

DARKERSKY SENTINEL ALLIANCE

Statute



Version 3

11 2024



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STATUTE

1. Preamble

In November 2024, the seven project partners of the Interreg Central Europe project DARKERSKY4CE - Strategic Transnational Approach to Reduce Light pollution in Central Europe established the DARKERSKY Sentinel Alliance (DSA). The eleven associated partners are welcome to be part of the Alliance since its establishment (Attachment II).

The Sentinel Alliance, which is a result of the DARKERSKY4CE project carried out as part of the Interreg Central Europe programme, aims at ensuring that a stable entity will actually be present to pursue all the necessary actions in order to reduce light pollution and to highlight all resulting benefits.

2. Purpose

The DSA is a community of practice. Its main objectives are:

- to **reinforce collaboration** between institutions on lighting policies and the problem of light pollution
- to **raise awareness** about this concern among decision-makers, professionals, and citizens
- to demonstrate the interests of **dark skies tourism**
- to find new **funding channels** to further promote the objectives of the Alliance

These objectives will be tackled by the following practical actions:

- **Educating** policymakers, tourism operators, tourists, and local communities about the detrimental impacts of light pollution and the benefits of preserving dark skies from many points of view: culture and heritage conservation, ecosystems and human health preservation, stargazing and astrotourism activities, green economy enhancement, among others.
- **Promoting Best Practices** to implement and advocate for effective strategies and practices to improve lighting management and minimise light pollution in Central Europe.
- **Enhancing cross-border cooperation** to develop innovative solutions and share knowledge and resources.
- **Sustainable Development:** highlighting the role of dark skies in promoting sustainable tourism and regional development, particularly in non-urbanized areas.



3. Organisation

The governing bodies of the Sentinel Alliance are:

1. The Darkersky Sentinel Alliance Assembly
2. The Darkersky Sentinel Alliance Board

3.1 Darkersky Sentinel Alliance Assembly

The Darkersky Sentinel Alliance Assembly consists of one representative for each member of the Alliance.

The Assembly determines the overall policy of the Alliance. The Assembly discusses the actions to be taken and contributes to the achievement of the Alliance goals.

The Assembly approves the Statute of the Alliance, including any changes therein.

The Assembly elects the Darkersky Sentinel Alliance Board to implement its decisions and to direct the affairs of the Alliance between successive ordinary meetings of the Assembly. The Board reports to the Assembly.

The decisions of the Assembly are taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast. However, a decision to change the Statutes requires the approval of at least two thirds of the members.

The Assembly accepts new members of the Alliance, as proposed by the Board.

The Assembly can appoint Commissions composed of Assembly representatives and external experts to study and discuss specific topics that have to be clearly defined. The Commissions report to the Assembly.

The Assembly meets at least two times a year, either in presence or on-line. The Assembly is convened by the Board with at least 30 days advance notice.

If one of the DSA member representatives is absent for more than 2 Assembly meetings in a row without providing prior warning, the representative will lose its office and the member shall appoint a new representative.

If the member organisation does not appoint a new representative by the next assembly, the member in turn lapses and the organisation is no longer part of the Alliance.

3.2 Darkersky Sentinel Alliance Board

The Sentinel Alliance is directed by the DARKERSKY Sentinel Alliance Board consisting of 7 Board members, elected among the DARKERSKY Sentinel Alliance member representatives. Board members appoints one President, one Deputy, one Secretary among its members.

- The President represents the Alliance and chairs the meetings.
- The Deputy replaces the President if necessary.
- The Secretary prepares and organises the meetings, writes the minutes, and sends the invitations

The Board meetings are convened by the President (or the Deputy).

The Board implements the decisions of the Assembly and directs the affairs of the Alliance between successive ordinary meetings of the Assembly. The Board reports to the Assembly.

The Board proposes new members of the Alliance to the Assembly.

Each Board member stays in charge for 2 years. He/She can be renewed.



The composition of the first Board is established, formed by one member from each of the 7 DARKERSKY4CE Project Partners, as defined in Attachment III.

