Commission, Belgium)

Marta Arvela presented a clear overview of the perspective from the European Commission and the various ongoing programmes associated with Natura 2000. Such programmes include the Natura 2000 Networking Programme, the Natura 2000 pilot website helpdesk, various management models, an awareness - raising campaign on large carnivores, a book on Natura 2000 and a campaign to raise awareness of Natura 2000 on the European tourism sector. The various guidance documents for the implementation of the Directives were also discussed.

'The Danube Floodplain National Park'

(Carl Manzano, Director of the Danube Floodplain National Park, Austria)

Carl Manzano gave an outline of the geographic layout of the National Park, its history and establishment process, the biodiversity within the park and the construction and development around the park. Innovative water engineering measures and the reconnection of side arms back to the Danube was also explained and presented.

'The Forestry Agency of the City of Vienna'

(Gottfried Haubenberger, LOBAU/ Forestry Agency of the City of Vienna, Austria)

Gottfried Haubenberger discussed the historical development of the city of Vienna and the National Park. He presented their work on education within the city and the 'green belt' around the city.

'Revitalisation of the Danube River Banks'

(Georg Frank, Leader of LIFE Project, Austria)

Georg Frank presented a LIFE project implemented in the Danube Floodplain National Park aiming at the development and revitalization of the Danube riverbanks. The partners involved, the river dynamics, the issue of erosion and flooding, the biodiversity of the river and the overall restoration project were presented. The lessons learned and the monitoring processes were both clearly outlined. Good communication and investment in public relations was considered one of the reasons why the project was well accepted among the local population.

Plenary Discussion

(Marita Arvela (the European Commission), Eva Pongratz (EUROPARC), Gernant Magnin (Eurosite), Thierry de l'Escaille (ELO), Marta Ballesteros (Eurosite)).

During the plenary session, the following issues were discussed:

1. The source of the legislation for Natura 2000
2. Who was involved in the creation and development of the Directives?
3. How can we communicate the importance of Natura 2000 to all stakeholders, including nature managers and landowners?
4. We have learned from the past mistakes, so now lets move on! Natura 2000 needs to be managed!

Group work

During the first group work session, the Ambassadors discussed the most important issues effecting the implementation of Natura 2000 (from their own personal perspectives). The results showed that the following issues were most influential:

Group 1: The imposition of legal framework; national Natura 2000 management plan conflicting with private property / lack of identification with national management plans; financing; Natura 2000 in state owned protected areas / parks; management: what is allowed, what not?

Group 2: Lack of effective and clear communication delays implementation. A non-consistent planning system and changing governments also hinders implementation. The different values and views on nature are also hindering the procedure.

Group 3: Inconsistent messages about Natura 2000 being communicated are hindering implementation. The tension involved with funding and its availability is also a hindering element.

Group 4: The economic aspects of Natura 2000 must be communicated better. There should be easier access to funding and better information about the different processes in the different member states.

Group 5: There is a need for 'one clear message' to be communicated about the implementation. There is good public support for Natura 2000 but a fear of the political implications. This is hindering implementation.

Tuesday 24th April

Boat Excursion

The Danube Floodplain National Park hosted and led an extremely educational and fun boat excursion for the participants on the River Danube. The participants learned about the biodiversity in the forest, the restoration of the riverbanks, the re-opening of river side arms and the effects of land flooding.

Case study presentations:

'The French perspective on Natura 2000'

(Naïk Faucon, ATEN, France)

The current situation of Natura 2000 in France was presented and explained during this presentation. The number of sites and the geographical distribution was displayed. This history and development of the overall national strategic plan was explained. There are also 14 million people living in Natura 2000 areas. The management plans for the individual site management (DOCOB) was explained. There are currently 500 operational management plans within France. The presenter explained that the management of sites occurs on two levels, which involves the national committee and the local steering committee. The local steering committee writes the management plan.

The work carried out by ATEN (both in France and in Europe) was also presented. This includes staff training, creation of job description standards, international collaboration of site management and advising on legal and policy issues.

The ongoing communication strategy within France was also explained. There is currently a Natura 2000 co-ordinator. France aims to have the entire marine Natura 2000 network designed by the end of 2008 and to have all such marine sites site up by 2010.

The various contracts used for the successful implementation of Natura 2000 within France were also presented.

Afterwards the group discussed issues such as where the money for the various contracts involved with Natura 2000 comes from (e.g. for landowners).

‘Sponsorship and branding of Natura 2000’

(Egbert Beens, Staatsbosbeheer, the Netherlands)

Egbert Beens discussed the importance and benefits of linking Natura 2000 and economic issues. He clearly outlined strategies to involve and gain support from various stakeholders and the general public, using the Weerribben National Park in the Netherlands as a working example. He urged the participants to question ‘what can Natura 2000 offer you?’ and communicate this through their site activities and management.

