



# European Charter For Sustainable Tourism and Wetlands

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# Content of the presentation

- European Charter for Sustainable Tourism
- example - ECST in the RAMSAR area
- implementation of the ECST in the Carpathians
- ECST and Tourism Protocol

# *THE CHARTER*

## ...what is the European Charter?

- practical management tool;
- voluntary agreement;
- recognition of protected areas;
- process-oriented methodology for sustainable tourism.



[www.europarc.org](http://www.europarc.org)

# THE CHARTER

...75 protected areas in 8 European countries



# *THE CHARTER* ...the structure

- Charter Part I: Sustainable tourism in protected areas
- Charter Part II: Partnership with tourism businesses
- Charter Part III: Partnership with tour operators

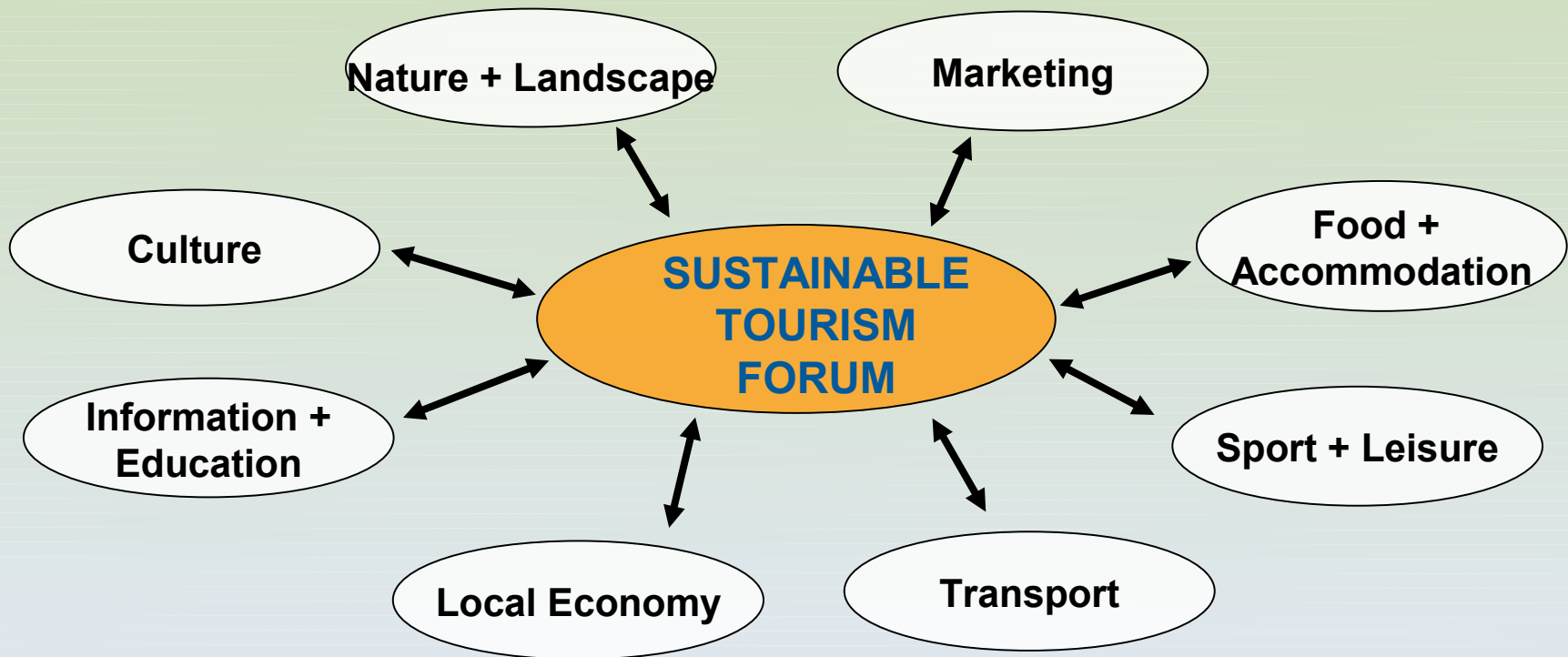


# CHARTER PRINCIPLES

...working in partnership



1. Involve all those implicated by tourism in and around the protected area in its development and management.



# *CHARTER PRINCIPLES* ...a strategic approach



**2. To prepare and implement a sustainable tourism strategy and action plan for the protected area**



# *CHARTER PRINCIPLES*

## ...key issues



3. **Protecting and enhancing natural and cultural heritage**
4. **High-quality nature experience**
5. **Communication**
6. **Discovery and understanding**
7. **First-hand capacity building**
8. **Quality of life**
9. **Local benefits and development**
10. **Monitoring and managing**



