Comprehensive analysis of the potential of sustainable jobs along the European Green Belt

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Outline

- Introduction to the study and its objectives

- Defining green jobs

- Benchmarking of best practices within sectors relevant to the study

- Green jobs' opportunities alongside the EGB and best practices' case studies among those

- Concluding remarks

Introduction of the project

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Introduction to the team & the project

Trinomics B.V. is an international consultancy firm providing policy advice in the fields of energy, environment, climate change and sustainability. Trinomics aims to contribute to high-quality European and international policymaking by providing in-depth research to our public-sector clients that profoundly analyses the relevant policy issues at stake and their potential consequences.

BESTbelt provides funding for conservation projects and sustainable development, training and guidance on project management and addressing the younger generation of European conservationists by fostering the exchange of information and establishing networks. BESTbelt is being financially supported by the European Commission.

Objectives of the project:
- Investigate existing potential of green jobs outside and alongside the European Green Belt;
- Outline a potential for (further) creation of sustainable jobs alongside the European Green Belt; and
- Provide recommendations on how these sustainable jobs can be (further) created.

Defining green jobs

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Defining green jobs

- **Green jobs in general** = jobs that play a role in averting environmental degradation and climate change & contribute to delivering social aspects of the labour market and contribute towards decent work for all
  - Direct & indirect green jobs

- **Green jobs in the context of the EGD** = jobs that avert climate and environmental degradation & contribute to social development and delivery of decent work for all
  - **Direct green jobs** = job that directly contribute to preserving and/or restoring the area of the European Green Belt (e.g. jobs in nature / coastal conservation and pritection, sustainable forest management and/or agriculture, etc.)
  - **Indirect green jobs** = created as a result of the existence of the European Green Belt and do not have detrimental impacts on the environment (e.g. eco-tourism, marketing of local products and/or services, etc.)

Benchmarking (1/2)

Land protection and restoration

- LIFE project in Spain on reducing forest fires by clearing and processing biomass for renewable energy – *20+ jobs created already, 10 more expected*
- Rewilding Network England – *54% increase in full-time equivalent jobs over an average of 10 years*

Coastal protection and restoration

- Community of Arran Seabed Trust to reverse the decline of fish stocks and the destruction of marine habitats – *creation of jobs for fisherman, in the Trust and tourism industry*

Sustainable forest management & agriculture

- Rewilding Europe – *jobs created for local / mobile sawmills and tree nurseries, as well as indirect jobs in timber manufacturing and tourism*

- Project in Denmark ongoing to research and test inclusion of nature management in farming – *includes activities around cooperation with farmers, training, setting up infrastructure, habitat maintenance, etc.*

Benchmarking (2/2)

Opportunities for disadvantaged groups and/or regions

- 'Social forest work' project in Austria seeks to foster jobs for unemployed – *provides trainings and connections to relevant companies*
- Swedish Forestry Agency facilitates employment to newcomers and unemployed in Sweden – *e.g. maintenance of outdoor forest areas*
- Hoge Kempen National Park in a former coal-mining region (Belgium) – *400 FTE jobs created*
- Restoration of Emscher Region (former coal mining and steel manufacturing region) – *44k new jobs created*

Employment via payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes

- Forest Carbon (UK) finances woodland creation and peatland restoration projects via financial support from organisations which wish to offset their emissions - *jobs created at Forest Carbon and in land management*

Employment in sustainable tourism

- 3.1 milliion jobs are connected to protected areas (hiking/cycling, related services, etc.)
- MPA in Spain (Cabo de Palos) – *creation of 20 local jobs*

Current opportunities in the European Green Belt

Fennoscandian Green Belt (1/3)

- Small area in Norway, then stretches south along the Finland/Russia border

- Northern part: lichens, mosses and dwarf shrubs; central and southern parts: coniferous taiga forests and wetlands

- Employment data (Finland): management of wild flora and fauna is largest sub-sector

