



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

# European Day of Parks

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## Report 2014

**This report fulfils the objective:**

**Area 2:**

Contribute to meet the EU 2020 targets by implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy

**Objective 2e:**

Raise awareness of wide public and young generations on the role of protected areas, and promote active citizenship experiences in favour of nature conservation.

of the NGO operating grant 2014 under the Financial Instrument for the Environment (Life+)  
(operating grant agreement N°2014/680767/SUF/E4-EUROPARC) awarded to the **EUROPARC Federa**



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*The content of this publication does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union.*

*Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the publication lies entirely with the authors*



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# European Day of Parks\*

**2014**

Report

Parks for nature.  
Parks for well-being.  
Parks for peace.

**2014** EUROPEAN DAY OF PARKS

An event organised by  
the EUROPARC Federation

Photo: Kristien Wintmolders, Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland, [www.rkm.be](http://www.rkm.be)

Design: EUROPARC Federation, [www.europarc.org](http://www.europarc.org)



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## European Day of Parks

The European Day of Parks ("EDoP") is a commemorative day for protected areas across Europe. It was launched in 1999 by the EUROPARC Federation to celebrate protected areas throughout Europe. This special day aims at bringing people closer to nature and offers a diversity of activities and events in protected areas throughout Europe. The date is significant because it is the day the first European national park was founded in Sweden in 1909.

In 2014, the world marked the **100th anniversary** of the outbreak of the First World War. Therefore this year, the European Day of Parks (EDoP) was held under the theme: "**Parks for Nature. Parks for well-being. Parks for peace.**" By connecting our most important date to this anniversary, we wanted to emphasize how our protected areas can have very different roles in people's lives. The most important question we tried to answer was: *What is the contribution that Protected Areas make to Peace and Wellbeing?*

Thus, in **23 countries** across Europe on Saturday, **24th May**, national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas opened their doors to visitors on the European Day of Parks 2014. It was an amazingly successful day and we are glad and impressed that so many members celebrated this day with a wonderful range of activities. Walks, excursions, exhibitions and more were held by protected areas from Finland to Spain and from Ireland to Romania. They highlighted the significant role that protected areas play in protecting an abundance of creatures across the continent. The diversity of events once again showed that parks use a nature-inspired creativity to address different groups of society, from tourists to children, from outdoor lovers to plant lovers.

More than **100 protected areas** promoted the day, which aims at being internationally recognized in 2014 for the sake of protected areas' status in European societies. The full list of **2014 EDoP activities and events** per countries is available here: <http://europarc.org/uploaded/documents/1974.pdf>.

As for the numerous artworks people shared with us, we collected them and published on **EUROPARC's Facebook profile**, this way opening ***an online contest:***

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.715924408472351.1073741835.135497019848429&type=3>





## Activities and media coverage:

- press releases
- social media coverage
- posters and logo
- e-News
- international online contest on social media “**Parks for Nature. Parks for well-being. Parks for peace.**”

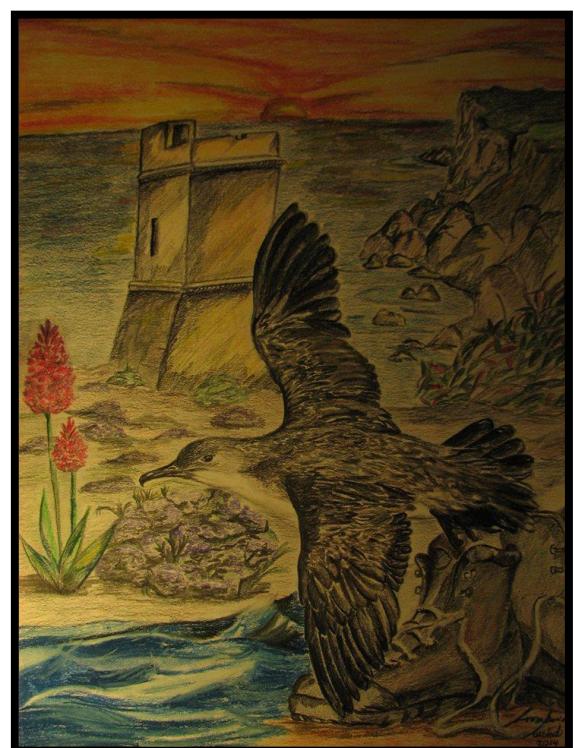
### Facts and Figures

Countries	23
Parks	100+
Activities	300+
Websites mentions	70
EP website reach (Page views between 19th - 25th of May)	5,602
Social media reach (Interactions)	5,668