Examples of branding Natura 2000 were displayed. Such examples included the promotion of reed, milk, cheese, holiday homes, sport fisheries and art within the Natura 2000 network. By promoting a high standard for such products developed or produced within these sites, we can communicate a positive and beneficial message of Natura 2000.

‘Natura 2000 and military training areas’

(Wolfgang Mattes, Umweltbundesamt, Austria)

The issue of nature conservation, with emphasis on Natura 2000 sites within military training areas was developed and presented. The conflicts between the ministry of defence and nature conservation was explored and the potential solutions explained. The Austrian solution to ‘Natura 2000 and military training areas’ was presented and explained. The presenter emphasised the importance of including the Natura 2000 objectives into the overall training site management plan. The importance of the site should be communicated to the army and the ministry of defence along with the general public in order to gain support and co-operation. Public access to the Natura 2000 site is also an issue. The habitats available in training areas include scots pine forests, natural watercourses, reedbeds, meadows, ruins, which house bat species. The activities within the training areas can complement and promote biodiversity.

The discussion that followed explored the issue of abandoned military areas and the benefits of the army work carried out on various bird species. One participant put an interesting question to the group for discussion – ‘Do the biodiversity objectives override those of the military?’

‘Economic activities within Natura 2000- the Slovenian case’

(Boris Grabrijan, Krajinski Park Kolpa, Slovenia)

Boris Grabrijan explained that there is high biodiversity in Slovenia and outlined the areas designated to Natura 2000. A description and clear overview of the Krajinski Park Kolpa was presented. There are currently no management plans for the park. The speaker emphasised the difference between the expectations of NGOs and landowners with regard to Natura 2000. There is a need for a balance between nature protection and economic growth. Good practice in the park includes part-time farming, tourism, education and the subsidising of expensive traditional agriculture. There is a problem of abandoned farmland in the park. There is a need to continue the traditional use of grassland that offers protection to specific butterfly species. Therefore there is an incentive to use Natura 2000 as an economic incentive for farmers to work within the areas.

‘The issue of predation in achieving the Natura 2000 objectives’

(Geva Blackett, Scottish Gamekeepers Association, United Kingdom)

Geva Blackett presented the case of the Scottish highlands and the use of predator control in achieving nature conservation objections. The examples of foxes hunting and killing endangered species such as the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) and the Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) within Scotland were presented. The tools and methods of hunting were explained along with the various different species controlled. The issue of shooting Red Grouse as a tool for moorland management was presented. The speaker emphasised that no other activity currently generates the income required to manage the moorland properly. The importance both culturally and economically to local people was clearly outlined. The speaker believed that the people have a right to participate in their natural heritage.

Presentation

'Twinning LITE programme'

(Roelof Heringa, Staatsbosbeheer, the Netherlands)

Twinning LITE is an important element of the Natura 2000 Networking Programme. Roelof Heringa outlined the benefits of this initiative and encouraged the participants to work together and to exchange experiences.

Group work

During this session, each group reviewed and discussed the completed questionnaires of those participants in their own group (see Table 2: summary of Questionnaires). A comparison of the answers was created and the groups presented their findings to the entire group. Issues mentioned were: problems during the designation phase and level of stakeholder participation in different countries; help of NGOs concerning funding and implementation of management plans; lack of information coming from the member states; the need for better transparency in the implementation of some activities (i.e. hunting); the need to anticipate future problems linked to the designation and implementation phase in some countries (i.e. Romania); expectations on the outcome of the training.

Wednesday 25th April

Presentations

'Identifying and engaging various Natura 2000 Stakeholders'

(Dr Andy Clements, ferrypath consulting Ltd, United Kingdom)

'Conflict Resolution in Natura 2000'

(Dr Andy Clements, ferrypath consulting Ltd, United Kingdom)

'Agreement and Contract types within Natura 2000'

(Thierry de l'Escaille, ELO, Belgium)

Thierry de l'Escaille summarised what Natura 2000 meant for landowners and explained some of the conflicts that arise through lack of communication and misunderstanding of Natura 2000. The implications of Natura 2000 on rural activities were clearly outlined. These include a high demand on human resources and large financial impacts to the landowner. Landowners have a key role in the management of Natura 2000 sites and thus in the management of biodiversity in these sites. The speaker emphasised that people's trust in Natura 2000 will only be gained if they believe that a genuine interest is shown in their views. Their opinions must be taken into account when decisions are being made about the future management and conservation of their sites. Articles 12 and 16 of the Habitats Directive were discussed, including the benefits and disadvantages foreseen in the future.