Fennoscandian Green Belt (2/3)
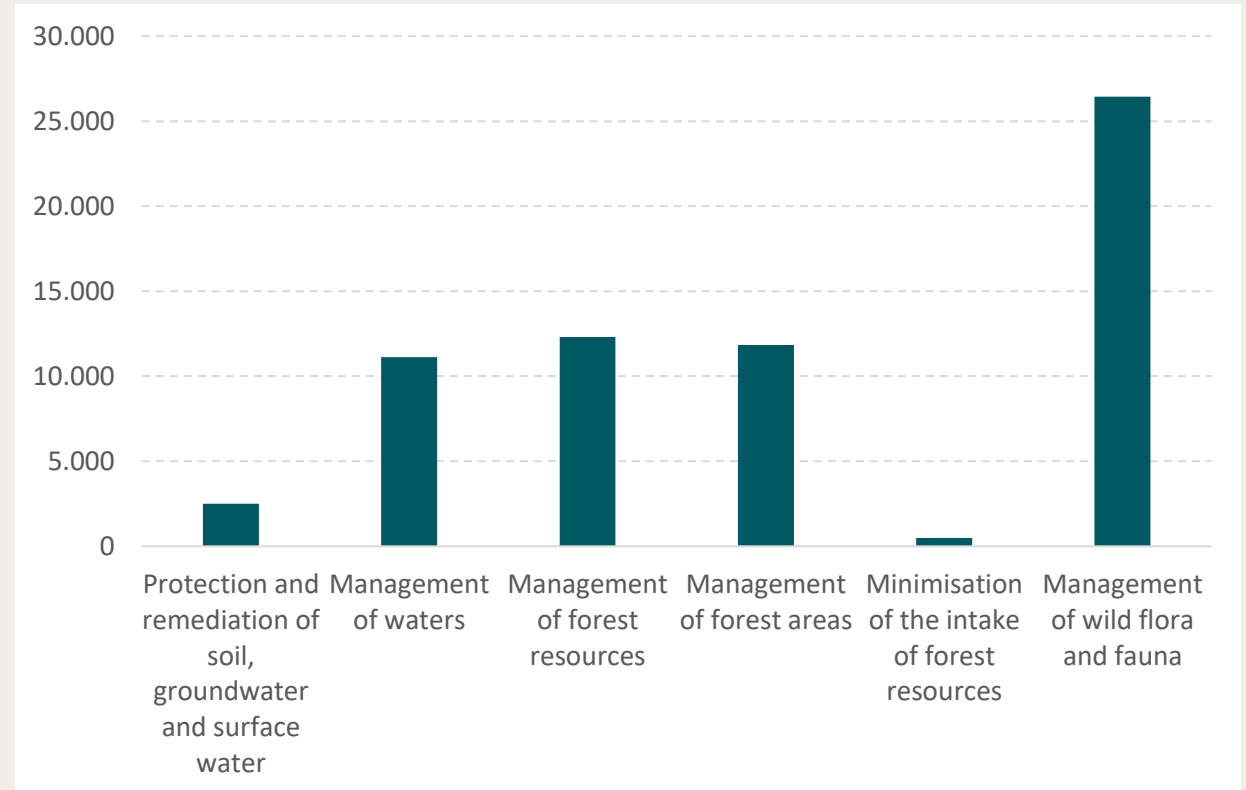
- Analysis of activities undertaken in 9 National Parks and protected areas from the area

- Official websites list many activities related to nature management and to visitor services (visitor centres, restaurants, accommodation, guided tours, etc.)

