

Common activities

Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany/Poland): German-Polish choir links culture and landscape

On a Friday in June 2018, a singing crowd of young people flooded through the Neiße Valley with its terraces and wetlands. It was part of the first Geo'nConcert in the Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark. The young people, members of two choirs from Poland and Germany, came together to appreciate the river, which today connects Germany and Poland. The river cut through the huge horseshoe-shaped push moraine about 20,000 years ago, leaving behind a gigantic breach with variations in height of up to 32 m. With concerts of this kind, landscape and culture will have an ever closer connection in the Muskau Arch UGG UNESCO Geopark.



A busy time in Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark (Denmark)

May was a very busy time in Odsherred UGG, with the initiation of three major projects. On May 14th Geopark Odsherred arranged a scientific seminar with the aim of identifying potential geoscientific projects, which could be undertaken within the framework of the Geopark. Furthermore, the Geopark received a major grant of €415.000, which will partly finance the establishment of a new tourist attraction focusing on the Sun Chariot, one of the most important archaeological discoveries in Europe. Lastly, but of equal importance, we began the construction of one of four new information points, which in the future will act as hubs for our public outreach.

Cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks

Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Intercultural cooperation - the Peony as a bridge between the nations

Since 2013, the Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGG manages an intercultural project related to the role of the peony in cultural heritage, as a medicinal plant and its role in biodiversity. In this context, some activities (peony garden, peony arts exhibition, peony festival, conference presentations) in cooperation with the city of Lorsch, the Lorsch Abbey WHS and Mt. Lushan UGG, our long standing partner Geopark, have already occurred. Last year, Naturtejo UGG (Portugal), with one of the rare European habitats of the wild peony joined the project. As a part of their introduction to the project, Naturtejo UGG joined the Peony Festival in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGG and held a Geo-baking activity day at Messel Pit WHS (the northern gateway to the Geopark). This was followed this year by our participation in the peony festival in Toulouse, the peony village of Naturtejo UGG. This involved a booth and oral presentations. The director Zhu DongE represented Mt.

Lushan, Geopark and participated in the opening of the extension of our peony garden. This event also included the presentation of a sandstone sculpture for the new peony garden in Lushan UGG. We are looking forward to the next stages of the project which involve three UNESCO Global Geoparks, two World Heritage Sites and two local communities.





Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria/Slovenia) hosted the 41st EGN CC Meeting

41st EGN CC meeting took place between 19 and 24 March 2018. The meeting was attended by more than 120 delegates from 23 European countries. In addition to the Advisory and Coordination Committee meetings, a whole day fieldtrip was organized, where participants visited attractions in the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken. These included the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken Infocentre World of Geology in Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla, Obir dripstone caves, and the tourist mine and museum Podzemlje Pece in Mežica. An »Open session« was organized for the interested public, where the European Geopark Network and all four crossborder Geoparks in the network were presented and a GEOfair, where visitors could meet members

from UNESCO Global Geoparks in various European countries. As part of the meeting, a special exhibition was prepared, showing the outstanding geological heritage, incredible nature and people of the European UNESCO Global Geoparks. In a press conference, the first certificates awarded to the »Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark education centres« were presented to Mežica, Črna na Koroškem and Lavamünd.

Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): 10th International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geoheritage Management”

The 10th International Intensive Course on Geoparks entitled “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geoheritage Management” was co-organized successfully by the UNESCO – Earth Sciences and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section, the Global Geoparks Network, the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and the University of the Aegean - Department of Geography, from June 7th to 17th, 2018 in Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece. This year's Course on Geoparks included 40 participants from 25 countries. Through the Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 which is the annual capacity building activity of the Global Geoparks Network, attendees had the opportunity to widen their knowledge and expertise in UNESCO Global Geoparks and Earth heritage protection, conservation and management as a tool for sustainable tourism development. They also had the opportunity to experience diverse specializations and to cooperate with participants from different countries.