'Financing Natura 2000'

(Dr Wolfgang Suske, Naturschutz & Ländliche Entwicklung, Austria)

Dr Wolfgang Suske presented the financial assistance available for Natura 2000, in general and specifically in Austria. He clearly outlined the steps involved in the distribution of the funding. He also outlined the various other funding sources that can be applicable for Natura 2000 (European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, European Fisheries Fund, LIFE etc).

'Natura 2000 in the media in the CEE'

(Pavel Antonov, Green Horizon, Hungary)

Pavel Antonov presented the issue of Natura 2000 in the media in the Central and Eastern European countries. He clearly outlined the negative media attention that Natura 2000 has received. He displayed the image of Natura 2000 in these countries and how it is viewed as something negative, which will hinder economic and financial development. There is a lack of trust in society towards Environmentalists. The speaker also explained that journalists are more likely to publish articles and news that is 'scandalous' or eye-catching. Therefore the

bad publicity and problems related to Natura 2000 was constantly in the media and thus was perceived as a negative issue in the public opinion. Pavel Antonov is involved in researching and analysing the media coverage in these countries. The results are yet to be completed. However this useful analysis will be applicable to other countries such as Poland in order to research the media development.

The discussion based on this presentation explored the variety of experiences with the media coverage in the various countries. The participants emphasised the need to be 'proactive' toward the media and not only react against negative information being published. They were encouraged to invite the press (both green and non-green) to their nature area and explain the issues to the journalists themselves. By experiencing the nature and working together, the journalists will learn from each other and gain a positive experience and thus relate that to Natura 2000.

The difficulty of encouraging the national press to report on European issues was discussed. The national press tend to want to only mention the national nature area and fail to place the sites in the Natura 2000 network.

'Communication strategies for Natura 2000'

(Dr Andy Clements, ferrypath consulting Ltd and Heather McMorland, Natural England, United Kingdom)

On behalf of Chris Rose, Campaign Strategy Ltd., the speakers explored the various approaches to creating and delivering a successful campaign. This presentation involved both strategic and practical solutions to developing a communication strategy. It identified how to incorporate the appropriate images and wording to effectively deliver the desired message. The presentation was interactive and included input from the participants.

Group work

There were three different group work sessions during this day.

Finding common solutions to the issues raised

During this session, the groups strived to find common solutions to the issues and problems raised during the previous group work on questionnaires. They aimed to find solutions for each individual Ambassador, taking into account the background and national differences existing among them.

Mediation exercise

The various groups worked together on a mediation exercise in order to understand the importance of this in their daily work with Natura 2000. The Ambassadors participated in role-play exercises in order to appreciate other perspectives. There were many important lessons learned from this mediation exercise. These included the need to participate in factual and not emotional discussions, to increase trust among partners, to build on positive energies, find common interests and to use neutral or independent territory to develop the mediation exercise. The importance of compromise was central to the lesson.

Agreement and contract types within Natura 2000

During this session each group discussed and listed their various experience with the use of contract and agreement types within the Natura 2000 framework. The wide variety of experiences was then presented and discussed within the larger group.

Thursday 26th April

'Practical communication techniques'

(Heather McMorland, Natural England, United Kingdom)

On the fourth day Heather McMorland presented practical communication techniques. She displayed and discussed various methods of practical communication methods that could be useful for the participants in their daily work. Both good and bad practices were explored. Participants were again encouraged to work in their groups for these exercises. Each group

completed a press release together and discussed how to communicate their own site or land within Natura 2000 to both the press and general public.

Action Plans

During the second half of Thursday, the participants developed their own individual action plan (see Table 3: summary of the Action Plans). These action plans clearly outlined their plans for follow-up events resulting from the training event. Each Ambassador developed, completed and presented an action plan. Therefore as a result of the training, each Ambassador will continue the work and develop and exchange their ideas and knowledge with their colleagues and stakeholders involved in their work.

Friday, 27th April

Follow-up events

The following Ambassadors presented their plans for follow-up events and welcomed the other participants to attend these events:

Bernard Gorsak, Kozjanski Park, Slovenia

Elena Tilova, Green Balkans and Anton Stanchev, Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria

Iiro Ikonen, Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre, Finland

Daniel Piec, Natura International, United Kingdom

Emmanuelle Mikosz & Charles Beaufriere, ELO, Belgium

Lucian Feroiu, Romanian Forest Owners Association, Romania

Plenary discussion on 'Train the trainers' event and plans for the future

Summary from chairperson

The chairperson reviewed the original objectives with the participants and discussed the successful achievement of objectives during the week. The chairperson suggested that an 'expert group' be developed from the experienced Ambassadors within the programme. This could include four or five people from the three partner organisations to discuss the issues raised and to possibly meet with the European Commission and to communicate their issues within Natura 2000. The chairperson also encouraged the Ambassadors to work together on a national level, suggesting that if they have a national issue that they do not have experience with, that could invite others from various countries to meet with the relevant ministry or authority to discuss the issues and to give examples of other methods working in their countries.

