



## TWINNING PROFILE

### CROATIA & PORTUGAL

**Background:** The history of this Twinning goes back to the European Ranger Congress 2017 in Litoměřice, Czech Republic, where it was signed. The idea for the cooperation between the **Croatian rangers** and the Portuguese ranger association **Associação Portuguesa de Guardas e Vigilantes da Natureza** was born 2014 in Brijuni National Park, Croatia, while Portuguese rangers were visiting.

#### Main Topics

- **Management** of protected nature areas
- Exchange of **work experience** between rangers
- **Maintenance work** in protected areas
- **Fire and emergency** services
- **Monitoring** of plant and animal species
- **Supervision** in the field

#### Ways of Learning

- **Practical Exchange Program:** about 5 rangers from Portugal/Croatia carry out practical work for 10 to 15 days in around 3 protected areas in the partner's country; in addition, the visitors give a presentation about their home protected areas
- **Knowledge & Practical Experience Exchange Program:** exchange of lecturers who give thematic presentations about park management systems on their national level or on a particular protected area and species management.

#### Exchange in Practice

- **mutual visits** within the framework of the programs described above; food, transport and accommodation (camping and mountain huts) are provided by the host
- **visits to the annual conferences** of the twinning partner by individuals or groups
- exchange on **digital platforms and social networks**



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#### High lights

- 2014: The **idea for cooperation** between Croatian and Portuguese rangers was born at 3rd European Ranger Congress in Brijuni, Croatia.
- 2017: **First meeting** of both country's rangers at ERC in Litoměřice and **signing of the Twinning** agreement
- Several exchanges of national ranger delegations followed, usually as **mutual visits for the national annual seminars**
- Delegations of Croatian rangers visited Portugal, during which they learned about the **management of protected parts of nature** in the region of Lisboa, Sintra, Azores, Madeira and Algarve
- Delegations of Portuguese rangers visited Croatia and **exchanged experiences with Croatian rangers** in NP Krka, NP Paklenica, City of Zagreb, NP Plitvička jezera, NP Velebit, PP Žumberak Samoborsko gorje, NP Brijuni
- 2022: **Presentation at the European Ranger Congress**, Albania, on the development of the Twinning project to European colleagues



#### Contact

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