

# The European Ranger Federation

**Lars Scharfe**

European Ranger Federation



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# European Ranger Federation



- ERF News -

Memorial Danilo Re 2026,  
Triglav National Park, Slovenia

Supported by





# ERF - How it started



ERF Foundation: 2017  
at 4th ERC in Litomerice,  
Czech Republic



Non-Profit-Organisation  
based in Germany

*At the 2013 meeting in the Bavarian Forest National Park, initial ideas were discussed on how networking and support for rangers in Europe could be better supported. From the left: Frank Grütz, Mario Schmid, Florin Halastauan, Michael Großmann, Sean Wilmore, Borek Franěk, Tommy Heeren and Michael Ullrich*



# ERF - Today



**President**



Florin Halastauan (Romania)

**Financial Officer**



José Maria Jiménez Cañete  
(Spain)

**Project Officer**



Vitor Casalinho (Portugal)

**Vice President**



Lars Scharfe (Germany)

**Secretary**



Maria Gurscaia (Moldova)

**Training Officer**



Borja Diaz (Spain)

**Press Office**



Wiebke Bomas (Germany)

**EEC Assistant**



Manuela Jenicek (Austria)



# ERF Activity Reports (2017-2024)

## A Tribute to ERFs History



...online now on ERF Website and published every year...



*European Ranger Federation (ERF)  
Professionals to Protect Nature*

*Activity Report  
2017-2020*



*European Ranger Federation (ERF)  
Professionals to Protect Nature*

*Activity Report  
2021*



*European Ranger Federation (ERF)  
Professionals to Protect Nature*

*Activity Report  
2022*



*European Ranger Federation (ERF)  
Professionals to Protect Nature*

*Activity Report  
2023*



*European Ranger Federation (ERF)  
-Professionals to Protect Nature*

*Activity Report/  
2024*

+ ...Installation of ERF Council with former ERF Board Members



Appleton et al. (2022):  
1,5 Mio. rangers more needed worldwide

Target 3, Kunming-Montréal: 30by30



## ERF Mission

*“Connecting Europe's Rangers to empower them in their work  
for Planetary Health and  
make their voices heard as Voice of Nature”*

European responsibility:  
Continents' Biodiversity Hotspots

Local Communities involvement

ERF Vision: strong, inclusive, well  
trained, highly skilled, well  
equipped, diverse ranger network



# ERF Members - We are constantly growing!



Currently there are 54 ranger associations, supporting organisations and individual members in the European Ranger Federation (representing thousands of professional Rangers)



# ERF - a member-based organisation

!Active Members are the key to success!



ERF provides various means for involvement:

- constant news update through ERF newsletter, social media, website
- ERF virtual meetings with (new) members
- ERF Board on visit → presence at national associations meetings
- trainings and workshops
- European Ranger Congresses (ERCs)
- Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

...and as a new initiative...