On the European Day of Parks 2014, we organised an **online contest on social media** for the most inspiring material of the day and we invited all nature lovers to share with us their feelings and emotions in any piece of art that expresses how they reflect on the history happenings at a special e-mail account: [edop@europarc.org](mailto:edop@europarc.org). Thus we gathered impressing videos, photos, paintings, poems, collage posters and drawings that express in many different ways how people feel connected to their own Protected Areas and natural parks.

All the digitalized material was published as an online album on social media (EUROPARC's [Facebook page](#)).

*From more than 40 submissions for this year's **contest on Facebook**, Anne-Marie Austad's fabulous painting collected more than 100 "likes" and therefore, won the competition with an overwhelming number of votes. Her artwork expressed the young author's love and passion for birds and nature.*



Winner of EDoP contest – Author: Anne-Marie Austad;  
Protected Area: Il-Majjistral Nature and History Park, Malta



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*The winner of the European Day of Parks 2014 was officially awarded and celebrated internationally at the EUROPARC Conference in Ireland.*



All protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, EUROPARC members and partners were invited to join the European Day of Parks activities through **direct email invitation, social media posts, eNews and website**.

Furthermore, EUROPARC members were able to report back on their activities marking the day by filling an **online report form**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FVG89BQ>.

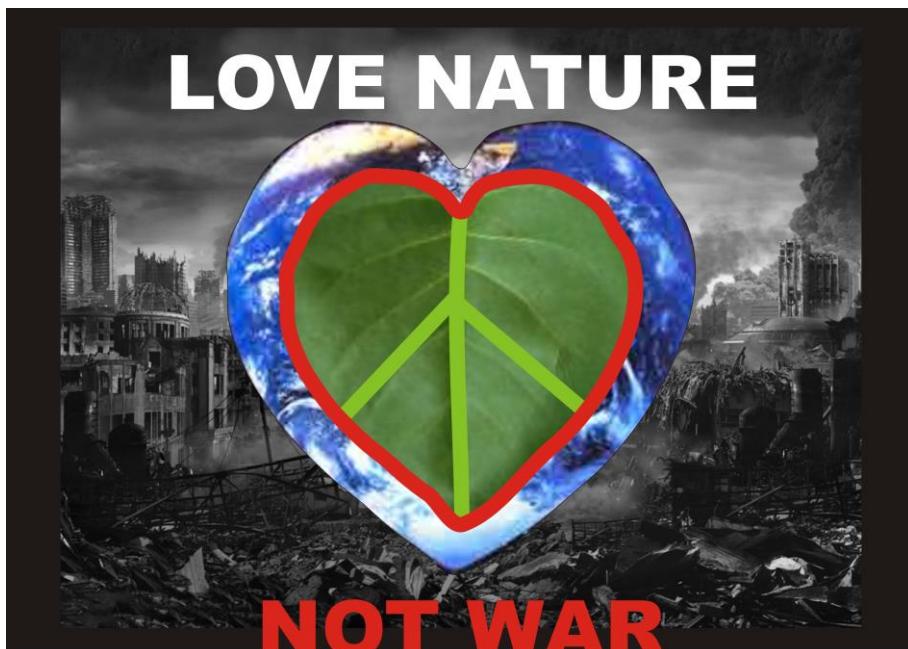
### Examples of photos and artworks



*Young promoters on the European Day of Parks, National Park of Montenegro*



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"Make Love, Not War!"  
(Romanian Ranger Association)



