

There are several EU funds available to help site managers to finance their projects. One of these funds is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This fund has three objectives; one of them is European Territorial Cooperation, better known as INTERREG. Eurosité's European Facilitation Service has explored the funding possibilities of this objective for site managers and presents several project examples. In each example a member from the Eurosité network illustrates a project, funded by Interreg, in which they were involved. More project examples and more information on Interreg can be found on www.eurosite.org.

Carnivore Centre

The Launch of the Finnish Large Carnivore Information Centre/ Suurpetotietokeskuksen toiminnan käynnistäminen

Basic information about the project

EU Programme

Interreg IIIA/ Karjala

Programme priority

1.2 Promotion of preconditions for business life in cross-border co-operation

Duration

24 months

Project period

01.1.2003 – 31.12.2005

Budget

Total budget: € 700 200 / ERDF contribution: € 319 626 (45%)

Partnership

1. Town of Kuhmo (Lead partner; Finland) -The municipality was the official leader of the project, but the project was realised in very close contact and co-operation with Metsähallitus
 2. Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve (Russia)
- Other partners of the project were: Game and Fisheries Research Institute, University of Oulu, University of Helsinki, Kainuu region hunters' organisation, Kainuu region nature protection organisation, Border guard detachment Kainuu, Kainuun Etu Oy - regional development company, Boreal Picture Ltd, local bank and several others.

Link to Eurosité

Metsähallitus is a Eurosité member

Project focus

Planning and building of an exhibition and creation of an internet site, both providing science based, neutral information about large carnivores in Finland and creation of a network of central administrative and civil organisations responsible for large carnivores



Project example Interreg IIIA: Carnivore Centre

Overall objective

To offer a centralized channel for communication and information on large carnivores in Finland.

Project summary

The project succeeded in **enlarging** the existing **visitor centre** and producing a new exhibition "Predators on the prowl", an internet site and a movable exhibition. These activities created a centralized channel for **providing science based neutral information about large carnivores to the public**, e.g. school groups, hunters, professionals and tourists. Also, the already existing **network** and cooperation between stakeholders (nature tourism organisations, local people, research organisations and authorities) was improved and intensified. A desired side effect of the activities was to create acceptance for the problematic coexistence of carnivores and humans in the same region. With the renewed exhibition and innovative materials the Petola Visitor Centre has become an attraction and it makes it possible to contribute to the local nature entrepreneurs with its wide contact network.

Project activities, outputs and results

- Building activities to enlarge the Petola Visitor Centre, a large carnivore information centre;
- Planning and building the exhibition of Petola Visitor Centre;
- Establishing materials for temporal, movable exhibitions;
- Establishing the website: www.suurpedot.fi;
- Creating a network of stakeholders in Finland and Russian Carelia;
- Nature movies about large carnivores (brown bear, wolf, lynx and wolverine);
- Improving existing relations of the Friendship Nature Reserve. The Reserve was established in 1990 out of six nature protected areas located near the border area between Russia and Finland.

Relation between project and site management issues

The project provided the public with versatile information on large carnivore living in N2000 areas and their movements across the Russian-Finnish border.

Project initiative

Metsähallitus initiated the project, and worked in close co-operation with town Kuhmo, the Lead partner of the project.

Gain for own organisation

Good facilities for raising awareness about large carnivores.



Project example Interreg IIIA: Carnivore Centre

Lessons learnt

The Interreg project was a good experience for the local Metsähallitus people. It gave insight in how to improve cooperation in transfrontier nature conservation, how to improve contacts with various organisations working with large carnivores and how to establish an exhibition about carnivores. The project also created good will for possible future (Interreg) projects.

For more information

- 📍 Petola Visitor Centre
- ✉ Metsähallitus, Petola Visitor Centre, Lentiirantie 342, FI 88900 Kuhmo
- ☎ +358 205 64 6380
- @ petola@metsa.fi
- 🌐 No project website, as a result of the project:
<http://www.luontoon.fi/page.asp?Section=7474> and www.suurpedot.fi

Photo credit: Eeva Pulkkinen (Metsähallitus).

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