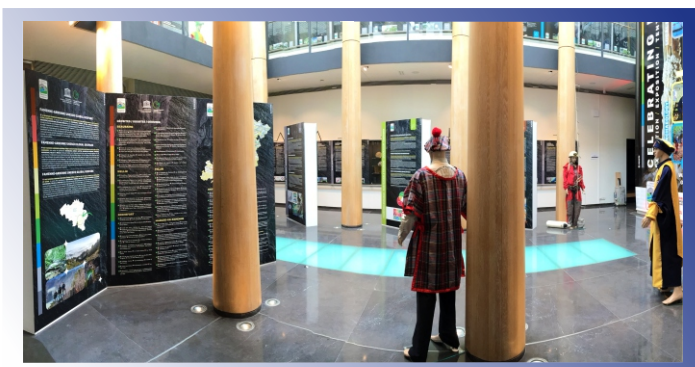


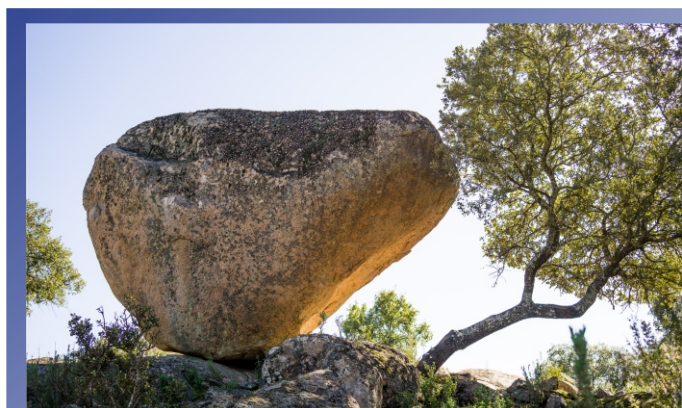
Common activities

Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark (Belgium): Celebrating Earth Exhibition

We chose to create, as a means of communication, a general exhibition in the heart of Brussels to present our Geopark Famenne-Ardenne. The exhibition serves as a scientific, tourist, educational and promotional tool for our entire region, for our partners and for tourist attractions located in the area. It provides a means of soft, responsible and collaborative marketing development to support our Geopark. The concept of UNESCO Global Geoparks, UNESCO values and the promotion of the EGN are also at the heart of this exhibition for the general public. "Celebrating Earth" aims to be a global project, addressing through different themes the main constituent and representative aspects of our Geopark.



Cooperation with UNESCO Global Geoparks and other UNESCO Programmes



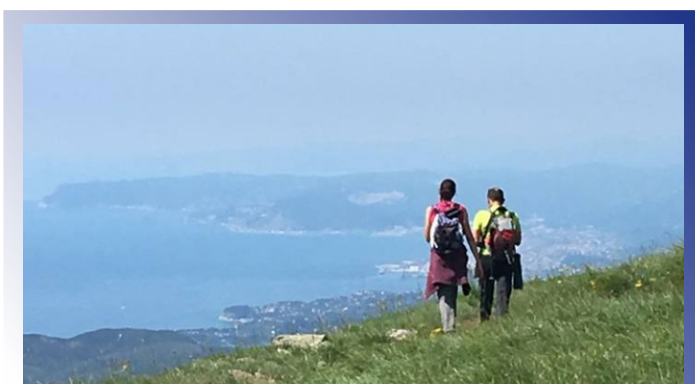
Sierra Norte UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): 15th European Geoparks Conference

"Geoparks: Memory of Earth, future for people". This is the theme that Natural Park Sierra Norte de Sevilla – UNESCO Global Geopark is organizing between September, 25th – 27th 2019 during the 15th European Geoparks Conference. It will present the firm commitment by the EGN to conserve the Geological and Natural Heritage and disseminate information through sustainable management development – involving responsible geotourism and the associated economy. It has a substantial programme full of interesting presentations, activities and fieldtrips within our cultural and geological heritage and we are delighted that you have chosen to join us. See you soon in Seville!

Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy): Sustainable development goals - actions for Agenda 2030

Beigua Geopark's challenge for Agenda 2030 is to contribute to the construction of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development, through a participatory process that will involve the local stakeholders. The Environmental Education Centres belonging to the regional system have a key role in supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the achievement of sustainable development objectives by 2030, as defined in the National Strategy. Beigua Geopark's action plan is divided into two main components: - information and awareness of civil society, through excursions and free initiatives open to citizens, related to various environmental issues (i.e. biodiversity, geodiversity, eco-sustainability, culture and tradition); - participatory tables with stakeholders, helping local administrators, associations and citizens to focus on the goals of the National Strategy. The dissemination phase will be supported by a communication plan involving press and digital media. Beigua Geopark will also manage the communication of the entire project on a regional scale.





Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria): Geopark summer days for kids

Every year the Nature and Geopark offers so called Geopark summer adventure days to explore the geological, cultural and natural heritage of the Styrian Eisenwurzen. Children between 6 and 12 years of age from the local Geopark municipalities explore over a period of four days geology and the memory of the earth together with subjects regarding the future such as climate change. Our biodiversity expert Eva Maria Vorwagner commented on the fact that the adventure days provide a good opportunity to explain more about Geology and biodiversity, as the children are also very interested and open-minded during the summertime.

Figure: Children explore the Geology and biodiversity on one day in the Geopark municipality Wildalpen – Copyright UGGp Styrian Eisenwurzen

Harz-Braunschweigerland-Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Forest Week 2019 for young adventurers

The geopark always endeavours to promote geology, the regional history of the landscape and climate change in sustainable educational activities. These topics were also included in the annual Forest Week 2019 programme. The 25 young adventurers experienced a full programme in the open air garden of erratic blocks at Königslutter. This Geosite presents more than 300 erratic blocks from the region and from Scandinavia. The children learned exciting things about the forest and its inhabitants, sustainable forestry, the return of wolves and photosynthesis. After the self-made lunches there was a lot of action and fun including building huts and carving knives or spears. Everyone agrees: It was a successful Forest Week!



Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): "The Magic World of Caves"

A new educational programme for the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark brings children into contact with the magical and mysterious world of caves, by learning about this unknown and, to many, inaccessible, "closed ecosystem". The aim is to raise childrens' awareness of the issues associated with these particular natural and geological heritage sites, in order to develop responsible attitudes that will contribute to the protection and sustainable management of the caves. Through interactive games, children are informed about how caves are created, their relationship to humans, their rare and unique biodiversity.

Geological, Biological and Intangible Heritage ●●●●●

AZORES UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): "LITOTECA"

The Azores UGGp together with other Portuguese geoparks promoted a networking initiative focused on the production, exchange and use of a "LITOTECA" (meaning deposit/archive of rock samples) from each territory, to support education and science and promote geoscience initiatives. The Azores UGGp "LITOTECA" includes 12 samples that illustrate the lithological geodiversity of the Azores Islands. Easy to use, made portable and adequately prepared and labeled, the geological samples are suitable for use by the geopark staff, but also by their stakeholders in several activities ranging from educational activities to meetings and exhibitions involving the general public.

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Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Geotope protection and public communication – the “Geotope of the year 2019”

Each year, in association with the German-wide “Day of the Geotope”, the Geopark awards a site that provides a special window into Earth history with the title “Geotope of the Year”.

This year, special relics of the Variscan Orogeny - a combination of gabbro, granite and shale - will be selected. The celebration will take place on the 15th of September and will include the presentation of 3 new panoramic geological panels and a brochure for the public. The outcrop has been prepared and conserved in cooperation with the Department for Nature Protection and the Historical Mining Association Odenwald. The cooperation with the respective partners and the local community of Lindenfels creates benefits relating to community participation, protection and communication of our geological heritage and regional networking.

Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark (France): Reach into the past to understand the future

In June 2019, the Luberon Geopark organized a volunteering fieldwork project to excavate one of Luberon's most important palaeontological sites. The slabs of Saignon are covered with hundreds of fossil footprints that document activities of ancient mammals and birds that walked the muddy shores of a lake 33 million years ago. More than 40 local volunteers and 5 primary school classes participated in the fieldwork. The participants discovered basic palaeontological techniques and learnt about the Luberon's past climate and ancient mammal communities. Looking backwards through time at how much the planet has changed in the past is a key to understanding the changes that are happening in today's world.



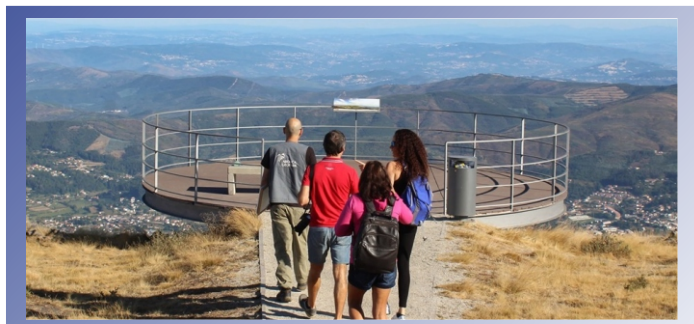
Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria): Hochkönig under climate change

The Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark and KLAR! Pongau led a two-day mountain hike in July 2019, which guided the participants from the Arthurhaus (1,502 m) to the summit of the Hochkönig (2,905 m). They learned interesting facts about changes in the climate and natural landscapes. Where once snow and ice covered the landscape, today there are only remnants - silent witnesses record the landscape-forming forces of the once large plateau glacier. The overnight stay took place in one of the highest alpine club huts in the Eastern Alps and the increasing risk of avalanches in mountain areas.

Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Schönbach takes action and „reactivates“ its volcano

Until the 1960s, materials, mainly used for road construction, were extracted from Kreuzberg Quarry near Schönbach. After the closure of the quarry, vegetation took over and the former distinctive landmark was out of sight and out of mind. In 2016, Schönbach village decided to “reactivate” its cinder cone: the vegetation on the peak of the volcano was cropped and dry grasslands were restored, an important habitat for endangered species such as wild bees and orchids. Grazing goats prevent the area from becoming overgrown with bushes; the meat will be used in the local gastronomy. As a complementary touristic measure, an Eifel viewpoint was installed along the nearby hiking trail. Mayor Martin Knüvener stated proudly that “The Kreuzberg is now a special place, once again a meeting point for the village and a good example of sustainability”.



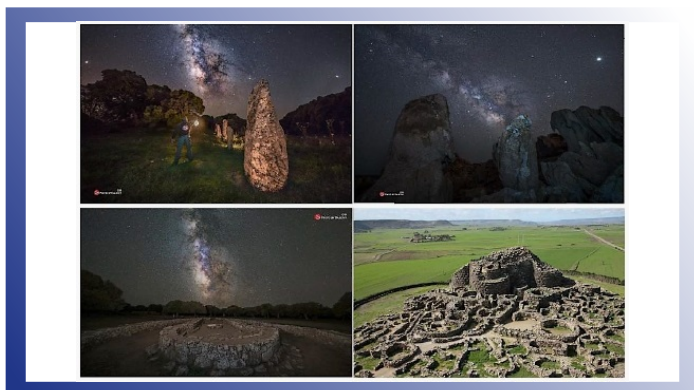


Interpreted visits on Geosite Route at Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

The Memory of the Earth is shared frequently in the Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark through the promotion of several Route of Geosites interpreted visits. Since 2017 an annual programme of interpreted visits are available to the general public allowing to understand the geological histories and cultural stories. Three main areas of the Geopark record and tell important evidences of the past planet earth: Freita Mountain, Paiva Valley and Mining Region. The geosites of these areas are explained in an interconnected way, telling their oldest history. Until now (september 2019) more than 1000 people participated in this activities.

Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland): The Geoparks outdoors project

For the past three years Reykjanes Geopark has offered guided hikes during the summer months. The project The Geoparks Outdoors is a project in cooperation with The Blue Lagoon, HS Orka the local energy utility company and the local SAR squads. This summer was no exception and eight guided hikes were offered with various themes. The aim of the project is to introduce the unique environment and culture of Reykjanes Geopark to the public through outdoor activities, information and entertainment. The attendance was fantastic and the unusually good weather this summer made the project very successful.



Astrotourism: The Sardinia UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy) and the Barumini UNESCO Site expand their sustainable tourism offer

With a two-day workshop entitled "Parks of the Stars, cultural heritage and sustainable tourism in Sardinia", the Geological, Mining, Historical and Environmental Park of Sardinia (Sardinia UNESCO Global Geopark) in partnership with the Barumini Foundation which manages the UNESCO site in Sardinia, initiated the collaboration between more than 25 scholars, archaeologists, astrophysicists, institutions, universities, managing bodies of parks within and outside Sardinia. This development involving astrotourism, is the blueprint for a new project that offers the possibility of enhancing the tourism provision in natural parks and in archaeological areas. An offer that combines tourism, nature trails, discoveries of areas of archaeological interest, and even food and wine.

New projects & facilities ●●●●●●●●

Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): New signage system

Forty geosites are featured inside the territory of Chelmos – Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, including unique rock formations, important fossil sites, caves and other karst features, gorges, lignite deposits, rocks with impressive folds and faults. Water, together with some elements of the human interaction with the landscape are particularly important components of the natural environment, all of which contribute to the history of the Earth and man in the Geopark. Appropriate signage within the Geopark's area has always been a priority for the Management of the Geopark as demonstrated by its inclusion in the Action and Strategy Plan. In response to the revalidation process, Chelmos – Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark has tried to improve its visibility by providing new geosite gateway signage, interpretation-educational signs, and direction signs. The Management Body entrusted the Architect Socratis Tsacos with the design and implementation of the Geopark's new signage system. The objective of the new system is to enhance the Geopark's visibility and promote its provision both for visitors and the local community. The new signage aims to increase the number of visitors and encourage them to explore the Geopark. The signage is innovative, minimal, blends in with the landscape and enhances the Geopark's visibility in variable weather conditions. Stay informed at www.fdchelmos.gr