- Several parks mention the importance of eco/responsible tourism and activities undertaken to educate / raise awareness about the natural environment

# Fennoscandian Green Belt (3/3)

- Best practices example: the Patvinsuo National Park and the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve
  - Patvinsuo National Park: employment in nature conservation and restoration, monitoring activities, jobs in tourism sector (guides, rental of sports equipment)
  - North Karelia Biosphere Reserve:
    - Overlaps with – but larger than – the park
    - Aims to preserve natural diversity and develop social, economic, and ecological sustainability
    - Partnership network with local businesses to develop their operations more sustainably (e.g., hotels, tour operators, restaurants, farms, environmental and cultural organisations, etc.).
    - Implementation of nature conservation and restoration projects

Baltic Green Belt (1/3)

- 'Coastal European Green Belt' - stretches along the Baltic coastline of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Poland with diverse marine underwater habitats & coastline with dune fields, long beaches, cliffs, lagoons, meadows & areas for migratory birds

- Slow but gradual increase in green employment over the last years, mainly in water management and water protection
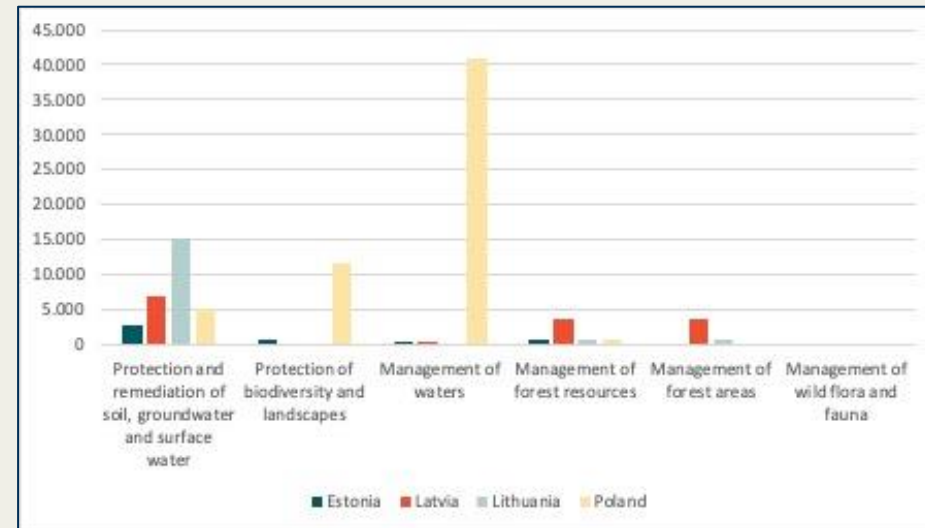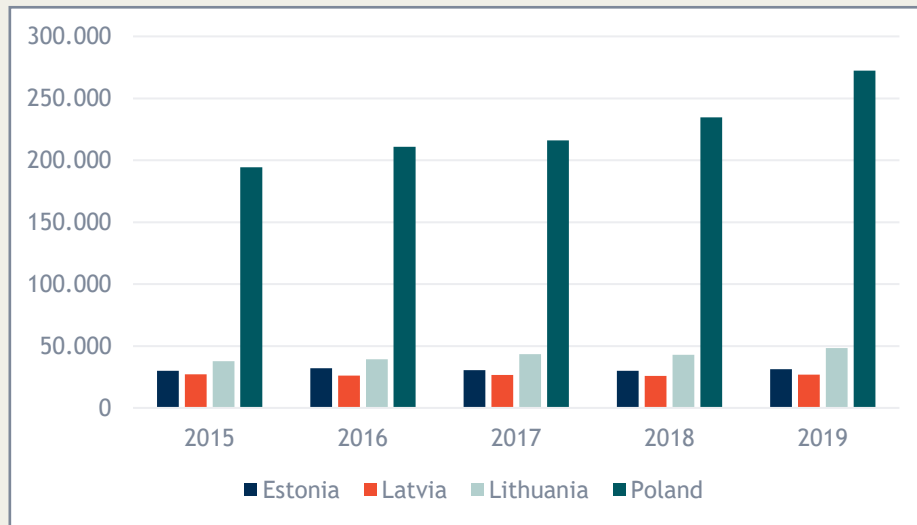
- 6 main protected areas identified within the Baltic Green Belt:
  - Estonia: Laheema and Matsalu National Parks
  - Latvia: Kemeri National Park
  - Poland: Slowinski and Wolinski National Parks
  - Germany: Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park
- Existing job opportunities identified in the fields of:
  - **Management** of the nature areas;
  - **Services** available to tourists (info-centrums, museums, restaurants, accommodation, guide services, folk art, etc.);
  - Services directly benefiting from the nature area (e.g. healing facilities); and
  - **Education** and **research** regarding the ecosystem of the park.