# ERF - a member-based organisation

**!Active Members are the key to success!**

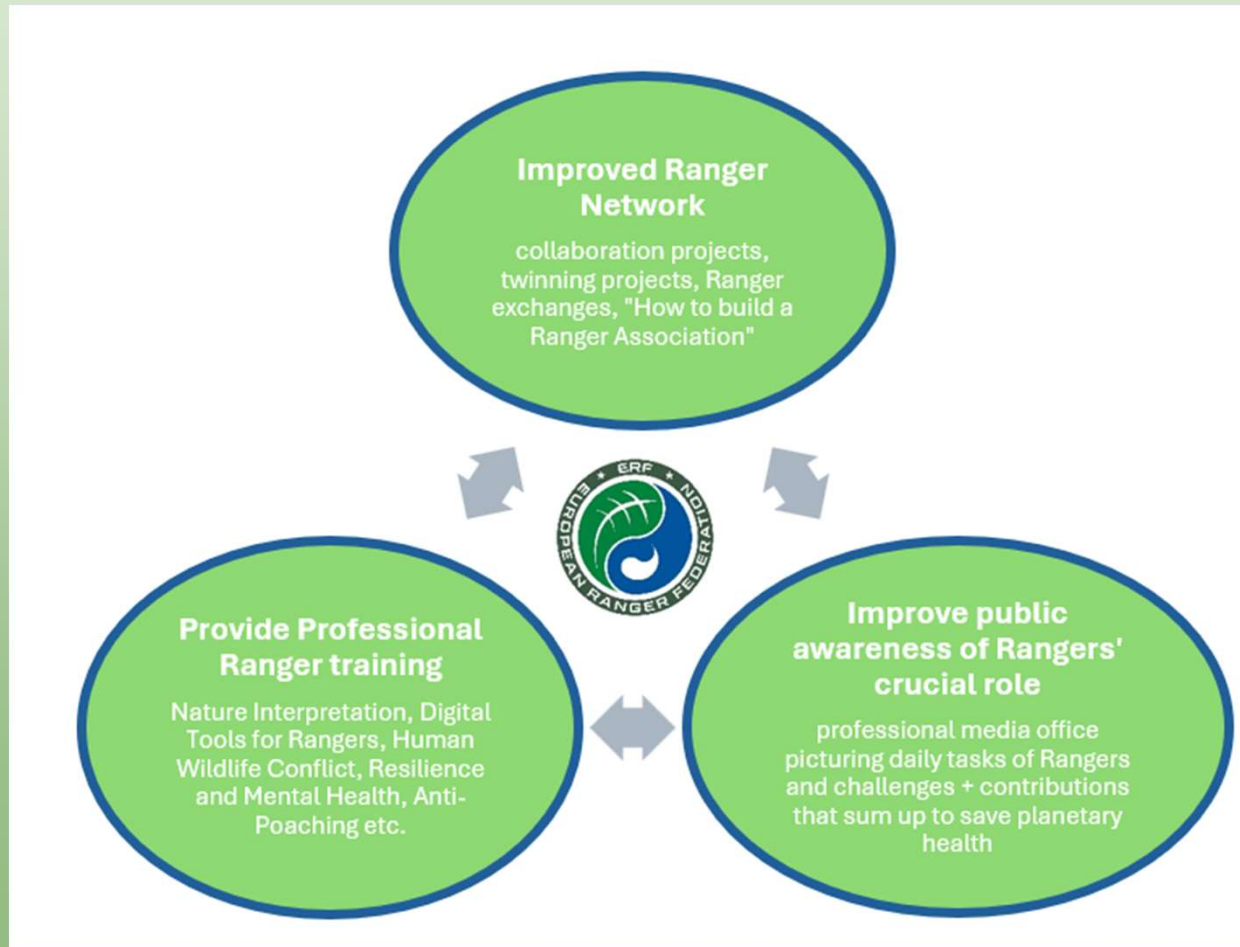


ERF Working Groups → EOIs to [secretary@europeanrangers.org](mailto:secretary@europeanrangers.org):

1. Organisational Guidance (i. e. ERF Guidelines + Member Associations support)
2. Twinning Partnerships (fostering bilateral cooperation projects)
3. Female Rangers (development of a European Female Ranger Network)
4. Trainings (strengthen the professional capacities of rangers across Europe)
5. Junior Rangers (strengthen the future of nature protection)
6. Fundraising (development of fundraising strategies)



# ERF Strategy





# Improved Ranger Network



# Female Rangers and Ranger Wikipedia



## 1. Female Rangers

- at the moment **only 11 % female rangers** worldwide → much larger involvement of women in to ranger profession is an urgent ‘must’ → creation of a **European Female Ranger Network** → better connected, trained, empowered, recognised

## 2. Ranger Wikipedia

- **living database** of rangers knowledge and experience → **networking and exchange platform**



# Twinning Partnerships



...no matter where we are from - we have the same commitment...



**Rangers help Rangers**

Spanish Rangers send firefighting uniforms to Ukrainian Rangers

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS



**WRD 24 Countdown**  
Rangers' examples how alive the international Ranger network is!



**Rangers help Rangers**

German Ranger Mario helps Rangers around the world with various donation initiatives and networks

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS



**Rangers help Rangers**

Israeli Rangers donate smartphones to Rangers from Albania, El Salvador, Uganda and Namibia

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS

# Rangers help Rangers



**Rangers help Rangers**

Rangers cooperate to transfer uniform donation from Iceland for Rangers in need

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS



**Rangers help Rangers**

Tasmanian Rangers fund equipment for Rangers in Timor-Leste with relay run

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS



**Rangers help Rangers**

UK Rangers support Rangers around the world with volunteer work and knowledge sharing