# THE CHARTER

## ...linking tourism & biodiversity

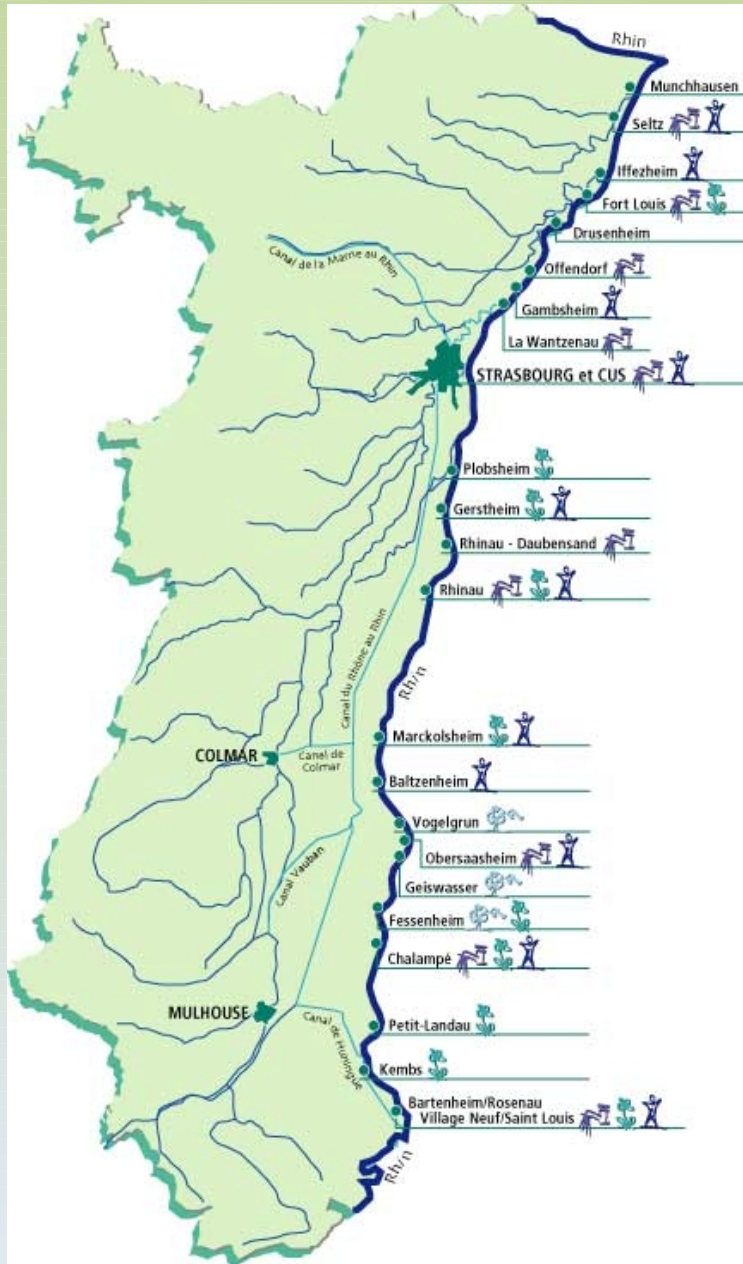
- implementing the CBD Guidelines for Biodiversity and Tourism Development on protected area level
- putting theory into praxis
- case studies from almost 60 protected areas
- strengthening the links between people and nature



# *THE CHARTER*

## Benefits for the protected area

- Economic, social and environmental benefits of well-managed sustainable tourism
- Strengthened relations with local tourism stakeholders
- Higher profile regionally, nationally and across Europe
- New ideas and improvements through internal and external assessment
- Exchange of expertise and experience within the Charter network
- Public relations opportunities with visitors and media
- Greater credibility among potential funding partner organisations