Baltic Green Belt (3/3)

- Kemeri National Park
  - Kemeri National Park Foundation – NGO established to address nature protection, education and research in the NP
  - Resort and healing facilities located in the NP and employing 300+ people

- Matsalu International Nature Film Festival
  - Held annually in the Matsalu NP
  - Bringing together filmmakers and audience from Estonia and elsewhere, promoting nature-related topics

- Young conservationists in Estonian NPs
  - Courses for young people held annually
  - Aims to increase the environmental and nature awareness of young people

Central European Green Belt (1/3)

- Mix of cultural landscapes - stretches across Germany, Czechia, Slovakia, Austria Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia and their forests, rivers, mountains and mountain ridges and ends at the coast

- Employment levels in environmental sector remains stable, with a slight growth over the years in some countries, mainly within protection of soil and water. Some employment can also be found in biodiveristy,forest and water managment
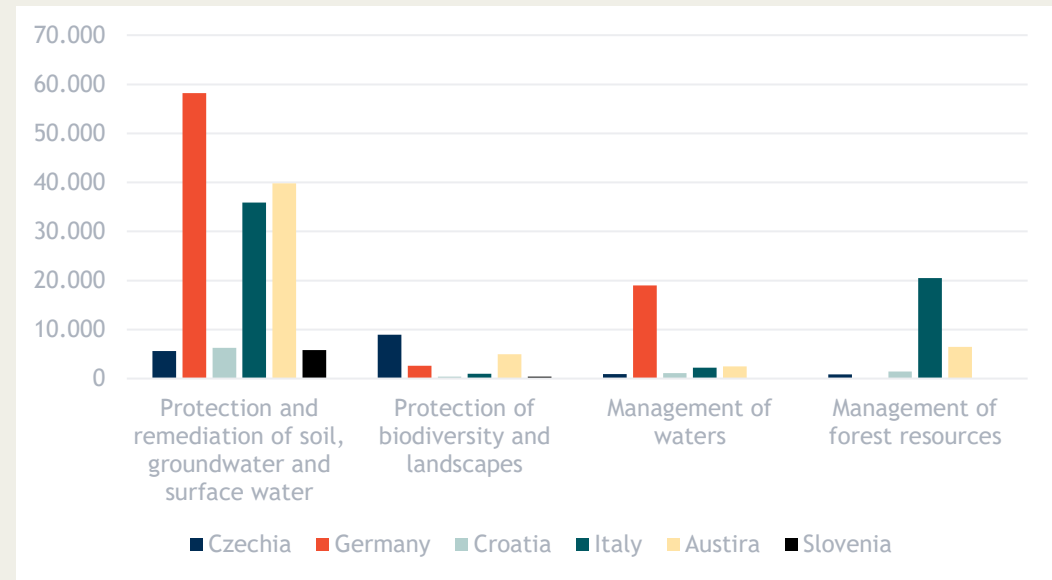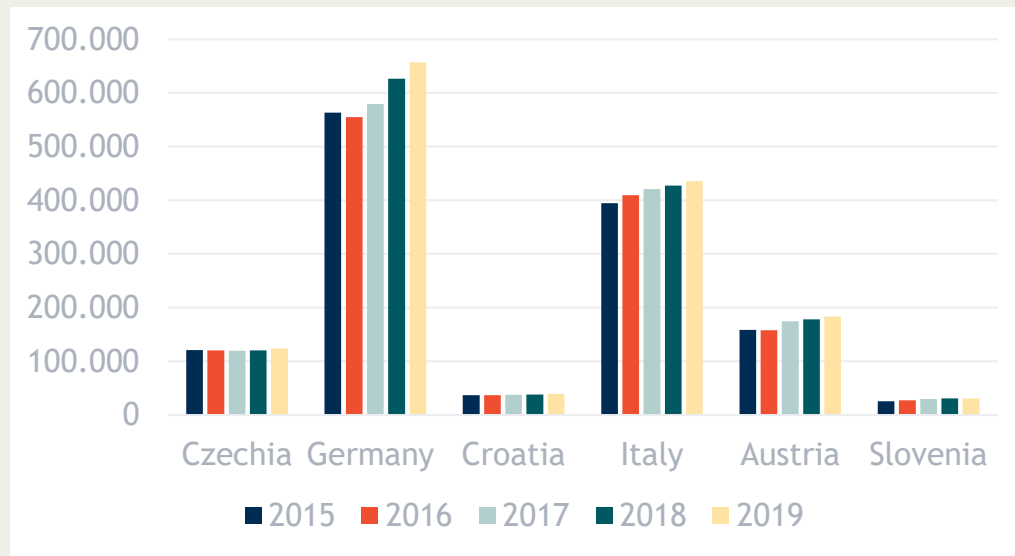
Central European Green Green Belt (2/3) Trinomics