« La Pace è la musica della Natura »  
(Parco Nazionale Appennino Lucano)

An event organised by  
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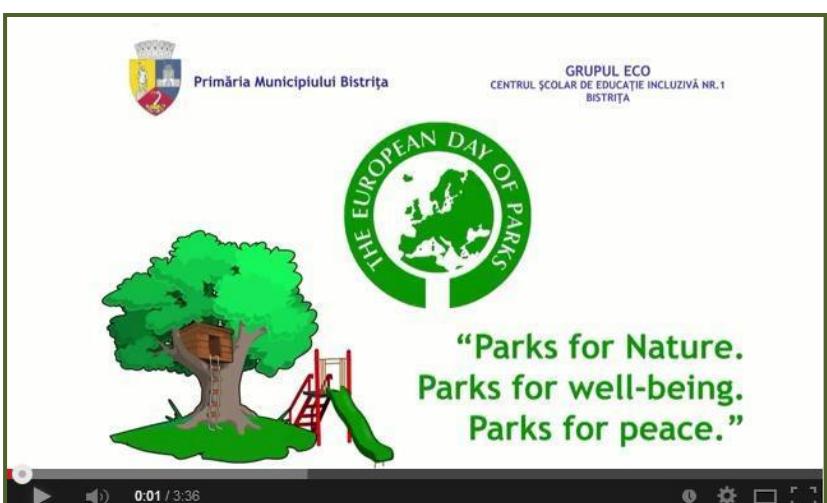




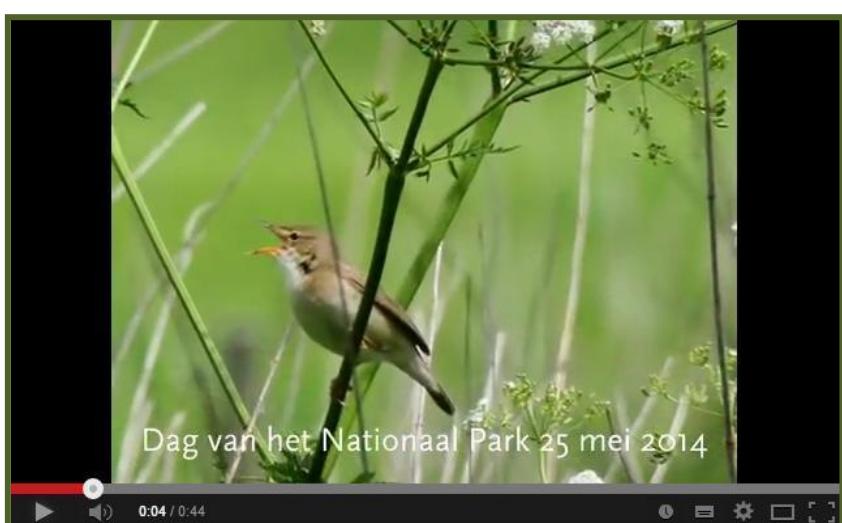
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**Drawing exhibition in Parco Nazionale Appennino Lucano  
on the European Day of Parks 2014**



**A video and event organised by Municipal Park of Bistrita in Romania**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlIXPZvFMs4>



**"De Dag van het Nationaal Park" - Video for the European Day of Parks in the Netherlands:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbKbe0r5QSg&feature=youtu.be>





## Promotion through different channels

The European Day of Parks 2014 gave higher visibility to Protected Areas. On this important day, many people and institutions supported us in the celebration of nature, sent us their thoughts and helped to promote this international event. **EUROPARC Sections, MoU partners, the European Parliament, EUROPARC Council members and President** raised the awareness of the wide public on the relevance and value of protected areas – including Natura 2000 sites - for the conservation of nature and the peace among people and communities. Additionally, **WFMD 2014** joined forces with EUROPARC since both the European Day of Parks and **World Fish Migration Day** have similar goals. Local community events took place at 250 locations worldwide and celebrated the big day and many of our Protected Areas placed within the near distance of rivers and lakes.



