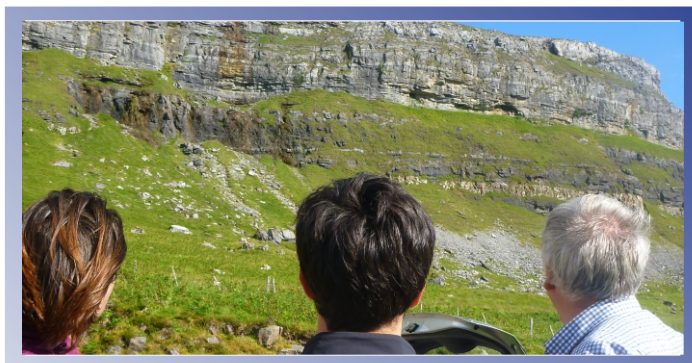


### Common activities ■■■■■

#### North West Highlands Geopark (United Kingdom): Geotours 2016

Following two years of success the North West Highlands Geopark is running a third year of week-long Geotours in the spring (22nd to 28th June –fully booked!) and the autumn (7th-13th September). Expert tuition by Geopark staff is provided to help guests interpret the geology of our wild and remote Highland landscape. We have the lowest population density in Europe and the oldest rocks. Visit the area where the first thrust fault was identified and seek evidence of the earliest life, we truly are the 'Cradle of Geology'. [www.nwhgeopark.com/geotours-2016](http://www.nwhgeopark.com/geotours-2016) for full details.



#### HM The Queen of Denmark to visit UNESCO Global Geopark Odsherred (Denmark)

In the beginning of September, HM The Queen of Denmark will visit Geopark Odsherred as a part of her summer cruise around Denmark. The visit was initiated by the queen's own explicit wish to see Odsherred and the geopark, and will include the disclosure of a model for restoring the finding place of the Sun Chariot and a Geokids opening ceremony. This is a proud moment for Geopark Odsherred, and is a huge recognition of the immense work, carried out by both civil servants and locals, supporting the geopark.

#### CANTATA "QUERALT SOMIATRUITES" in the Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

"Feet on the ground, head in the clouds". This message guiding keynote of the cantata "Queralt Somiatruites", an event organized by the Catalan Association of Music Schools and the Central Catalunya Geopark, which brought nearly 900 children aged 3 to 8 and their families to the Manresa's Kursal Theater and staged a fairytale on a background full of meanings: science was represented by a fossil, a gypsum crystal represented the dreams and imagination, patience and effort were represented by a round stone. The names of the characters, the music, the scenes, dozen songs, the show had a band from the Cardona and Solsona music schools. Flute, piano, clarinet, horn, violin, double bass and percussion accompanied the small singers perfectly. A great experience for the whole audience.



### ■■■■■ Education

#### Involving young generations in the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)

Again during the school year 2015/2016 the Educational Center of the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark carried out a lot of didactic activities dealing with geology and geodiversity, natural disasters, ecological issues and nature conservation, cultural heritage and sustainable development strategies, as well as the knowledge regarding local traditions and the historical values of the territory. In the European Geoparks Week 2016 the Beigua Geopark's Educational Center celebrates the activities and the interesting results the pupils achieved at the end of their works. Additionally new educational camps are proposed for the coming summer to learn more about the geological and the geomorphological features of Beigua Geopark.





### **Begins the fourth edition of the program “EXCAVE with Sobrarbe-Pirineos Geopark” (Spain)**

Next June it is going to start in the Sobrarbe-Pirineos Geopark, the fourth edition of this educational program, aimed to promote awareness of the inhabitants of Sobrarbe about its rich archaeological and paleontological heritage. The participants in this activity will enjoy a unique experience by participating for 6 days in an archaeological excavation in Sobrarbe, working voluntarily in the field work carried out by a team of archaeologists. Up to 6 people (2 people from the 6th to 11th June, 2 people from the 13th to 18th June, and 2 people from the 20th to 25th June 2015), selected by drawing lots among those who applied to participate, may take part in the dig work. The deadline for applications ends on May 20th.



