



December 2013

Our logo in its winter design shows that 2013 will come to an end soon. It was a very fruitful year for the Hybrid Parks project. The exchange between partners, the visits to a great variety of projects building, enhancing or using parks and gardens for many purposes and the discussions with external experts who manage these projects and/or gave presentations on the workshops, conferences and study tours was very inspirational. In 2014 the transfer of knowledge, ideas and best practice will show first results in some of the partner regions.

Currently the partnership and experts commissioned by the partners are working on some studies that will further add to the knowledge base and benefit the joint development of recommendations for green management and planning policies in Europe's cities and regions, its parks and gardens.

Thank you for your interest and support. We will keep you informed and hope to meet you on our events, e.g. the two conferences hosted in 2014 in Greece and Germany.

Best wishes!



## 2nd Study Tour in Lower Austria in September/October

The recent study tour was held from 30th September – 2nd October 2013 in Lower Austria. Its focus was on "A Destination for Garden Tourism – Ecological gardening from public to private gardens".

During the three days, project partners and external experts visited some of the good practice examples of projects developed and/or supported by the two Hybrid Parks partners from Austria "[Nature in the Garden](#)" and "[Garden Platform Lower Austria](#)". In addition to the very informative guided tours, there were some presentations and time for discussions and exchange of experiences.

It became very clear that parks and gardens could incorporate much more natural elements while at the same time gaining attractiveness and generating additional income. The network in Lower Austria has established a joint programme and quality brand that combines environmental education with modern garden design (for private and public owners), lifestyle, regional products, food and health care. Convincingly combined with well-preserved local tradition, built heritage and modern architecture a unique tourism destination could be established. Is such thoughtful and targeted regional cooperation and development one option to generate (a regional) Hybrid Park?

Visits included "[Die Garten Tulln](#)" which is the garden show of Lower Austria started in 2008. It has been set up and is maintained with all the 60 show gardens included according to the ecological standards set up by "Nature in the Garden". There are many events addressing a wider audience, educational activities and a therapy garden as well. It follows a strict sustainable approach and promotes the use of this concept in other parks and gardens, both public and private.

The heritage of Lower Austria, including the garden tradition, can be experienced in the open air museum "[Niedersulz](#)". The journey into time starts by entering through a very modern visitor centre. The collection of old varieties of vegetables and fruit is central to the activities of "[Arche Noah](#)" which was on the agenda as well as some [private gardens](#) working together in the regional network "[Die Gärten Niederösterreichs](#)".

The study tour ended at [Schloss Hof](#), one of the imperial residences in Austria. Its revitalisation started in 2003 when the buildings were in bad condition and most elements of the park and gardens were lost. Today much has been achieved and much of the former splendour returned, but restoration on huge garden will continue for some more years.

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## Workshop "Social 2" in Ferrara in November

The fifth international workshop of Hybrid Parks "Social 2" focussed on urban agriculture and its benefits from a socio-cultural point of view. It was organized by Emilia-Romagna Region and the Province of Ferrara and hosted in Ferrara, a UNESCO's World Heritage City that represents a rare example of conservation of rural areas designed in the Middle Age within the historic city walls.

Under its inspirational label or axiom AGOR-AGRO, participants explored how green areas such as gardens, vegetable gardens or parks give an important contribution to outline urban and peri-urban landscapes and also do improve the quality of citizens' life. This was done during discussions in workshops, but also by surveys, guided tours, interventions and presentations provided by horticulture experts at European and local level, including a visit to Portomaggiore and its famous Delizia del Verginese, the ancient residence of the Este Dukes.

The wide range of "gardening" in urban areas in Italy and results of research with its socio-cultural aspects was presented at the beginning of the workshop by [Silvia Zucconi](#) and [Chiara Volpato](#) showing the development of "agriculture for leisure" in Italy from hobby to urban farming, by [Giorgio Prosdocimi Gianquinto](#) and [Giovanni Bazzocchi](#) focussing on the key role of urban horticulture to contribute to fight social exclusion and to promote lifelong learning among adults through community and urban gardening and by [Roberta Bartoletti](#), who spoke about the new season of urban vegetable gardens in the city of Bologna and their role for intergenerational exchanges and environmental sustainability. As a meaningful intermezzo and reminder of the overall approach of Hybrid Parks, [Manfredi Patitucci](#) talked about his idea of hybrid parks and the allegory of good government.

This also opened the scene for information about newer projects from Italy. A presentation by [Mariella Carbone](#) and [Leonardo Giofré](#) highlighted the opportunities of therapeutic bio-diversity as given by a combination of nature, landscape, arts and therapy. Next was an introduction to the urban garden project by ANCI Umbria given by [Gemma Borzacchini](#). Then we saw the trailer and some short episodes from the film "God save the green" very successfully produced by: [Mammuth Film](#).

Then and even more during the second workshop on the next day, presentations by European partners added to the range of socio-economic aspects of gardening and gardens. It started with a presentation by [Lieselott Johansson](#) and [Cecilia Liljedahl](#) on the Skäggetorp project in Linköping and the inclusion of people living in this housing district and also from Sweden by [Anders Szczepanski](#) who informed the audience about his long and international working experiences with outdoor training and learning as a place based concept.

The work of keen gardeners of today and in history will soon be shown to a wider audience thanks to the development and promotion of a garden route in Brittany, which was presented by [Geoffroy de Longuemar](#). Then [Cecilia Liljedahl](#) invited us to see in her presentation some contemporary urban gardening projects in Sweden, which may become the garden heritage of tomorrow. How this variety of parks and gardens and many other green or open spaces in a city can be managed and developed in an inclusive and sustainable way, was shown on the example of the Green Book for Dortmund by [Johannes Blume](#). Finally [Pawel Kojis](#) and [Marzena Osmalak](#) presented the Silesian ecological calendar as their innovative and transferable concept for educational activities in the Silesian Botanical Garden.

- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentations](#)
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- [Newsletter with background information](#)



## Hybrid Parks agenda in 2014

The dates for 2014 have now been confirmed. But as changes may occur, please check the website before planning your participation. You will find agendas etc. on the web as well.

- Hybrid Workshop and ISG-Meeting: *Brittany (France), 23rd - 24th April 2014*
- Study Tour: *Linköping (Sweden), 21st - 23rd May 2014*
- 3rd Open Conference: *Rhodes (Greece), 26th - 28th June 2014*
- Workshop "Environment 2": *Mikolów (Poland), 23rd - 25th July 2014*
- Final Conference: *Cologne (Germany), 15th - 17th September 2014*

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

**Imprint / Impressum:**

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