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS



**Rangers help Rangers**

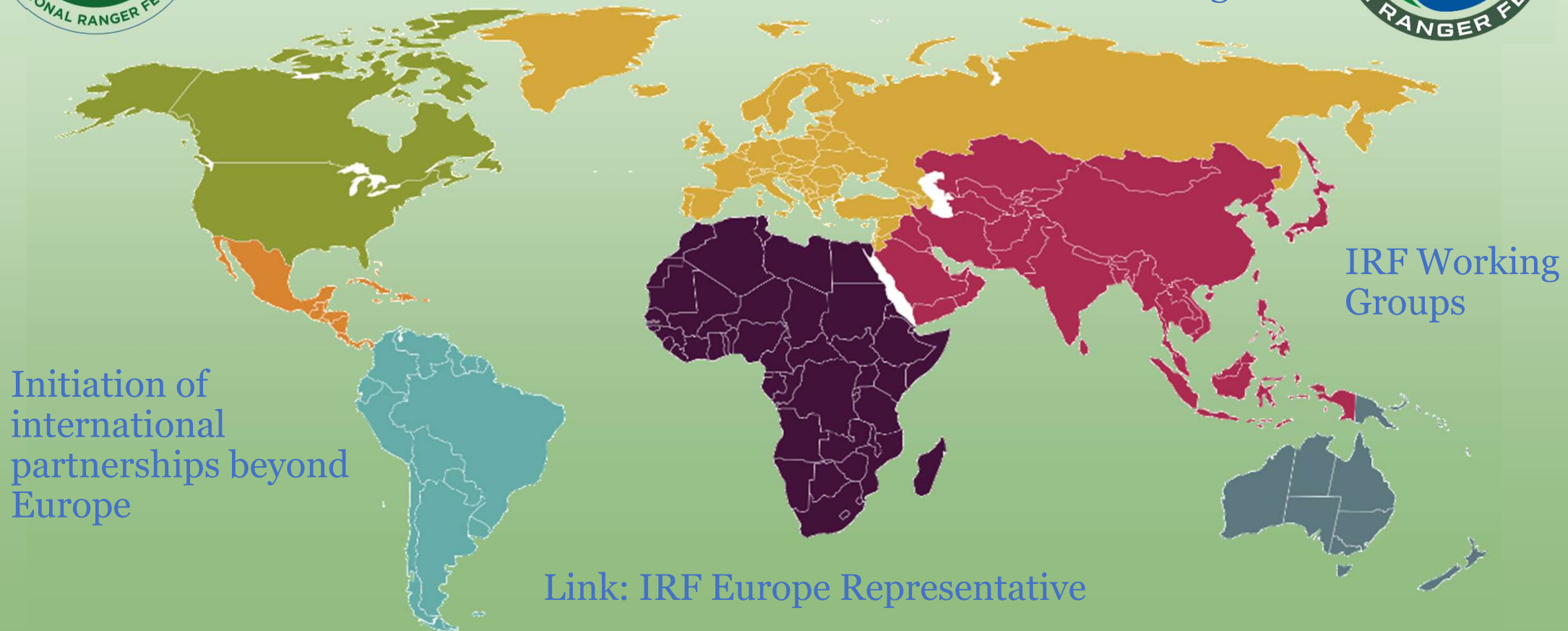
Swiss Ranger Alain donates fee for participation in ERF Ranger training for two Albanian Rangers

WE STAND WITH THE WORLD'S RANGERS



# ERF-IRF Cooperation

Combined initiatives for Rangers





# Professional Ranger Training



# Examples - Trainings/Workshops - 2023-2025



SMART training: Technology for conservation

SMART Training: Technology for Conservation, North Macedonia, September 2024



Romanian ranger training: conservation requires support of locals

Coexistence and Wilderness Protection, Romania, August 2024



LEARNING AT EYE LEVEL: ROMANIAN RANGERS SHARE REWILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

Rewilding and Conflict Management, Romania, March 2024



ERF Image & Fundraising workshop: Making society understand its need for rangers

Image and Fundraising Workshop Dartmoor, October 2023

K9 Dogs for Conservation, Spain, October 2023



K9 training shows practical use of dogs in ranger work



Drone Training, Brazi, September 2025



# ERF Trainings 2026/2027



**Strong partnerships with National Parks, National Institutions,  
National Ranger Associations, Conservation Foundations, and NGOs.**

## Wildlife Conservation & Monitoring

-Scientific Bird Ringing (Portugal, 2026)

-Vulture Reintroduction and Anti-Poisoning Training (Bulgaria, 2026)

-Bird Monitoring Programme (Cape Verde, 2026–2027)

## Environmental Crime & Enforcement

-Fire Investigation Training (Montenegro, 2026)

-Anti-Poaching Training (Malta, 2027)

**Practical, field-based training designed by rangers for rangers**

**9 international training activities**

## Technical Skills & Ranger Safety

-Advanced Drone Training for Park Rangers

-ERF–Latin America Interregional Programme (Paraguay, 2026)

-Wilderness First Aid for Rangers (Poland, 2027)

## Ranger Wellbeing & Mental Health

Ranger Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme (Austria, 2027)