European Day of Parks had a high **media coverage**, being announced and mentioned in numerous international and local newspapers, publications, but also on different radio stations, such as **Canal Extremadura** in Spain that interviewed **EUROPARC Spain (Javier Puertas)** on this special occasion. The interview can be found here: <http://www.canalextramadura.es/alacarta/radio/audios/dia-europeo-de-los-parques-naturales>.

Some of the other **media announcements** include:

**MEP Gaston Franco's website** <http://www.gaston-franco.eu/Le-24-mai-prochain-les-parcs.html>

Accueil

VOTRE DÉPUTÉ

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ACTUALITÉS

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LIENS UTILES

TRAVAIL PARLEMENTAIRE

ENVIRONNEMENT ET FORÊT

INDUSTRIE, RECHERCHE ET ÉNERGIE

PORTFOLIO

Le 24 mai prochain, les parcs naturels européens seront à l'honneur

Gaston Franco  
Député au Parlement européen

EPP Group

Le 24 mai, comme tous les ans depuis 1999, l'Union européenne soutient la journée dédiée aux parcs naturels. L'occasion pour les parcs de se faire connaître et de sensibiliser le public à la protection de la nature et à un tourisme durable. Ainsi, dans la semaine du 24 mai, des événements sont organisés partout à travers l'Europe. En partenariat avec le Parc National du Mont-Blanc, les activités sont organisées autour du thème "Parcs pour la Nature, Parcs pour le bien-être, Parcs pour la paix". Des expositions participatives, des marchés, des films, des ateliers de peintures, seront organisés dans les parcs pour permettre aux visiteurs d'exprimer de façon créative leurs émotions et leurs expériences des parcs comme sanctuaires de nature mais aussi de paix.

Pour plus d'informations, contacter la fédération Europarc, coordonnatrice des événements : office@europarc.org



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**Humania.org** <http://www.humania.tv/agenda/join-the-european-day-of-parks-2014-parks-for-nature-parks-for-well-being-parks-for-peace>

The screenshot shows the homepage of humania.org with a yellow header. The header includes the website name "humania.org" and a subtitle "comunicación para el desarrollo y la sociedad civil". There are search and filter options for the agenda. Below the header, there are links for "ver todo" and "Hoy, 20 Marzo 2014". A sidebar on the right lists "Otros eventos del Hoy, 20 Marzo 2014".

*Join the European Day of Parks 2014: "Parks for nature. Parks for well-being. Parks for peace."*

Europarc Federation,



Buscar agenda  
Filtrar por categoría  
Filtrar por institución  
Detalles  
Archivos  
Contacta

Fuente: Europarc Federation

Fecha y Localización

24 Mayo, 2014 hasta 24 Mayo, 2014

Otros eventos Europarc Federation

Compartir

[Like](#) 0 [8+1](#)

The European Day of Parks is almost upon us again. The EUROPARC Federation has been celebrating Europe's protected areas through this event since 1999. It is a great opportunity for you to promote your protected area and its work to the general public and your local stakeholders and politicians. We celebrate officially on the 24th May, marking the date when the first national parks in Europe were founded, but please also use the week around this date to organise your events.

**German Nature Parks' website** <http://www.naturparke.de/news/biodiversity>

#### "AB INS GRÜNE" - NATURPARK-WANDERTAG 2014



Die schönen Landschaften Deutschlands in ihrer ganzen Vielfalt erleben – das können Sie beim Wandertag der Deutschen Naturparke, der in diesem Jahr am 24. und 25. Mai 2014 stattfindet. Vom Naturpark Schlei im Norden bis zum Naturpark Südschwarzwald im Süden und vom Deutsch-Belgischen Naturpark Hohes Venn - Eifel im Westen bis zum Naturpark Niederausitzer Landrücken im Osten finden an diesem Maiwochenende ganz besondere Veranstaltungen statt.

