

Good practices in Hungary

35/2020

Title: Clean and Fun at the Springs of Pilis National Park
Owner: Pilisi Patakmentők (Springs-savers of Pilis National Park)
Contact: https://www.facebook.com/pilisipatakmentok/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAKaWRinuylo4DDG1nmegS7Psxr-o5wHCJifzCxIz7DpauY9M5Ak-ezqfp-zj03S0kua4jaloBO6gaE

Good practice for: Recycling campaign, sensitisation, awareness raising, building network, volunteering

Description: Pilis National Park is located on the western side of Danube, between Esztergom and Budapest. It is an area of woods and hills with unique biodiversity, also with some small, peaceful villages. In the heart of Pilis, at the beautiful village of Pilisszántó, there is a tiny forest stream that collects water from little springs and transports it to the Határréti fishpond, while trickling through the village ... but not only the water is running in this little stream, there is also a few cubic meters of illegal waste as well. Thanks to decades of persistent littering, everything is here - oil cans, batteries, construction waste.

Pilis Stream Rescuers are determined to make a change and heal this wonderful place so that it is not the shame of the neighborhood but its pride, clear and healthy. Their movement involves local volunteers directly by asking them to join outdoor activities of the movement. They looking for people who love hiking, nature or have a passion for protecting the environment and would like to join an enthusiastic team. Their aim is to show that together we can do something for our environment, for the present moment as well as for future generations. In May of 2019, with the participation of enthusiastic local nature lovers, colleagues of the local council and the major, the movement of Pilis Stream Rescuers collected 4m³ garbage and 50 tires from the little stream, in just 3 hours, which has largely exceeded any expectations. This local movement is a great example of involving local citizens to clear parts of their environment locally and very effectively. They recorded a little video, took several pictures and building a great atmosphere for the local community. Their work has not stooped since, and they keep organizing further cleaning events, raising awareness with a very positive attitude.