



LIFE WOLFALPS EU

THE SITUATION

The card is intended for the moderator, who presents the situation and goals of the guided discussion (role-playing) to the group.

In the areas, where the cultural landscape and forested areas collide, human-animal interactions often occur. For the people who live in these areas, those interactions are often perceived as something ordinary. However, occasional conflicts also occur, especially when animals cause damage to human property or when we get the feeling that they are approaching us more than usual.

Wolves are one of the species that arouse both fear and admiration in humans. They attract a person's attention mainly because of their appearance, intelligence and ingenuity. Above all, we somehow identify with their social life in the pack, which remind us of our family life. In contrast, fear is usually associated with typical carnivore expressions, such as showing off teeth and tongue. Meeting the dog can also evoke the same feeling. Through evolution, it is likely that man has developed a fear of large predators, including large carnivores. In the social environment, this fear can be further reinforced through learning. To understand that wolves should not be perceived as threat to humans, we need to acquire the information regarding their biology, ecology, and most importantly, behavior. However, the biggest source of fear is mainly false information (media and social networks) and experience with damage on human property.

Wolves began to repopulate areas in the Alps and elsewhere in Europe where they had been absent for decades. As a result, at those areas, more conflicts with wolves have arisen. In order to improve the understanding and, above all, the acceptance of the species by people, a number of communication activities are carried out with the aim to establish or maintain COEXISTENCE.

However, there are many questions, ambiguities and also a misunderstanding regarding the coexistence. To establish a sustainable life for both man and wolf, it is necessary to previously ensure a social consensus, which often represents an important issue for all those who strive for tolerant coexistence on a daily basis.

In front of you are the stories of different people living with wolves, dealing with them, or are just interested in them. Our task is to try to find consensus in the concept of coexistence and address the solutions to ensure it.



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QUESTIONS FOR THE SIMULATED DISCUSSION

The card is intended for the moderator who leads the discussion (as a part of the role-playing).

Before asking questions, the moderator invite the participants to introduce themselves. The presentation serves the purpose of getting to know the interlocutors in a further guided discussion.

***Example:** the participant says that he is a breeder (name and place of residence can be added) and briefly summarizes his story.*

After the presentation, the moderator starts asking questions and invites the individual participant to answer. In the meantime, the participants can complement each other, but the moderator must make sure that the discussion is organized and, above all, respectful.

Suggestions of pre-prepared questions that can be meaningfully supplemented or upgraded during the simulation:

- **What does coexistence mean to you?**
- **Do you coexist with large carnivores and if so, how?**
- **Who do you think is responsible for ensuring coexistence?**
- **Which measure do you think is most effective in ensuring tolerant coexistence?**
- **What is your opinion regarding the cull?**
- **Are you willing to invest in / co-finance protection measures to prevent damage?**
- **What would need to be done to better understand the species?**
- **Do you think education is important for ensuring better coexistence between humans and wolves?**
- **What are you willing to change in yourself / your current behavior in order to reach a consensus with dissenters?**
- **Do you think that man can replace the ecological role of the wolf?**
- **Why are large predators important in an individual ecosystem?**
- **What are you willing to do to preserve the wolf in Slovenia/.../...?**
- **Why should we also consider the opinions of dissenters?**



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EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The card is intended for the moderator, who asks questions in order to summarize the key points of the simulated discussion to be adopted by the participants.

The moderator leads the participants to the crucial conclusions of the discussion through prepared questions.

Question suggestions:

- **What did you learn during the discussion?**
- **Have you ever imagined that in addition to your aspects, there are also different ones?**
- **What are the reasons that make the opinions so diverging?**
- **Do you find any common ground worth considering to reach an easier consensus between different stakeholders?**
- **Do you have a suggestion on how to conduct a real-life discussion with such a diverse group to take away as much as possible from working together?**