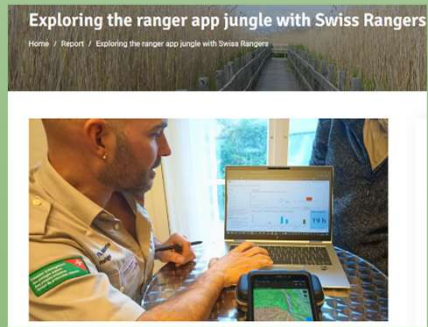
# Improved Public Awareness of Rangers' Crucial Role



# ERF Press Office the driver to make rangers' voices heard!



„Locals needed on board to make Yellowstone in Europe come true“



Twinning profiles: Partnerships for knowledge exchange at a glance

# Ranger Videos



Ranger video from Western Negev: conserving unique habitats in balance with human interests



Ranger Video from Ukraine: How war tops challenging conservation work



Ranger Video from Moldova: interpreting natural and cultural heritage



Women in Conservation: Two female rangers share their thoughts



Meet UK Ranger Harriet Saltis & send your own video!



Learn about rangers in Negev desert & send your Ranger Video!



Video from Austria: Creating an understanding for the importance of biodiversity





# ERC 2025 and ERC Declaration



EUROPEAN  
RANGER CONGRESS  
2025 • Romania



ASOCIAȚIA  
RANGERILOR  
DIN ROMÂNIA  
IN SERVICIUL NATURII



CARPATHIA®  
For Nature, for Communities



  
THIN GREEN LINE



6th European Ranger Congress, Carpathia, Romania  
Rangers - the Voice of Nature: Building a Bridge  
between Local Communities and Nature Conservation



# ERC Declaration

## The Carpathian Declaration



*"The ERC declarations serve as a North Star for our community, outlining not just our professional standards, but our deep commitment to nature conservation and environmental protection.*

*For our organization members, the declaration creates a shared roadmap and a common language that unites us all in our mission.*

*Personally, I am proud to be a member of the team that authored and drafted this declaration, as I believe it provides a vital framework for our collective impact."*

Ilan Yeger (ERF Vice President 2022-2025)



# State of the Ranger ... Take part at Vol. 2



## RANGER survey



## EMPLOYER survey



Photo: Robert Javorsky

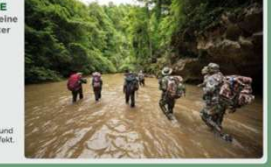
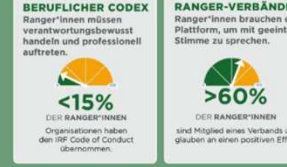


# STATE OF THE RANGER Vol. 1

Dieser Bericht schafft erstmals eine globale Grundlage zum aktuellen Status des Ranger-Berufs. Er behandelt Anerkennung, Arbeitsbedingungen, Kompetenzen, Inklusion, professionelles Verhalten sowie die Aktivität in Ranger-Verbänden. Dies ist die erste Edition (Vol. 1, 2024) einer globalen Langzeitstudie zur Entwicklung des Ranger-Berufs.

### RANGER\*INNEN-BEFragung

81 Länder, 1.286 Antworten



### EMPFEHLUNGEN

**Anerkennung des Ranger-Berufs durch die Internationale Arbeitsorganisation (ILO).**

#### Regierungen und politische Entscheidungsträger:

1. Sollten Ranger\*innen als systemrelevante Arbeitskräfte für die planetare Gesundheit anerkannt werden.
2. Sollten ihre zentrale Rolle bei der Erfüllung globaler Verpflichtungen würdigen.
3. Sollten Ressourcen bereitstellen, um die diversen Fähigkeiten von Ranger\*innen zu fördern.
4. Sollten Schutzgebietsverwaltungen und Organisationen bei der Professionalisierung der Ranger\*innen unterstützen.

#### Arbeitgeber sollten hochwertige Arbeitsbedingungen sicherstellen, durch:

1. Zugang zu hochwertiger Erster-Hilfe
2. Bereitstellung von Lebensversicherungen
3. Grundlegende Gesundheits- und Sicherheitsleistungen
4. Angemessene Ausrüstung, Technologie
5. Passendes und regelmäßiges Training
6. Angemessene Sicherheitsvorschriften und Richtlinien

#### Ranger\*innen sollten sich vereinen und mit einer Stimme sprechen, durch:

1. Mitgliedschaft in Ranger-Verbänden
2. Aktive Beteiligung an zukünftigen State-of-the-Ranger-Erhebungen

Lesen Sie den vollständigen Bericht



Besuchen Sie <https://www.internationalrangers.org/resources/>, um auf Informationen zuzugreifen, die Ranger\*innen bei ihrer Arbeit unterstützen



Unterstützt durch:



Thank you for your attention!

Supported by