- 8 main protected areas identified:
  - Germany: Schaalsee Biosphere Reserve, Harz und südliches Harzvorland Nature preserve, Thüringer Schiefergebirge / Obere Saale Nature Preserve
  - Czechia: Bavarian Forest / Sumava National Park (Czechia), Podyji National Park
  - Slovakia: Záhorie Protected Landscape Area
  - Hungary: Őrség National Park
  - Slovenia: Triglav National Park

- Existing job opportunities identified in the fields of:
  - **Management** of the nature areas;
  - **Services** available to tourists (info-centres, museums, restaurants, accommodation, guide services, folk art, etc.);
  - Services directly benefiting from the nature area (e.g. spa's); and
  - **Education** and **research** regarding the ecosystem of the park.

Central European Green Belt (3/3)

- **Thuringia Nature Conservation Foundation** promotes efforts and measures that serve nature conservation in Thuringia and implements relevant projects. The Foundation employs 30+ people; 8 of these positions were created specifically for the area management at the European Green Belt

- **Spa** in Secovlje Salina Nature Park (Slovenia) using treatments derived from the park (saltpan mud and brine) creates 25 jobs every summer, including 20 therapists

- **Sustainable transport** for visitors within the Triglav NP creating new public transport infrastructure reducing negative impact on the NP and involving local communities and increasing their quality of life

Balkan Green Belt (1/3)

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- Stretches across 9 countries, mostly in the mountain ranges of the Balkan Peninsula

- Green employment mostly in protection and remediation of soil, groundwater and surface water