# RHIN VIVANT LIFE PROJECT

## 4 main actions :

- Natura 2000 and management plans
- Restoration works
- Restoration and maintenance of open habitats
- Dissemination plan



# Activity of LIFE project

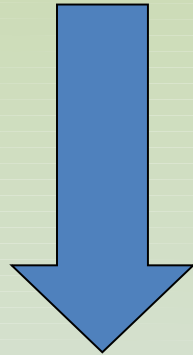
## Dissemination/Education/Working with public



## **Findings out from working with public...**

- The Rhine is not taken into consideration as a natural heritage
- The Rhine has a bad image (industrial, transport...)
- The Rhine does not exist in terms of tourism «products»
- There's a wide range of activities for tourism development...

# IDEA: TO WORK ON AN ACTION PLAN FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATURA 2000 AREA OF THE RHINE CORRIDOR



- Recognising «Rhine destination» as a «green destination»
- Generating revenue for local stakeholders

- Going further in restoration works
- Extending the surface of protected areas

**Protected/NATURA 2000 sites :  
require a soft, sustainable tourism**

**Good  
Framework**

**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N



**EUROPEAN CHARTER  
FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN  
PROTECTED AREAS**

**ACTION PLAN (2004-2008)**

## **Further step: implementation of the action plan.**

### **Urgent problems to solve:**

- **Bad image of the destination:** work with press/media, communication tools (web site, brochures...), fairs...
- **A lot of local initiatives but no global vision:** a lot of «structuration» work in order to have all the existing proposals under the umbrella of «Rhin vivant»
- **Lack of hosting capacities:** financial support will be given to «sustainable initiatives»
- **No transboundary networking:** Listing of existing tourism initiatives in Germany, including the German stakeholders in working groups...



- Very few existing tourism «Rhine products» :

