



PAWS-MED Newsletter

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Foresters Can Now Train Their Pedagogic Skills

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Thanks to two partner meetings recently hosted in Berlin and Lisbon the EU project PAWS-MED has been officially started aiming to improve the pedagogic skills of foresters carrying out activities of information, training and communication with the public. Co-financed by the European Commission, the project registers the participation of several EU partners.

PAWSMED is a forest pedagogy project financed by the European Commission in the framework of the program "Leonardo da Vinci innovation transfer" for training and extension. Guided by training and research institutes based in Germany and Austria, it gathers partners from six Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Slovenia).

Its main goal is the adaptation and transfer to the Mediterranean situation, the so-called "PAWS-method", which consists of three basic aims such as:

1. to increase the competence of foresters in the area of holistic pedagogics, psychology and communication skills
2. to enable foresters to improve the quality of their teaching
3. to teach foresters how to plan and prepare pedagogically appropriate and efficient tours or seminars for individual target groups

This methods has already been implemented in countries of Central and Northern Europe during the previous PAWS project that lasted from 2004 to 2007.

The partners chosen are traditionally and deeply involved in the implementation of huge information campaigns, raising-awareness activities and educational programs on environmental and forest topics.

The new project, that started in October 2009, will have a duration of two years and foresees a number of stages: adaptation to the Southern European framework of the pedagogic products from the previous project (course framework, seminar concept, workbook, tour planner software), training of the multipliers, training of foresters in the partner countries and the spreading of concepts, method and tools between the public.

This last phase will combine both the implementation of training activities and the dissemination of the projects and its goals through all the available communication channels.

The project will culminate in a conference aiming to present the project and the evaluation of its first results, foreseen in October 2011 – International Year of Forests (IYF) - in Italy. It will be organized mainly by the Italian State Forest Service and will probably take place around Rome.

More details on the project(s) are available on <http://www.paws.daa-bbo.de/>

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