## **Geological/Biological Heritage**



### **Cabo de Gata-Nijar Geopark (Spain) - Geoheritage/Bioheritage**

The commemorations related to the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Rodalquilar gold mine have started at Cabo de Gata- Nijar Geopark. The activities will take place throughout the year at the small town of Rodalquilar, in the heart of the geopark, and are part of an extense programme of cultural activities, workshops, and public events. The discovering of gold at the end of the 19th century helped the economical development of the area at the expenses of the mine for a short period of time. The once mining history left major scars creating a unique geologic landscape and scenery.

### **Geopark Vulkaneifel (Germany): The mysterious 13 – Twelve maars and one crater lake**

The volcanic emergence of the maars has been dramatic, but today the twelve water-filled maar lakes are known as peaceful eyes of the Eifel. Many legends and stories are told about these silent witnesses of the struggle of elements. But what about the mysterious number 13? This and many more stories are told by the guides of the UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel at the special series "The mysterious 13 - Twelve maars and one crater lake". Every Sunday from May to October 2016 our guides will present a different maar during a two hour walk. More information can be found on [www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de).



### **Making fossils visible – the day of the geotop 2016 in the Geopark Swabian Alb (Germany)**

The Swabian Alb is a magic world of fossils. Where ever you put a step you can be sure of a fossil underneath. But visible are the fossils only, when the surface is not used agriculturally and not overbuilt, as it is in the case of river streams or bare rocks. One important example of a unique stony river bed with thousands of embedded ammonite fossils can be found in Ofterdingen, a municipality in the county of Tuebingen. On the river bed of the Steinlach the relicts of the Jurrassic Sea can be walked on and even touched. To raise awareness and to present this “snail” pavement to a broad public, the day of the geotop will be celebrated on 11 September 2016 in form of the “Swabian sweeping week”, together with the community of Ofterdingen and the village museum. Although the ammonites are near the surface, they need to be cleaned regularly, what will be done with brooms offered by the Geopark.



## Tourism

### Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark (Greece): Diakopto-Kalavryta Railway, 120 Years of Beauty and History

The gorge of Vouraikos River is one of the Geosites of the Chelmos - Vouraikos Global Geopark. The trail along the Vouraikos gorge is exceptionally beautiful, which makes this journey unique. The lithological composition of the Vouraikos gorge rocks, along with the continuing action of water, forming waterfalls, caves with stalactites and stalagmites, thus creates a striking landscape for the visitor. The natural beauty of the canyon can even be admired by walking next to the toothed lines, following the international E4path. In a journey where nature and history are intertwined, the rack railway train chugs along a dramatic 0.75-meter narrow ledge that overlooks waterfalls that rush below. The jagged tracks switch to and from beneath canopies of plane trees that gently brush by as the two carriages move through the towering cliffs, on their way towards the narrowest point of the journey as they squeeze through a tunnel known as the "Doors". For the last 120 years, the 22.5km journey has been inextricably linked to the 20km-long Vouraikos River at the Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark. Its anniversary will be celebrated from May 7 through to June 5 within the framework of European Geoparks Week. A lot of events will take place in the territory of the Geopark, in order to celebrate the 120 years of the rack railway train Diakopto-Kalavryta. Stay informed at [www.fchelmos.gr](http://www.fchelmos.gr).



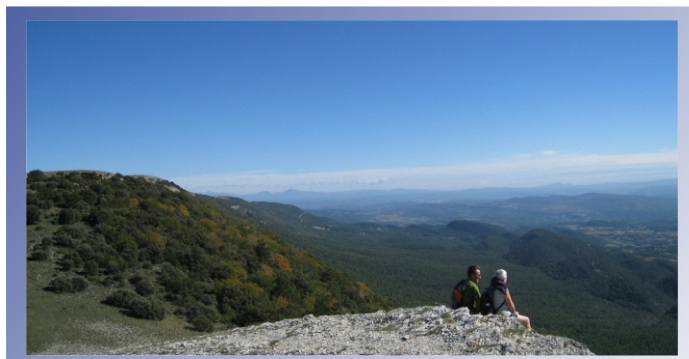
### Passadiços do Paiva Nomination for «tourism Oscars» - Arouca Geopark (Portugal)

Passadiços do Paiva is recognized worldwide as an innovative project. Its nomination for the «World Travel Awards» (considered the «Tourism Oscars»), confirms this recognition. We need your vote in order to increase our chance of winning the globally recognized «Tourism Oscar». Votes for the «leading tourism development project 2016» can be submitted online until 17 July. Please vote for the Arouca UNESCO Geopark Passadiços do Paiva project on <http://www.worldtravelawards.com/vote-for-municipal-de-arouca-europes-leading-tourism-development-project-2016>