Three main products developed and tested



**Fishing**

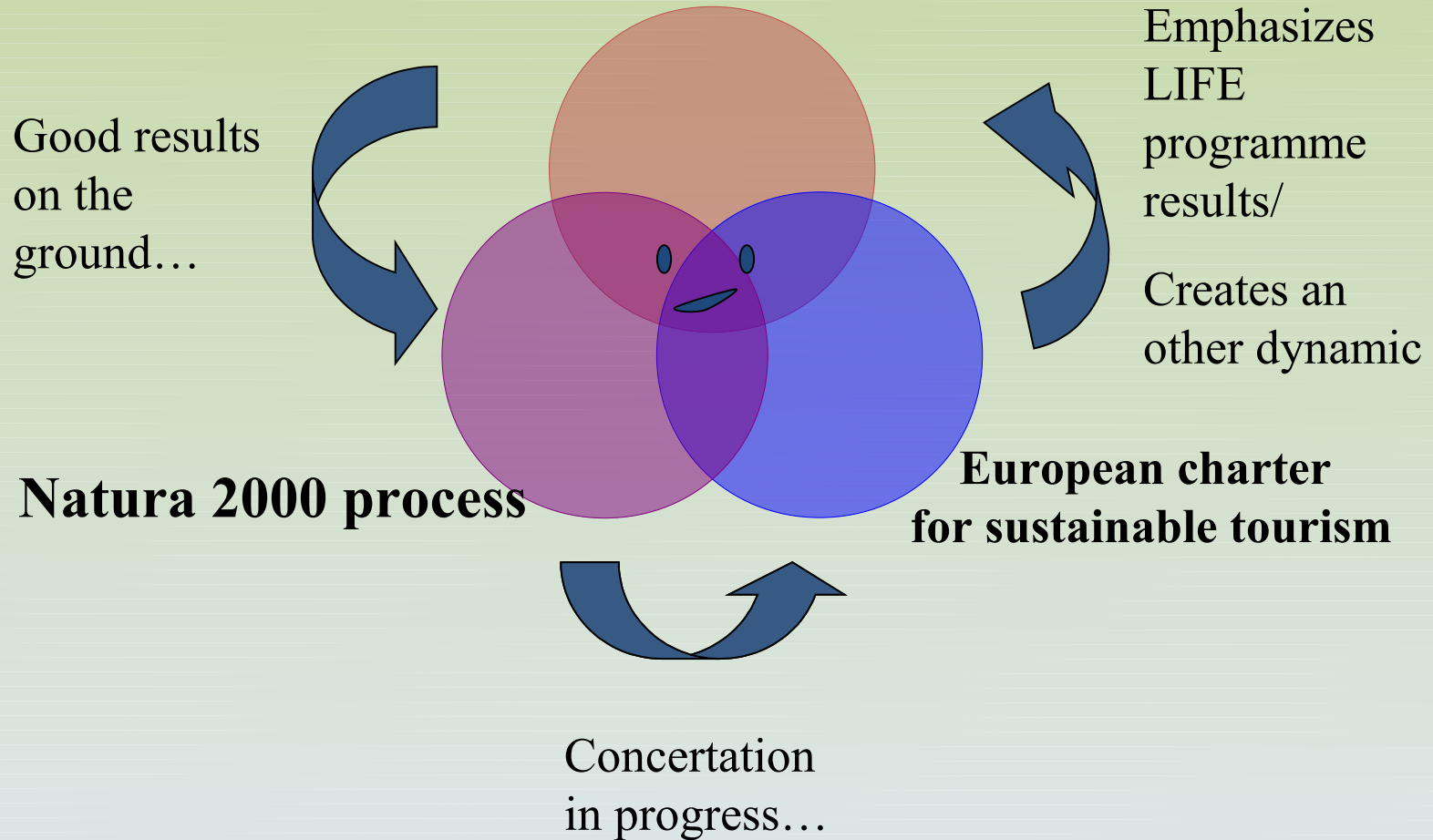


**Alluvial forest discovering**



**Bird-watching**

# LIFE-Nature project



# ECST in Slovakia

- European CharterNet
- Registration as Charter candidate
- Round tables
- Application – submission of documents to Europarc Federation

*nature protection vs. tourism*



**NÁRODNÝ PARK  
MURÁNSKA PLANINA**

**3.**

OTUDĚ



# ECST in Slovakia



- European CharterNet partnership NP Harz and NP Muránska planina

# ECST in Slovakia

*Support or even initiating  
of the sustainable tourism  
in the region of PAs*

*Opportunity*

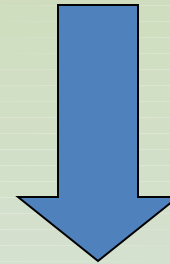
*Restrictions*



- NP Muránska planina – registration for ECST

# ECST in Slovakia

Round tables



Strategy + Action plan

# peatbog biotopes and moorland with rare plant species



PR Trstie 1121 m a.s.l - educational trail



# *Hronec a Sluvium*



# Educational panels in the Hronec valley



Národný park Muránska planina  
The National Park Muránska planina Mts.

## Mokrade doliny Hronec Mokrade doliny Hronec



rašeliník  
Sphagnum  
(Sphagnum sp.)

Nachádzate sa v horskej doline Hronec, ktorá sa tiahne od Závadky nad Hronom, pozdĺž skálnych masívov Malej a Veľkej Štožky, až pod sedlo Burda. Svojou dĺžkou 12 km sa radí k najdlhším dolinám na území Národného parku Muránska planina a jeho ochranného pásma. Vytvorila sa na priechom severo-južnom zlome v širokom masíve Fabovej hory. Dolinou preteká podzemný tok Hronec, ktorý vyviera pod Fabovou horou. Cestou zbiera vodu počiatkových prameňov vznikajúcich na styku vápencov a kryštalickej horniny. Pri Závadke nad Hronom sa vlieva do rieky Hron.

V pramenej oblasti potoka Hronec sa v jeho náplavách v minulosti našlo druhotné úlomkovité zlato, tzv. zliatinky.