Balkan Green Belt (2/3)
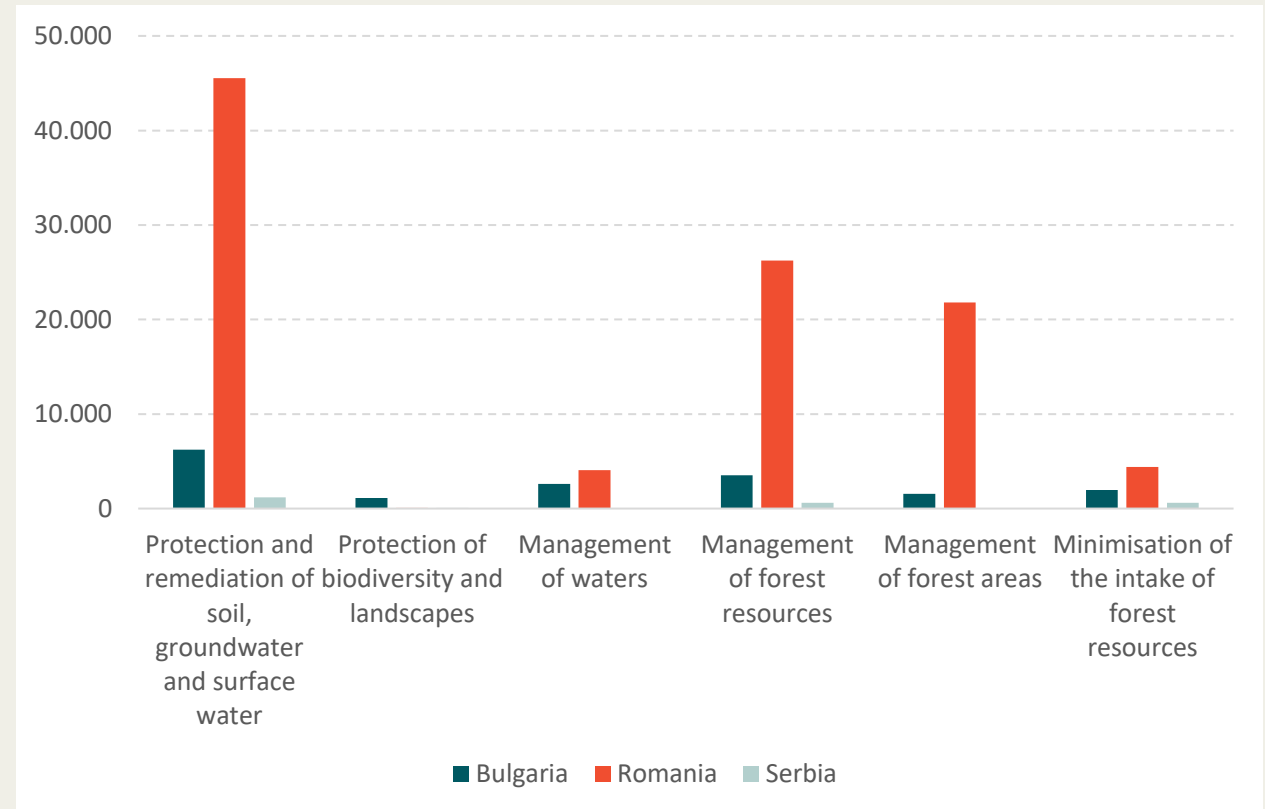
- Analysis of activities undertaken in 27 National Parks and protected areas from the area

- Expected green jobs in the region: Management of mountainous / forest habitats and their species, jobs linked to tourism (tour guides & winter sports)

- Protected areas appear mostly free of extended tourism infrastructure, except for winter sport infrastructure in a few parks

- Unclear from desk research what management activities take place in some parks (sometimes no official websites > harder to attract tourists)

Balkan Green Belt (3/3)

- Best practices example: Development of a tourism strategy with sustainable tourism as a central component in Greece
  - 2 relevant objectives related to sustainable tourism and jobs & skills
  - Individual analysis of strengths and potential for each area of the country
  - Example of Western Macedonia: actions listed in infrastructure for sustainable tourism, nature restoration work, environmental education / awareness raising, promotional work for ecotourism

Concluding remarks

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Concluding remarks

- Preliminary findings – report will be finalised in the coming month (November 2022)

- We're still looking for additional best practices in all of the European Green Belt – did we miss yours?
  - Come talk to us today at the conference
  - Get in touch with us via email / phone
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    - Oana.Forestier@trinomics.eu / +31(0)6 82 68 13 75

- Next steps:
  - Looking into future potential of green jobs in the EGB and how these can be fostered
  - Providing practical recommendations - on how to promote creation of green jobs and any other next steps

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Thank you for your attention, please contact us for more information

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