EU Funding Project Horizon 2020: RURITAGE – Heritage for Rural Regeneration with 38 partners from 18 countries

RURITAGE is a 4-year EU-funded project under the Horizon 2020 Programme led by the University of Bologna in Italy. Ruritage establishes a new heritage-led rural regeneration approach, transforming rural areas into laboratories for sustainable development, building on the enhancement of their unique Cultural and Natural Heritage potential. It fosters the ambition for creating a new paradigm for rural regeneration based on Cultural and Natural Heritage, making culture the driver for sustainable development, contributing to economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability in rural areas. This project brings together 38 partners from 18 countries (Italy, Spain, Austria, UK, Ireland, Austria, Germany, France, Finland, Poland, the Netherlands, Hungary,



Slovenia, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Turkey, Colombia). The project just completed a very successful start-up meeting in early June, which marked the beginning of this dynamic and innovative endeavor. Want to learn more? see <https://en.unesco.org/ruritage>. Article authors: Sara Gentilini (Magma Geopark), Dott.ssa Katrien An Heirman (UNESCO Earth Science), Prof. Simona Tondelli (University of Bologna, project leader).

Regional Networking of UNESCO Global Geoparks

The Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) presents its network of collaborators

Twenty companies have joined the initiative so far by signing a mutual collaboration agreement with the Geopark of the Basque Coast. On May 31, as part of the European Geopark Week, the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark gave a presentation about its network of collaborators. The agreement was founded with the aim of developing an open hands-on collaboration centred on the Basque Coast Geopark, in which participants are united by a feeling of belonging and commitment to the social and natural environment. The 20 companies already display their accreditation plaques at their businesses which distinguish them as a collaborating member of the Geopark. www.geoparkea.eus





Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland): Celebrating “Bealtaine” through outdoor science in the Geopark

This year the Copper Coast Geopark collaborated with the local third level college, Waterford Institute of Technology, to take part in the Bealtaine Living Earth Festival - a week-long celebration of science through outdoor learning and workshops named after the ancient Irish celebration of spring “Beltaine”. The idea of this festival is to engage children and adults with the connectivity between ecological, environmental and geological science in a hands-on, fun, way. In order to engage people with this through the Geopark, a number of workshops for primary school students were held within the Copper Coast Geopark around the theme of geological time. The concluding event in the Copper Coast Geopark was a combined geology/ecology walk with a local ecologist and the Copper Coast Geologist, Robbie Galvin, where over 50 people joined in learning about the connection between ecological and geological systems along the coastline of County Waterford.

Geological, Biological and Intangible Heritage

European Day Of The Megalithic Culture In The Sobrarbe-Pirineos Unesco Global Geopark (Spain)

On the 29th April, the Day of Megalithic Culture was celebrated throughout Europe. The Sobrarbe-Pirineos UGG joined this celebration by organizing an informative day to discover the phenomenon of the Pyrenean Cromlechs. The Pyrenean Cromlech is the symbol of a pastoral community that, with greater or lesser concentration, extended throughout the Pyrenees. The Cromlechs are funerary monuments erected to honor and praise the memory of members of a community. They also had a demarcation function within the territory. The activities organized by the Geopark included a lecture by an archaeologist and a guided tour to some stone circles. The Sobrarbe-Pirineos UGG is a member of the European Itinerary of the Megalithic Culture, and organizes this kind of activity with the aim to integrate culture and heritage within the the Geopark.