Mokrade v doline Hronec sú významným stánovištom rôznych druhov živočíchov, najmä obojživelníkov - mlika karpatského (Triturus montandoni), skokana hnedeého (Rana temporaria), a ropuchy bradávičnatej (Bufo bufo). V rámci Projektu ochrany obojživelníkov, realizovaného Správou NP Muránska planina a dobrovoľníka amerických mierových zborov (U.S. Peace Corps), boli v roku 2000 v mokradiach vykopané 4 jarky. Z nich sa vytvorili ďalšie vhodné stanovišťa na rozmnožovanie zla.



Informačný panel bol realizovaný v rámci projektu, ktorý zospeľňuje Európske zmluvy.  
The informational panel was made in the framework of the project cofinanced by the European Union.



kalkúľ potôčny / Purple Anemone  
(Anemone)



ropucha bradávičnata / Common European Toad  
(Bufo bufo)

ropucha ropucha bradávičnatej / potôčny / Common European Toad



vlna potôčny / Purple Meadow Grass  
(Sedum album)

šibakovec  
Common Marsh-marigold  
(Sedum album)

Potok Hronec lemuje brehový porast, v ktorom dominuje jaľovka sivá (Alnus incana), sprevádzaná čremchou strapcovitou (Padus racemosa), vrbou purpurovou (Salix purpurea), vrbou populárou (Salix cinerea) a vrbou krehkou (Salix fragilis).

Na miestach s nadbytkom podzemnej a povrchovej vody sa vytvorili vlhké lúky a prechodné rašeliniská, charakteristické vysokou pokrývnosťou machorastov a prevažou rašeliníkov (Sphagnum fallax, Sphagnum teres), prítomnosťou ostríc (Carex sp.) a ďalších vlnkových druhov rastlín.



vážka plochá  
Broad-leaved Chaser  
(Libellula depressa)



šibakovec  
Common Marsh-marigold  
(Sedum album)



vševoc močiarny  
Marsh Loosestrife  
(Pedicularis palustris)

We are now walking through the Hronec Valley, which stretches from Závadka nad Hronom, along the stone masses of Small and Big Štožka up to the Burda saddleback. With its 12 kilometers of length, it is one of the longest valleys in the region of the National Park of Muránska Planina and its protective zone. It was formed on a diagonal north-southern fault in the broad massif of Fabova Hora. A small mountain creek called Hronec, which starts at the foot of the Fabova Hora Mountain, runs through the valley. On its way it collects water from numerous streams, which have been formed at the points where the limestone and crystalline rocks meet. Near the village of Závadka nad Hronom, Hronec runs into the river Hron.



mlika karpatský  
Carpathian Newt  
(Triturus montandoni)



vajíčka skokana hnedeého  
Common Frog's eggs



skokan hnedeý  
Common Frog  
(Rana temporaria)

In the area where the Hronec creek starts, namely in its alluvium, there have been found numerous deposits of secondary clastic gold, called "zliatinky", in the past.

The Hronec creek is bordered by riparian forest vegetation, dominated by gray alder (Alnus incana), accompanied by common cheryomuha (Padus racemosa), purpleosier willow (Salix purpurea), gray willow (Salix cinerea) and crack willow (Salix fragilis).

At places with over-abundance of ground and overground water, moist meadows and temporary peat bogs were formed. These are typical for their high density of biophytes, especially sphagnum (Sphagnum fallax, Sphagnum teres), presence of sedges (Carex sp.) and other kinds of hygrophilous vegetation.

ostrica zobáčkata  
Beaked Sedge  
(Carex rostrata)

# Muráň river



# Muráň river – barrier removal



*LIFE project: Conservation of habitat diversity in Slovenský raj*



# Reconstruction of Prielom Hornádu nature trails



# Construction of nature trail Wetlands of Hnilec River



Nature  
Conservation



Municipalities

Business friendly to  
sustainable tourism



# ECST and Tourism Protocol

- Principles of the Charter in Tourism Protocol for CC and Strategy as well
- CC, Tourism Strategy and Protocol mentioned in the Strategy on ST of the NP MP
- Concrete suggested activities in the Strategy (Chapter 5.4) – Voluntary joining the ECST
- Monitoring system – indicators: Formal starting of the Charter process. Obtaining of the diploma or other certification. Promotional material connected with Charter application.
- Feedback from Europarc Consulting: exchange, training and networking is needed for PAs in Carpathians to be prepared for ST

Thank you for your attention