He emphasised that the Ambassadors were a powerful and influential group of people working within Natura 2000.

The agreed plans for the future included the following:

1. Keeping the network alive

The participants agreed that the exchange of good practices and knowledge should continue after the training and even beyond the Natura 2000 Networking Programme timeframe. This would be achieved via the dedicated programme website, <http://natura.org> and through regular contact among the participants. The website had a blog or forum which is available for the participants to voice their opinions/issues/questions to the other Ambassadors and to any other persons. All Ambassadors were encouraged to regularly visit, read and contribute to the website and the dedicated programme blog.

Future plans/commitments of Ambassadors

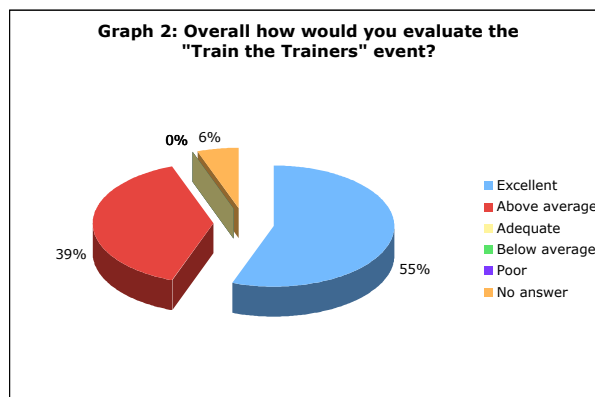
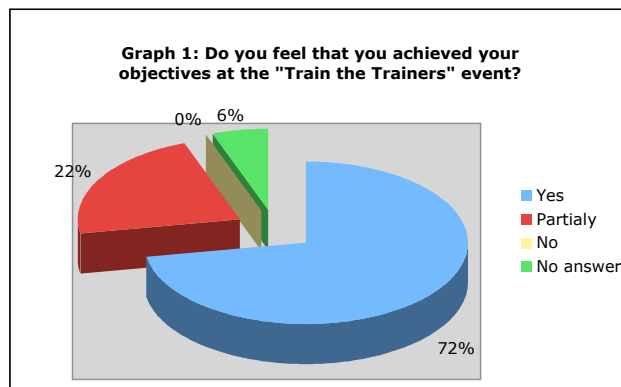
The participants agreed to supply feedback about the training and their plans for future events to the organisers by 11th May. The organisers will summarise the actions and circulate this to all through the website in a calendar-style overview. Each participant also agreed to carry out the events planned through their action plan during the timeframe of the programme. They will keep the organisers updated about this so the events can be promoted or assisted as necessary.

Future plans/commitments of the organisers

The partner organisations agreed to circulate the feedback and report of the training event to all the Ambassadors. The PowerPoint presentations will also be made available to everyone (via the website). The email addresses of all Ambassadors will be made available in order to assist in communication and exchange of information.

Evaluation

18 completed evaluation forms were received from the Ambassadors. These results were reviewed and analysed (see background documents: summary of evaluation sheets). The results were extremely positive and the Ambassadors gained a lot from the training event. From the answers received, 72% of Ambassadors felt that they had achieved the objectives that they were expecting from the training event (Graph 1). 100% of the Ambassadors found the production of an action plan useful and 100% were keen to be involved in a follow-up event. 55% of the Ambassadors evaluated the training event as 'Excellent', while 39% felt that it was 'above average' (Graph 2).



Implications of the training event on the Natura 2000 Networking Programme

The 'Train the Trainers' event was a vitally important launch-pad for the Natura 2000 Networking Programme. The Ambassadors participated in group work, presentations, excursions and plenary discussions. They completed questionnaires before the training and created action plans during the event itself. In the following months, each Ambassador will cascade their training and experience gained to their colleagues at national events. Therefore the training will have a large and tremendously important multiplier effect across Europe. The Ambassadors have also created a very strong and interesting network of people dedicated to the successful communication and implementation of Natura 2000. This network will exist both after the event and hopefully beyond the timescale of the programme itself. This network will also develop further via the Twinning Lite programme and the dedicated website set up at www.natura.org

The training modules, lessons learned and experience and knowledge gained through the 'Train the trainers' event will be used as part of the ongoing development of the toolkit. The toolkit's resources will be available to the Ambassadors and others throughout and beyond the duration of the programme. This will equip the Ambassadors with the necessary tools to communicate the training to their colleagues.

The training event has set the scene and the high standard for the follow-up events in the Natura 2000 Networking Programme. Through the follow-up events, Green Days, online website facility and ongoing communication strategy, the Natura 2000 Networking Programme is striving to successfully inform, train and empower those people working daily within Natura 2000.