Tourism



Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): 10 Years promoting a geotourism destination

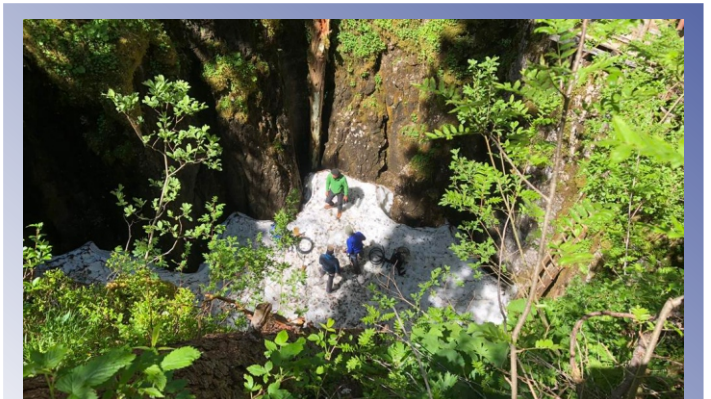
In the last 10 years, Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark contributed to the protection, enhancement and dynamics of the natural and cultural heritage, with special emphasis on the geological heritage, with a view to increase and disseminate scientific knowledge and promote tourism and sustainable development.

Over a period of years the Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark developed a number of infrastructures and facilities. In order to promote the quality of this destination the Geopark has created news platforms on geosites, the Paiva Walkways, Interpretative Centres, the launch of Educational Programmes and Services, the training of Local Guides, the promotion of new products and services and the promotion of local crafts and products.

Science/Research

Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark (France): An Alpine Summer Farm Without Water?

The Chablais UGGp, together with Luc Moreau (glaciologist) and Jean-Luc Bosson (geomorphologist and member of the Chablais UGGp Scientific Steering Committee), visited Nifflon a mountain in the French Alps to start a new educational project. The high summer farms on this mountain have no natural water supply. The local people traditionally collected snow and ice from deep depressions that are known as “tannes” (dolines). Two of the deepest tannes were chosen from the 200 tannes in this small area as sites for the installation of scientific instruments. This autumn the first students will start the long-term monitoring of local climate change, investigate the functioning of the “tannes” and learn about the cultural heritage (SDG's 4, 6, 11 and 13).





An atlas about soils in the TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Our soils, an underestimated treasure

Ninety five percent of our food cannot be produced without soils. What kind of soils do we find in TERRA.vita? What kind of results do soils produce? Answers to many of these questions can be found in the new soil atlas of TERRA.vita. The very significant role of soils, located as a very thin and vulnerable skin between bedrock and the biosphere, is emphasized in the atlas. Soil degradation is very evident in many parts of the world, but soils still lack the respect and recognition given to water or air. The new atlas provides first-hand information and is written in a popular but science based language. The first pages provide a short introduction into basic knowledge about soils and continue with a presentation of the 17 most significant soil types in TERRA.vita. Secondary schools are the core target groups for the atlas. However, free copies of the atlas will be provided to all schools who express a real interest in TERRA.vita soils.

New cooperation treaty – a win-win for the University of Trier and the Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

A renewed cooperation treaty creates the basis and structure for the long existing regional collaboration between the UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel and the University of Trier. With intensive collaboration, for example in student and research projects, internships or thesis projects, regional synergies will be harnessed and a link created between the academic institution and the rural Geopark area. Due to the UNESCO Global Geopark designation and its focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this area, on the University's doorstep, can become a place for research, experiments, training and involvement in related subjects such as climate change, biodiversity, geoheritage protection and geological education. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).



●●●●● New projects & facilities



observe the directions of ancient sea currents and huge migrating sand dunes imprinted in the rock. In November we will go to the Plakánek Valley, a canyon with a prominent ravine and a display of sandstone rocks , also the site of the hidden gothic castle Kost.

Enjoying the sandstone story in the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark (Czech Republic)

For two years we have been organizing a series of excursions to experience the sandstone phenomena in the area of the Český ráj Geopark. The first excursion this year was in the East and North-East part of the Příhrázské skály PLA, the rock formations in the sandstone of the Hrubá skála cuboid with a distinctive penetrating neo-volcanic rock intrusion. The next two excursions are planned for the autumn of this year. In October we will visit the valleys called Podtrosecká údolí with the oldest network of lakes and watermills in the Český ráj area. This is situated on the edge of the Hrubá skála rock formation, the largest rock formation of the Geopark where the sandstone rocks reach heights of up to 120 m. Here you can

Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen (Austria) – GeoRafting: Boosting a GeoProduct.