## Research

### Planetary relevance of Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) in relation to Mars

Nowhere on Earth is similar to Mars, but there are some areas whose geological and astrobiological singularity and significance make them important to help understand the processes that have taken place in the red planet. In this context, the Geopark and the Geo-science Institute, IGEO (CSIC-UCM combined centre) have signed an Agreement to research specific areas and geological processes in Lanzarote in relation to Mars, which will go hand in hand with the development of educational and cultural initiatives. The results obtained will be integrated in the global context of socio-cultural and tourism-related activities, complementing and strengthening the activities already taking place within the Geopark framework.



## New projects & facilities

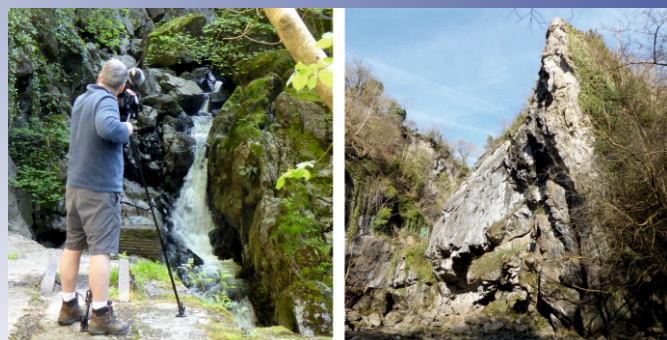
### Luberon Geopark (France): A new website to prepare your walks and hikes

This new tool proposed by the Luberon Regional Nature Park - UNESCO Global Geopark, associated with the regional nature parks of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is called "Chemins des Parcs". Using it, inhabitants and tourists, sportive or not, will be able to prepare their hiking, and to discover, at their own pace, a mosaic of landscapes, rural heritage, geology, wildlife and flora of the territory. In the Luberon, 27 itineraries have been described on some essential such as the Ochre outcrop or the Cedar Forest and offer exclusive combinations that are not found in any guidebook. More than 260 points of interest commented by simple texts and beautiful pictures highlight natural and cultural heritages. This represents more than 350 km of walks in the Geopark territory; the longest path is 63 km long (cycling) and the shortest one, 1.2 km long (inside a village). [www.cheminsdesparcs.fr](http://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr)



## The British Geological Survey films in Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark, UK

During May 2016, the British Geological Survey (BGS) included Fforest Fawr Geopark in its South Wales filming project which concentrates on the diversity of the Survey's activities. The aim of the project is to produce a series of short films (videos) that can be used as promotional tools to raise awareness about the contribution that the BGS makes to understanding the geology of the UK and also to showcase its work with geoparks. BGS is a partner of Fforest Fawr Geopark and a member of the Geopark's Management Group. In addition to filming the landscape, the project focussed on the Bwa Maen (The Stone Arch) geosite. Here eye-catching folded Carboniferous Limestone provides evidence for deformation associated with a major fault system – The Vale of Neath Disturbance – which occurred between 317 – 314 million years ago. In addition to its role as an educational site, Bwa Maen, which occurs at the end of a family walk, is also a fun site. The narrow gorge cut by the River Sychryd along one of the faults lines linked with the fold is popular with gorge-walkers of all ages. Apart from highlighting the work of the British Geological Survey the video will also serve as an important promotional tool for Fforest Fawr Geopark.



## New illustrated hiking map for Reykjanes Geopark (Iceland)

Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark has now published a new illustrated hiking map for the Reykjanes peninsula. The peninsula is located on the south west corner of Iceland, close to Reykjavík the capital of Iceland. The map has several hiking path descriptions, including old national routes and three new educational routes marked by the Geopark. The map also includes information about 55 geosites in the Geopark in Icelandic and English. The map is free of charge and is available at the Reykjanes Geopark visitor centers. In near future an interactive map will be published online.

