



DECEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER Nº 1

Joint Post-Graduate Study Programme in Ecotourism and Nature Guiding

MEET THE NATOUR INITIATIVE!

The Erasmus+ NATOUR (Joint Post-Graduate Study Programme in Ecotourism and Nature Guiding) project officially started on 15 January 2021. The project will build the capacity of Brazilian, Colombian and Chilean Higher education institutions to develop and implement a joint PC-EU study programme in ecotourism and interpretive nature guiding. The development of such a programme by individual HEIs will result in an extensive degree of dependence on established practices and existing knowledge in the field of ecotourism.

WHO WE ARE

Our consortium consists of 10 organizations:

The newsletters of the project will inform you of the project's process, results and events on a regular basis.

Enjoy the reading!

For more information about the project, visit the NATOUR website:

www.natour-project.eu



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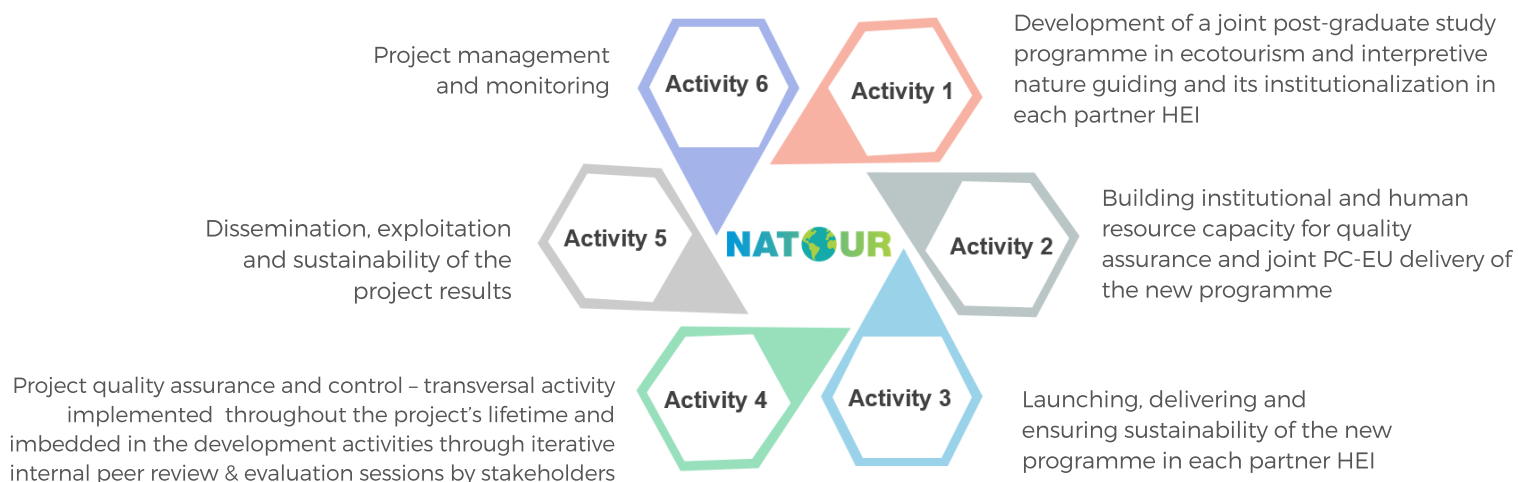
WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES

-  To improve understanding of the sectoral requirements for knowledge, skills and attitudes of a graduate in the field of ecotourism and nature guiding in the Partner Countries
-  To support Partner Countries' HEIs in the development of new post-graduate curriculum and learning content in ecotourism and interpretive nature guiding and build the capacity of their staff to apply innovative methodologies for teaching in the field
-  To develop and implement a quality assurance system that guarantees delivery of an EU-compliant joint post-graduate study programme in the Partner Countries' HEIs
-  To create a physical and virtual environment conducive to the joint PC-EU implementation of the post-graduate programme in ecotourism and interpretive nature guiding and lay foundation for PC-EU HEIs' collaboration in joint delivery of the programme
-  To enhance access of the professional community to high quality open educational resources in the field of ecotourism and nature guiding



IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The working methodology that NATOUR uses reconciles project implementation methodology with curriculum development methodology. The work programme has 6 major activities, as follows:



PROJECT NEWS

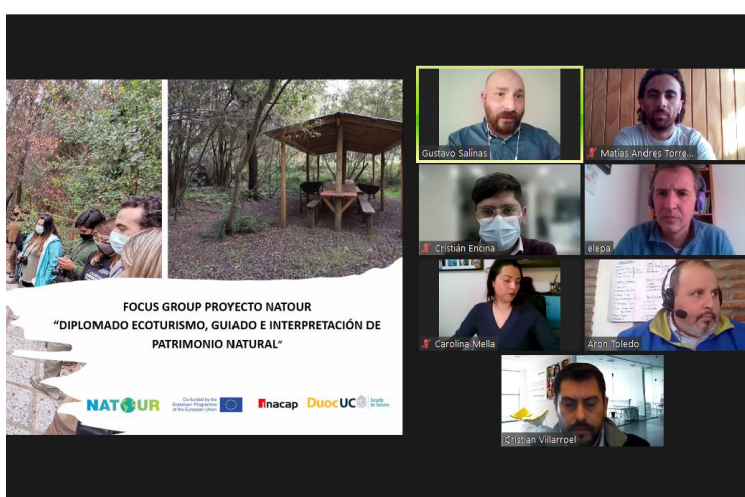
In the first months of its implementation, the NATOUR project has been working on the identification of the competences that the new postgraduate course should include. To this aim, a very complete list of potential competences was defined and agreed on among the project members. After that, a process of validation was put in place. First of all, a survey among relevant ecotourism stakeholders in each country was done. In general terms, there was a global validation of the suggested competences.

That trend was also confirmed with the specific consultation workshops which took place between June and August 2021 in the six Latin American universities of the project (face-to-face or virtual meetings). A total of 108 people participated (40 in Brazil, 33 in Colombia and 35 in Chile), including both the private sector - nature guides, entrepreneurs, consultants or teachers - and the public sphere - mainly managers of protected areas. These meetings are considered very positive taking into consideration the diversity of participation, the percentages of interest in the project, and the numerous comments and proposals received.



NEXT STEPS

In the coming weeks, the NATOUR curriculum will be agreed upon, and the learning content of the programme will also start to be prepared. The administrative processes for the procurement of equipment for the new Ecotourism Learning Centers of the Latin American universities will begin, and a new round of meetings in each university will be held in order to inform about the project development and the tasks done so far among their teaching and administrative staff.



Stay tuned!
The 2nd Newsletter
coming soon!

Visit us at www.natour-project.eu



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 Erasmus+ Programme
 of the European Union

Erasmus+ is the European Union Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The action "Capacity Building in Higher Education" contributes to the modernization and internationalization of higher education in the Partner Countries. Capacity building projects encourage cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries and support Partner Countries in addressing challenges related to the management and governance of their higher education institutions.