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Geolodía (Geoloday): yearly-running of fifty simultaneous Geological fieldtrips across Spain open to the general public

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The term *Geolodía (Geoloday, the Day of Geology)* was first used in 2005, when local geologists tried to bring closer the Geology to the general public by means of a Sunday morning visit to the Aliaga Geological Park (Teruel province, Spain). The following years, these Geological fieldtrips were spread to other nearby Spanish provinces. In 2010, the *Geological Society of Spain* understood the educational potential of this outreach initiative and took the lead of the coordination of *Geolodía*, with the goal to have fieldtrips in each one of the fifty provinces of Spain. Over the last six years, more than fifty fieldtrips are taking place simultaneously, in the second weekend of May. The visibility in the mass media and the number of public attending is increasing year after year, to reach almost 9.000 people participating in the 54 excursions carried on May 2015.

Geolodía is a free activity open to any kind of participant, independently of its age or its previous knowledge of Geology. With these fieldtrips, our aim is that the public at large, observe their environment with “geological eyes”, get to know our geological heritage, and understand about what the geologists, as scientists and professionals, can contribute to society and its wellbeing. *Geolodía* is only possible thanks to the voluntary work of more than 500 geologists and other colleagues involved in the organization of the event. It is mostly funded by the Spanish Government (FECYT) and IGME (Geological Survey of Spain), and by a pool of local administrations, universities and industries.

The local organizers select the itinerary, take care of other logistical aspects and produce a simple field guide (normally, 8 full colour pages), which is distributed to all the participants. There are several ways to organize the field trip, but the optimum format for the usual figure of more than 100–150 participants is to look for an easy walking path, in which the leaders stay in different key stops and the public pass by these stops along the day. The itineraries and the local organizers vary every year and we are compiling a very abundant and high-quality archive of original field guides, including well-illustrated

explanations. These guides can be downloaded from the web page of the *Geological Society of Spain* (see <http://www.sociedadgeologica.es/divulgacion/geolodia.html>).

Geolodía is becoming very popular in Spain. We hope the number of participants increase progressively in the coming years,



but we also aim to spread this initiative to the neighboring countries. Andorra has already joined the project, and we have started contacts with other European countries like Portugal, France or UK.

Figure 1: An image of Geología 15 Toledo, summarizing data, and showing the logos of the institutions involved at national scale.

