

# Improving periurban biodiversity together

How Mt. Hymettus Aesthetic Forest brought together businesses and citizens

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## CHALLENGES TACKLED



Biodiversity  
Enhancement



Citizens and  
Business  
Involvement



## SUMMARY

Many organisations operate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) schemes. Periurban Parks can make the most of these schemes to help educate those living in urban areas on the importance of biodiversity and natural spaces, by involving them in participatory and educational actions in nature.

However, how to start setting up CSR and educational programmes in Periurban Parks? Within the LIFE UrbanGreeningPlans Project Philodassiki Enossi Athinon created guidelines that focus on the

- **When:** Taking into account the cycle of nature and the needs of the Park;
- **How:** How should participants behave properly in these natural areas?
- **What:** What activities make sense and how many people are needed?

## RESOURCES NEEDED



### COST

Human resources and  
technology resources:

€27.996



### TIME

1,5 years

## STEPS



1

Collection of actions that have taken place recently in the Mt. Hymettus Aesthetic Forest. These actions are part of CSR as well as educational programmes.



2

Subsequently, interviews were conducted with the leaders of the actions to gain a better understanding of what worked or what was challenging.



3

Answers from the interviews were then analysed, to create two cooperation frameworks between the organizations which are active in periurban parks.

## MAIN LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY

Utilising CSR programmes helps grow interest in protecting the natural environment and enhancing biodiversity. It lets participants to do contribute to our natural environment "hands on". As such, it is important for organizations working on environmental protection to motivate as many CSRs as possible, as well as educational institutions to contribute to it in their own way.

In addition, with the right communication between organisations, and good guidance of specialized staff, many actions can be implemented on a larger scale that will greatly help the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

**After all: the value of a periurban green area is only fully realised with the active participation of society.**

You can find the Toolkit on CSR in Periurban Parks, as well as many more resources under [www.europarc.org/greening-plans](http://www.europarc.org/greening-plans)

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