Im Mittelpunkt der Wanderungen steht das gemeinsame Naturerlebnis. Die Teilnehmer sollen aber auch neue Entdeckungen machen und überraschende Zusammenhänge erkennen. Dazu werden die Wanderungen von fachkundigen Führern begleitet. Neben der Informationsvermittlung kommen Spaß und Naturgenuss sicher nicht zu kurz. Ob

Fahrradwanderung, Vogelstimmentour oder fantastische Reise zu Mythen und Sagen – außergewöhnliche Erlebnisse sind am Naturpark-Wandertag 2014 garantiert.

Der Naturpark-Wandertag findet statt aus Anlass des Europäischen Tag der Parke, der in ganz Europa am 24. Mai gefeiert wird. Mehr Informationen hierzu erhalten Sie beim Europäischen Dachverband der Parke EUROPARC Federation unter <http://europarc.org/whats-on/european-day-of-park>.

Ziel des „Naturpark-Wandertages“ und des „Europäischen Tag der Parke“ ist es, Menschen näher an die Natur heranzuführen. In den angebotenen Veranstaltungen wird der Wert von Schutzgebieten hervorgehoben und den Menschen vermittelt, um damit diese besonderen Orte mit ihrer reichen Artenvielfalt zu bewahren.

Über den Zeitraum vom 1. Mai bis zum 30. Juni 2014 findet auch der „Wandertag für die biologische Vielfalt“ des Bundesamtes für Naturschutz statt, bei dem der Verband Deutscher Naturparke Kooperationspartner ist. Mehr Informationen hierzu erhalten Sie unter [www.wandertag.biologischevielfalt.de](http://www.wandertag.biologischevielfalt.de).

Seien Sie dabei und wandern Sie mit!

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**Tagesschau newspaper:** <http://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/bilder/parke-tag100.html>

## Europäischer Tag der Parks

1/7



Diese schöne Felsformation heißt "Kleine Gans" und liegt im **Nationalpark Sächsische Schweiz** - der deutsche Teil des Elbsandsteingebirges, das sich Deutschland mit Tschechien teilt. Der tschechische Teil wird "Böhmisches Schloss" genannt. Die Sächsische Schweiz ist nicht nur der einzige Nationalpark in Sachsen, sondern auch der einzige Felsennationalpark in ganz Deutschland. Nach Angaben des Bundesamts für Naturschutz umfasst er eine Fläche von mehr als 380 Quadratkilometern. Übrigens: In der Sächsischen Schweiz liegt die beeindruckende Festung Königstein. (Bildquelle: Frank Richter/Tourismusverband S)

**LSD Magazine, Italy – EUROPARC President, Thomas Hansson announcing the European Day of Parks**  
<http://www.lsdmagazine.com/aspettando-la-giornata-europea-dei-parchi-a-bari-thomas-hansson/17022/>



**LSDmagazine**

Il vostro pezzo mancante. Cultura, Stile, Vita, Attualità,  
Relax e non solo.

Direttore responsabile: Michele Traverso

Ambiente-Natura, InEvidenza

**“Aspettando la Giornata Europea dei Parchi” a Bari**  
**Thomas Hansson**

20 mag 2014 | Nessun Commento | 266 Visite  
Di: Ornella Quivelli



Print PDF



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## Material used in the campaign

### **EUROPARC press release**

#### PRESS RELEASE

**WHAT:** European Day of Parks 2014

**WHEN:** 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2014

**WHERE:** Europe's Protected Areas

**WHY:** To raise public awareness about the mission and work of protected areas



**Enjoy nature with all senses: EUROPARC Federation announces European Day of Parks 2014**

*The European Day of Parks was launched as a commemorative day by the EUROPARC Federation in 1999 to celebrate protected areas throughout Europe. This year's 24<sup>th</sup> of May aims at bringing people closer to nature and offer a diversity of activities and events in protected areas throughout Europe.*

Nature experience as an individual approach is this year's theme for the European Day of Parks. Protected areas throughout Europe are joining this anniversary with unique activities, colourful exhibitions, and exciting events. The celebrations aim to raise public awareness about the mission and work of protected areas whose efforts continue to protect the natural beauty of both primeval and cultivated landscapes, fauna and flora. Park administrations are enhancing their relationship with the local population and aim to involve people more from a socio-cultural and socio-economic perspective of conservation and sustainable management protected areas.