4. Positioning

The Sentinel Alliance upholds strict political neutrality, avoiding any endorsements or affiliations. This ensures impartiality and fosters an inclusive environment where all perspectives are respected.

The alliance promotes acts with respect for all, regardless of (but not limited to) race, ethnic and national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, or disability.

5. Official Language

The official language of the DSA shall be English. This rule also applies for the official documents of the DSA.

6. Composition and Membership

At the beginning, the DSA will be composed of all the constituent members, i.e. all the Project Partners and Associated Partners of the DARKERSKY4CE project.

All the members will be registered into a register of members. To join the alliance, every future member must sign the following declaration of participation (*Attachment I*).

The Alliance is open to all interested organisations as associations, public entities, enterprises and should be approved by the assembly members on the board proposal.

The steps for joining the alliance are as follows:

- Sending a formal request to the alliance secretariat (Supported from at least 1 alliance member).
- Evaluation and approval by the board and proposal to the Assembly.
- Assembly approval



Attachment I

Declaration of Participation in the DARKERSKY4CE Sentinel Alliance

Organisation:

Date:

We, [Your Organization's Name], are pleased to formally declare our participation in the DARKERSKY4CE Sentinel Alliance initially promoted by the Central Europe project DARKERSKY4CE. Our commitment to this initiative aligns with our dedication to environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and the promotion of dark skies as a valuable asset for sustainable development.

As an active participant in the Sentinel Alliance, we recognize the critical importance of addressing light pollution, which has significant adverse effects on ecosystems, human health and sky observation.

Our collaboration within this transnational alliance will involve working closely with esteemed partners across Central Europe to achieve the following objectives:

- Raising Awareness: educate policymakers, tourism operators, tourists, and local communities about the detrimental impacts of light pollution and the benefits of preserving dark skies.
- Promoting Best Practices: implement and advocate for effective strategies and practices to minimise light pollution in our respective regions.
- Fostering Collaboration: enhance cross-border cooperation to develop innovative solutions and share knowledge and resources.
- Sustainable Development: highlight the role of dark skies in promoting sustainable tourism and regional development, particularly in non-urbanized areas.

Our organisation is committed to actively participating in project activities, including research, public outreach, policy advocacy, and the implementation of light pollution reduction measures. We believe that through our collective efforts, we can make a significant positive impact on the environment and the quality of life in Europe.

By joining the Sentinel Alliance, we accept the statute in its entirety.

We look forward to a productive collaboration for our common goal.

Our representative in the Alliance will be _____

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Signature

Position:

Organisation:

Contact Information:



Attachment II

The project partners are part of the alliance as they have signed the Partnership Agreement committing themselves to the implementation of the project of which the Sentinel Alliance is an integral part. Following the list of the Project Partners:

- National Institute for Astrophysics - Turin Astrophysical Observatory
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship
- South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency
- Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH
- Carinthia University of Applied Sciences
- Local Action Group Escartons and Waldensian Valleys
- Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska L.t.d. Nova Gorica

Associated partners are invited to join the Alliance at its establishment. Following the list of the Associated Partners:

- Sideralis APS
- Associazione Apriti cielo - INFINI.TO Planetario di Torino
- Ministerstvo životního prostředí
- Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika Wydział Nauk o Ziemi i Gospodarki Przestrzennej
- Pécsi Tudományegyetem
- SEFAG Erdészeti és Faipari Zrt.
- Stadt Leipzig
- Nationalpark Hohe Tauern
- Nationalpark Gesäuse
- Naturpark Weissensee
- Bükk Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság



Attachment III

Members of the first DARKERSKY Sentinel Alliance Board

- **Daniele Gardiol** (LP, National Institute for Astrophysics - Turin Astrophysical Observatory)
- **Rafał Modrzewski** (PP2, Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship)
- **Balázs Borkovits** (PP3, South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency)
- **Name Surname** (PP4, Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH)
- **Lilia Schmalzl** (PP5, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences)
- **Remy Baltieri** (PP6, Local Action Group Escartons and Waldensian Valleys)
- **Name Surname** (PP7, Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska L.t.d. Nova Gorica)