



TWINNING PROFILE

ALBANIA & SWITZERLAND

Background: At the European Ranger Congress 2017 in Litoměřice, Czech Republic, the **Albanian National Parks Association** and the **Swiss Rangers Association** agreed on a Twinning Partnership in line with the overarching theme of the Congress: **Liaising with Rangers throughout Europe.**

Main Topics

- Junior Ranger (JR) programs
- Exchange of work experience between rangers
- Support for needed items for daily work
- Management of large carnivores

Ways of Learning

- **Management of large Carnivores** in Albania: learning through exchange
- **How to establish a JR Program:** Albanian rangers participated in JR workshop in CH, after that establishment of a JR program in Albanian mountain region; Swiss rangers also visited existing JR program in Divjaka Karavaste and Prespa National Park and brought JR T-Shirts as presents for the children
- **Exchange about migrating birds** winter to summer in both countries
- Albanian rangers informed about **agriculture and biodiversity in Albania**, discussion on improvement

Exchange in Practice

- **mutual visits** between groups and individual rangers
- **digital exchange** via video calls and by phone, Whatsapp group and Email updates
- Meetings in Albania and in Switzerland also **with other partners** than rangers





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High lights



Future Plans & Contact

- 2017: **First meeting** of both country's rangers at ERC in Litoměřice
 - **One-week visit** of rangers to several national parks in Albania together with Croatian rangers
 - **Joint workshop** on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Swiss Rangers Association in Switzerland
 - 2018: **Joint World Ranger Day** in Albania
 - 2019: **Workshops and JR workshops** in Uster and participation in the national meeting of Swiss Rangers
 - 2019: **ERF Twinning Meeting** in Denmark with Swiss and Albanians
 - **Reunions** at Portuguese national Ranger meetings
 - 2022: **Twinning meeting and workshops** at ERC in Albania
 - 2023: Small grant application for needed items such as drones, night vision equipment or boots in 3 national parks in Albania: **TGLF grants \$6,500**
 - Several **individual ranger encounters** in parks in Albania
 - Overall: a lot of **friendship and hospitality**
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- **Involve external partners** like Eco-Albania or Swiss organisations
 - **Strengthen cooperation** with Eco Albania, Patagonia, Vjosa National Park and **working together** with the ERF on structural **professional development**
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