**"Parks for Nature. Parks for well-being. Parks for peace":** with this motto does EUROPARC Federation offer a theme that allows people to gain individual experiences and inspiration from nature and conservation.

This year, the world marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Why should we remember? Why should we stop and think about those events that happened so long ago? By the end of the First World War, there were very few people in the countries that took part who remained unaffected. The war reached out and touched almost everyone's life in some way or other.

By connecting our most important date to this anniversary, we want to emphasize how our protected areas can have very different roles in people's lives. The most important question this event wants to address and answer is: *What is the contribution that Protected Areas make to Peace and Wellbeing?*

EUROPARC Federation is proud that many of its 360 members in 36 European countries are participating. National parks, nature parks and biosphere reserves have organized activities and events inviting the young and the old to celebrate together. Multimedia shows, guided adventure tours, special walks, farmer markets, and other events comprise the multicultural and international mosaic of the European Day of Parks.

For all members of the EUROPARC Federation it is most important to collaborate and proactively exchange information and skills. „Nature doesn't know any borders and many protected areas and ecosystems are connected beyond national borderlines. It is our mission to foster nature conservation at a European level and support our members in managing protected areas and through international cooperation“, points out Thomas Hansson, president of EUROPARC Federation.

END (418 words)

### **European Day of Parks Design (English)**



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[European Day of Parks Promo Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WGDESXxSsQ) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WGDESXxSsQ>)



### ***Here is a selection of articles about the European Day of Parks 2014***

Gaston Franco's webpage (MEP), Brussels, [Le 24 mai prochain, les parcs naturels européens seront à l'honneur](#), 18th of March 2014

Humania.org, Spain, [Join the European Day of Parks 2014: "Parks for nature. Parks for well-being. Parks for peace."](#) 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2014

Federparchi's website, Italy, [La pace è il tema della Settimana Europea dei parchi, a fine maggio](#), 25th of February

EUROPARC Spain's website, Spain, [Concurso de fotografía EUROPARC-España "Día Europeo de los Parques"](#), 11th of April

Heritage Council's website, Ireland, [European Day of Parks](#)

Regione Lombardia's webpage, Italy, [Giornata Europea dei Parchi: eventi lungo il V'Arco Villoresi](#), 20th of May 2014

L'Adigetto, Italy, [24 maggio, Giornata Europea dei Parchi: ecco il Vostro Parco](#), 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2014

El Periodic, Spain, [Seis Parques Naturales de la Comunitat programan actividades este fin de semana](#), 16th of May 2014

Parco della Maremma's Facebook page, Italy, [Festa dei Parchi 2014](#), 14th of May 2014

Klamm, Germany, ["Tag der Parke" in Steinhude steht im Zeichen des 40. Gründungstages des Naturparks](#), 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014

La Stampa, Italy, [Sulla Via Francigena dal Parco del Po e Collina Torinese al Sacro Monte di Crea insieme al CAI-Casale Monferrato](#), 15<sup>th</sup> of May



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**TV Intercomarcal**, Spain, [La UA conmemora el Día Europeo de los Parques Naturales con una actividad de limpieza de residuos en la Font Roja](#), 15th of May 2014

**Il Tirreno**, Italy, [In migliaia alla scoperta delle bellezze del Padule di Fucecchio](#),

**Huelva informacion**, Spain, [Platero es el protagonista de un certamen literario sobre Doñana](#), 11th of May 2014

**El Periódico Mediterraneo**, Spain, [Jornada de limpieza en el Desert en el Día Europeo de los Parques](#), 7th of May 2014

**Free News Pos**, Italy, [Domenica 11 maggio torna la "Festa del Padule" a Castelmartini | Cultura Fotografie](#), 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2014

