

Good practices in Italy 6/2018

Title: Big Jump
Owner: European Rivers Network
Start date: 2002
Contact: <https://www.bigjump.org/en/>

Description:

The Big Jump is an open source event that aims at raising awareness towards rivers, lakes and their relationships with the populations living on them. On a preset date and time in July all the people participating in the Big Jump unanimously dive into the rivers they chose for the event. This year the Big Jump will be on July the 14th at 15h CET to remember the powerful ties that bind populations to freshwater ecosystems and to encourage people to stand up for them. The Big Jump is an occasion of great acclaim that can be both a recreational way to enjoy the places we live nearby and to send a strong political message. As a matter of fact, European politicians should do a lot more to protect and restore our rivers and implement the ambitious laws in the Water Framework Directive. This directive is now under review and would benefit both people and nature. Many rivers, lakes, wetlands are in a good state, but they still need protection, as some are threatened by planned dams and other infrastructure. Other waterways are in urgent need of restoration.

Over the years, rivers ended up being neglected both by people and by politicians. They served as rubbish dumps, were polluted, access was often forbidden and became dangerous. They were used only for navigation and numerous beaches and swimming spots disappeared.

As for 2018 the Piedmont Region hosted several initiatives in which Legambiente and VisPO volunteers participated: on the Po river in Turin, on Chiusella stream in the city of Gauna, on the Sangone river in Beinasco, on Pellice stream in Villar Pellice and on Ticino river in Abbiategrosso. These events wanted to stress the fact that Piedmont and Italy have a three years delay on the fulfilment of the Water Framework Directive. As a matter of fact, since 2015 Italian rivers should have gone back being bathing, reaching the good environmental status foreseen in the Directive.