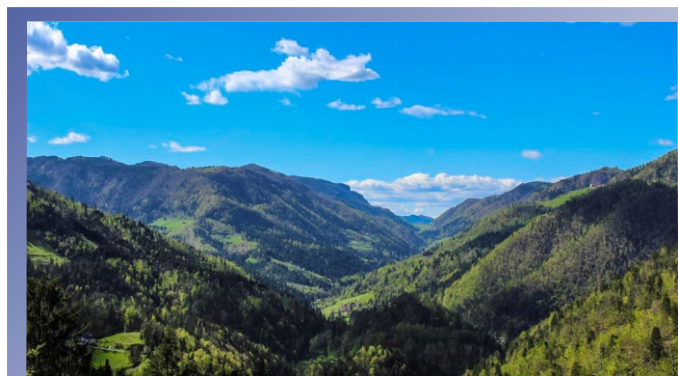
Within the project “Interreg Danube GeoTour” the Geopark now has the possibility to develop GeoRafting. Some years ago, it was already conceived as an innovative way to teach guests about the Geology of the region. This GeoProduct is now getting a boost from new guide books, a marketing strategy with an illustrated flyer and short films as well as a training programme for rafting guides. The first training occurred in April 2018. This was also the start of the close cooperation between the Geopark and the main rafting company in the area: Raftingcamp Palfau (www.raftingcamp.at). The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).



Harz-Braunschweigerland-Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): ECHY 2018: Geopark landmark project supported

Where do we recognize the European heritage in our cities, villages and cultural landscapes? The European Commission has declared 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage (ECHY). With the motto »Sharing Heritage«, events together with the engagement in projects take place throughout Europe. The Lower Saxony State Office for the Preservation of Historic Monuments supports the landmark project of the UNESCO Geopark Harz - Braunschweiger Land - Ostfalen. The landmarks the „Imperial Palace of Werla“ and „Brunswick Lion“ will be newly designed. The Geopark Landmark System is a special area-wide information system designed for visitors and the local inhabitants. A distinctive landmark provides the names for subregions of the Geopark. Various points of interest are clustered within the area of each landmark (monuments, outcrops, mines, museums, nature trails, etc.) that can be explored during one-day or multi-day tours. The basic idea is to develop and present the connections between geology, nature, culture and the history of a region in a easily understandable way. The integration of the Geopark into the European and the UNESCO Global Geopark

Network ensures the transfer of information about regional cultural assets with and between other European countries.



Creation of a Visitor Centre in Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia)

As part of the Danube GeoTour project, the Idrija Geopark is preparing a new visitor centre, where visitors will find a rich exhibition about the geological formation of the Idrija region, which has, indirectly, dictated the way of life in the territory.

The exhibition will also display Idrija Geopark's natural sights as well as promoting Idrija Geopark's partners and also the partners in the Danube GeoTour project. Among others, the dinosaur's footprints at Medvedje Brdo – our "dino story" will be complemented by the fossil remains of dinosaur nests from the Romanian UNESCO Global Geopark Hateg. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF).

Traveling exhibition to the UNESCO Global Geopark Swabian Alb (Germany)

The Swabian Alb has a rich geological heritage. A travelling exhibition of the Geopark, presented to the public for the first time in March 2018 at the Geopark Information Center Schopflocher Alb, serves to convey this unique natural environment and the UNESCO Global Geopark Swabian Alb. The exhibition presents the extraordinary geological heritage of the Swabian Alb through informative panels and touchscreens. The exhibition also provides information on the goals and tasks of Geoparks. It is therefore an important ambassador for the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and enhances the perception of the Geopark by the public and the politicians.