**LSD Magazine**, Italy, "[Aspettando la Giornata Europea dei Parchi](#)" a Bari Thomas Hansson, 20th of May 2014

**Axarquia Costa del Sol**, Spain, [Día Europeo de los Parques – Cross de Orientación – Sedella – 31 de Mayo](#), 19th of May

**Murcia.com**, Spain, [Medio Ambiente organiza actividades en los espacios protegidos de la Región con motivo del Día Europeo de los Parques](#), 20th of May 2014

**El Diario**, Spain, [La Caldera de Taburiente celebra el Día Europeo de los Parques](#), 20th of May 2014

**EFE Verde**, Spain, [Deporte y naturaleza en la Casa del Campo por el Día Europeo de los Parques](#), 20th of May 2014

**Parco Ticino's website**, Italy, [Giornata Europea dei Parchi](#),

**Europa Press**, Spain, [La Junta conmemora el Día Europeo de los Parques organizando actividades en varios espacios naturales](#), 21st of May

**Federparchi's website**, Italy, [Giornata europea dei parchi - A Decima Malafede "C.S.I. Natura", evento di esplorazione e scoperta sul campo](#), 21st of May

**Roma Notizie**, Italy, [24 MAGGIO 2014 GIORNATA EUROPEA DEI PARCHI E DEI GIARDINI](#), 21st of May

**ABC**, Spain, [Nueve espacios naturales celebran mañana Día Europeo de los Parques Naturales](#), 23rd of May 2014

**El Dia**, Spain, [El Paso colabora en las jornadas del Día Europeo de los Parques](#), 23rd of May

**El Diario**, Spain, [La Caldera de Taburiente celebra el Día Europeo de los Parques](#), 20th of May 2014

**El Pais**, Spain, [El gran día de los parques](#), 23rd of May 2014

**Vivere Ancona**, Italy, Giornata [Europea dei Parchi, il parco del Conero scende in piazza da Ancona a Sirolo](#), 23rd of May 2014

**Ansa\_it**, Italy, [Giornata europea parchi, in Italia oltre 150 eventi](#), 23<sup>rd</sup> of May

**Parco Abruzzo's website**, Italy, [Giornata Europea dei Parchi](#),

**Regio Trends**, Germany, [Natur und Wildnis sind dank Großschutzgebieten in Baden-Württemberg hautnah erlebbar - Breites Engagement ermöglicht vielfältige Erlebnisangebote](#), 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2014

**Federparchi's website**, [Passeggiata ai piedi del Beigua con il geologo!](#), 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2014

**El Periodico Mediterraneo**, Spain, [Empresas de la provincia se promocionan en Madrid](#), 25th of May 2014

**Nature in Europe's Facebook Page**, [Promotion of the European Day of Parks](#), 24<sup>th</sup> of May

**Federparchi's website**, [Giornata europea dei parchi... ma con lo sguardo rivolto in Australia](#),

**Peak District NP's website**, [National Park Appeal for Crocheted/Knitted Triangles to Celebrate Europars Day](#), 16<sup>th</sup> of May

**Swiss parks'website**, [EUROPEAN DAY OF PARKS](#),

**Canal Extremadura**, Spain, [Día Europeo de los Parques Naturales](#), 26th of May 2014 – Interview with Javier Puertas (EUROPARC Spain)



Mágina Sur Informacion, Spain, [Mágina celebra el Día Europeo de los Parques Naturales](#), 27th of May 2014



InSic, Italy, [Giornata Europea dei Parchi: il commento del ministro Galletti](#), 27th of May 2014

Murcia.com, Spain, [El ayuntamiento y ANSE celebran este domingo 1 de junio el "Día europeo de los parques naturales"](#), 29th of May 2014

Europa Press, Spain, [El Ayuntamiento propone mañana dos rutas al monte Buciero por el Día de los Parques Naturales](#), 30th of May 2014



***We would like to thank all our members and supporting organisations that sent their event details and joined us in this campaign!***

Here you can watch the [\*European Day of Parks promo video\*](#)

For more information and any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at the directorate at [office@europarc.org](mailto:office@europarc.org)



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