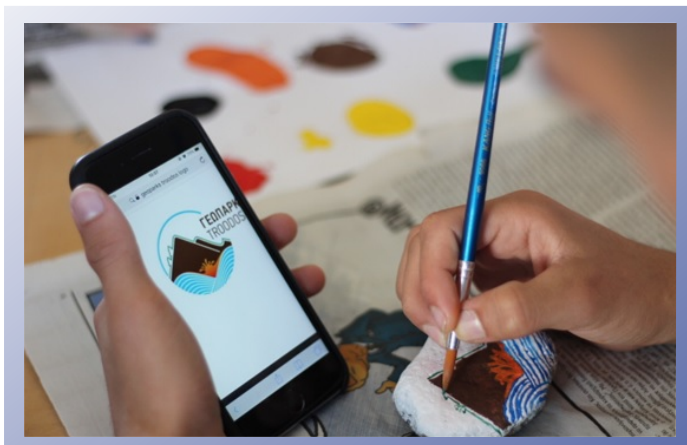


Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland): A new visitor centre in a special place

Katla Geopark recently opened its visitor centre in the vicinity of the infamous volcano Eyjafjallajökull that erupted in 2010. At the centre there is an exhibition covering the eruption as well as the varied geology, geo-history and animal life found within the Geopark. The primary focus of the exhibition are the glaciers and the effects of climate change in Iceland. Currently the glaciers are retreating at an alarming rate and this will affect the region and the people living there in the coming decades. There is always at least one geologist from the Geopark present at the centre to answer any questions people might have, as well as giving lectures about various topics related to the Geopark.

Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Three new geopoints

Geopoints are an integral part of the visitor guidance concept in the Geopark Swabian Alb. Bilingual geopoint panels are placed at sites of interest and explain their geological relevance and importance to visitors. QR-codes link to further information on the geopark's website. The three new geopoints are the "Blautopf" (a karst spring renowned for its turquoise colour), the "Neidlinger Wasserfall" (a famous karst waterfall) and the "Jurafenster Gerhausen": The latter is a bluff of 300 x 70 metres in a limestone quarry. It contains reef structures and beds of limestone within the white Jurassic unit. The geopoints were officially inaugurated involving politicians and the media.



Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Cyprus) - "Memory of the Earth, future for people"

What a great year for Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark and we still have a number of activities and events to accomplish! During the next few months we have many activities planned for the area! During August Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre will be opened and ready to accept any curious visitor who wants to find out a little bit more about this unique place! The Visitor Centre also has a number of educational activities for our youngest friends focusing on geology, fauna, flora and mining history. During September and October, we will finalize four amazing video projects for the Geology & Mining History, the area's 10 UNESCO monuments, its gastronomy and landscape. The project is implemented through an INTERREG GREECE-CYPRUS project called GEO-IN 'Geotourism in Insular Geoparks' and is one of the many other tasks that are in our 'to do list' by the end of this year!

●●●●● **Meet our Geoparks**

Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Forest firefighting service at work

Forest fires are the most important natural hazard in Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UGGp. The General Directorate of the Environment of the Extremadura, Geopark Council is responsible for conservation and forest firefighting. Thanks to their experience and expertise, the fires we experienced this summer have been of minor significance. One of them, in the valley of Viejas, was difficult to access because of the rocky nature of the slope. Fortunately, the forest firefighters arrived in time and with aerial support they were able to contain the fire within a small area. Surveillance and a quick response system are the key for success. The Geopark acknowledges this impressive work.





Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway): The link between culture, geology and art

Magma Geopark, the Regional Ministry of Culture, the Eigersund Business Development and Harbour, the Archaeological Museum in Stavanger and the Ministry of Culture, worked together to provide a new interpretation of the rock carvings depicting ships at Husabø. The carvings, which date back to the Bronze Age (1800 to 500 B.C) depict Viking ships and crew members. Ships are rather common in Scandinavian Bronze Age rock art and may symbolize the sun's journey across the sky. The archaeologist's reconstruction interprets the crew members as raising their hands in order to worship the sun. The team also assumed that the indentation, in front of the second ship, may symbolize the sun. The local cooperation is a very good example of the exchange of interests between different stakeholders, sharing the same vision for the valorization of the "memory of the people" and for developing tourist activities for sustainable development for the next generations.