

HYBRID PARKS

July 2013

Dear Sirs,

The activities of the project (e.g. case studies and events organised by the partnership) confirm the broad range of social, economic, ecologic and cultural benefits that public green spaces, parks and gardens can deliver. The variety of local resources, climatic conditions, management routines etc. have, in spite of many common objectives and challenges, resulted in a remarkable richness of policies, measures and initiatives. Hybrid Parks with the support by INTERREG IVC helps to understand the opportunities given by this richness and to reconsider own approaches.

To inspire your own work and to develop new ideas and future cooperation, presentations given during two recent workshops and one open conference as well as some summaries and images are available at the project's website www.hybridparks.eu and by following the links below.

On the website you will also find the Hybrid Parks Best Practice Case Studies and some other news and information.



2nd Conference in Cheshire (UK) in May

From stately homes and secret gardens to the quintessentially English and exotic oriental – Cheshire is home to some of England's finest gardens and the regional network "Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction" celebrate the richness and diversity of the area's horticultural heritage and green spaces.

The focus of the second [Hybrid Parks Conference](#) was specifically around the social aspects of opening up parks and gardens to new audiences but also factoring in reports from economic and environmental activities and experiences. Thus the conference perfectly demonstrated links and synergies found within the three pillars of sustainability (social, economic and environmental) using the experiences and good practices in Cheshire as the platform for discussion.

Facilitated by industry experts the participants could also actively revisit discussions raised within the conference. The study tour provided context and real life examples of the discussions by showcasing examples of gardens, parks and community initiatives focusing on the economic benefits of successful and developing Hybrid Parks. In total, 3 day event was interactive, topical and insightful and attributed to the development of regional implementation plans in each of the partner regions.

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Workshop "Environment" in Malta in April

The [workshop in Malta](#) profited from the island's great variety of origins and designs of parks and gardens. Presentations and discussions allowed direct reference to restoration and conservation and the impact of climate. Leading politicians and stakeholders stated the importance of Hybrid Parks as an intelligent way at dealing with future aspirations and citizens' needs. Also the various mechanisms in planning to conserve public and private gardens and their context, including typologies and listing were discussed. In Malta, the evolution of gardens with a strong focus on sustainability and rehabilitation, new landscaping and garden design options, would not be possible without local voluntary organisations. Their work was presented before the group visited the President's Palace, its private garden and the recently re-opened Kitchen Garden.

Partners presented projects to enhance the urban environment, to protect both biodiversity and cultural heritage, to transform a landfill into a park and to implement garden typologies as inspirations to be used in private gardens. Finally the group visited the nursery of the Environmental Landscape Consortium, a public-private-partnership for landscaping and maintenance projects. They also introduce hardier and indigenous plants into new and existing public areas.

Please follow the links below for:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentations](#)
- [Summarizing Report](#)
- [Newsletter / Report from Emilia-Romagna \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Gallery](#)
- [Specific website for this workshop](#)



Workshop "Economy 2" in Pori (Finland) in June

Central to the two day [workshop in and around Pori](#) was the Finnish concept of “National Urban Parks – NUP” as an innovative approach to avoid negative effects of densification related to the idea of compact cities. NUP serves communes as a tool to create more compact cities and towns while preserving natural and cultural heritage in their physical environment. Today there is a network of six NUP Sites in Finland.

External experts gave very informative and inspiring presentations about the idea and main characteristics of “National Urban Park” as a planning tool, about the development of the NUP in Pori and about the NUPs in Porvoo, Hämeenlinna and Hanko. Supplemented by a presentation on the “The Royal National Urban Park in Stockholm”, we understood that the NUP offers great opportunities to harmonize ecological, economic, social and cultural needs and requests on urban open spaces and to agree on a joint development plan for the city and its surrounding open spaces.

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Next Hybrid Parks events in 2013 / 2014

On its recent meeting the International Steering Group agreed on (preliminary) dates for the next events. Final confirmation will be made soon and details will be communicated on the website:

- Study Tour: *Lower Austria (Austria), September 30th - October 2nd (confirmed)*
- Workshop "Social Aspects 2": *Ferrara (Italy), in the week November 4th - 8th*
- 3rd Open Conference: *Rhodes (Greece), in the week 19th - 23rd May 2014*

Conferences are open to the professional audience, while workshops can welcome a limited number of external participants. Please [send a request](#) to the Lead Partner for information, registration and confirmation.

Imprint / Impressum:

Lead Partner:

Schloss Dyck Foundation
Centre for Garden Art and Landscape Design
D - 41363 Jüchen
www.stiftung-schloss-dyck.de
mail@hybridparks.eu



Responsible for this newsletter on behalf of the entire partnership