## GEOvr pilot project – Magma Geopark (Norway)

Magma UNESCO Global Geopark launched the GEOvr (www.geoVR.no) pilot project at the Jæren vitensenter (Science Museum). The project will be displayed at the museum for 6 months to collect feedback and to use the results to improve the technology. GEOvr will allow a virtual exploration of the landscape of any Geopark or World Heritage site, to add 3D visuals, information about significant sites and to include interactive features. The GEOvr programme makes the breathtaking world of Geoparks available to everyone. It will be a unique way to showcase scenery, historical changes and scientific phenomena using cutting-edge learning techniques. To discover how your Geopark can participate in this exciting and state-of-the-art programme, contact [post@geovr.no](mailto:post@geovr.no).



## Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros (Portugal): World Earth and Heritage Day

To celebrate the "World Earth and Geological Heritage Day" the Global Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros presented together with artists of a painting course an exposition of oil paintings covering the geosites of the Geopark. This cooperation aims to promote the geological richness of the Global Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros and the development of its community. The exposition shows eight of the 42 geosites in the territory which are of special scientific, educational and touristic value. The exposition was opened in the information centre of the Geopark and will later on be hosted by the different institutions in Macedo de Cavaleiros, thus bringing the geological history of over 500 million years very close to the people.



## Meet our Geoparks

### Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen (Austria): Partner excursion

Our Geopark is very proud to have 30 partners including culinary delights partner and Geopark restaurants. As they are living our Nature and Geopark philosophy, we see them as connection to local people and communities on the one hand and advertiser for tourists on the other hand. So in April we had our annually partner excursion to the SpringWater Museum in Wildalpen. The partners had the chance to learn more about spring water supply and the karst phenomena within the Eisenwurzen. Furthermore the partners had the possibility to gain more knowledge about native meadow orchards, very typical in the Eisenwurzen.



### Molina Alto Tajo Geopark (Spain) : Dinamizing Agent Employment Workshop

The Molina Alto Tajo Geopark has promoted this employment workshop funded by the European Social Found for the training of professionals who offer support to tourist business following the principles of the European Geoparks Network. Over six months, formation includes geology, history, archaeology, computing or legal aspects of entrepreneurship; with the aim of providing support to Geopark companies. Employment Workshop have a practical dimension in order to community benefit. In this aspect it has done a great labour of promotion through the media and graphic material issue. Among all the initiatives undertaken by the workshop, we highlight two: The opening of the Geopark Visitors Centre in Molina Castle Tower, offering tourist information, including geology and history. And also noteworthy is the work developed to gain advantage from filming the television series Game of Thrones in this Geopark.

### The 1st Conference of the Troodos Geopark (Cyprus)

The Geological Survey Department of the Republic of Cyprus organized a one day conference titled "Troodos Geopark: A Geological, Natural and Cultural Heritage Monument", on Friday 8 April, 2016 at Amiantos village. Amongst the guests of honor was his Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Mr. Nicos Kouyialis and the Chair of the Global Geoparks Network, Prof. Nikos Zouros, as well as colleagues from the Sitia Geopark. The aim of the conference was to inform the local population of the integration of the geopark to the European and UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and of the new dynamic that is now developed due to that. It also provided a unique opportunity for promoting the geological, natural and cultural uniqueness of the region.



### Vikos Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): The North Face Zagori Mountain Running

The mountain races in Zagori, in the heart of Vikos- Aaos Geopark, began in 2011, as incredible as it sounds, due to a bet. The bet was, if within 29 days we could design and implement a race with at least 150 innings. The bet was won and more than 300 people crossed the finish line. In 2015, over 2000 people took part in the race weekend, making The North Face Zagori Mountain Running, the most populous mountain race in Greece. The reasons that made and make this race unique and so popular are many. In terms of pure racing, athletes of all levels can find a match for their abilities. With distances of 10 to 80 km and with an increasing level of difficulty, no one will be disappointed. By adding, a children's race, it is possible for entire families to take part in this celebration occurring every year in July (22-24/ 7/2016).



## Cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks

### A local view of a great meeting: EGN 37th Coordination Committee meeting at Basque Coast Geopark (Spain)

Organizing this event was an inflection point for the Basque Coast Global Geopark. It brought us a wide range of benefits of uncalculated value. We expanded notoriously our visibility within the EGN, but also we had the chance to boost our young working group feeding it with confidence for future challenges. Our geopark is now much more respected among local authorities, and finally; we felt part of a great European family that made us feel proud of our territory and work. Without any doubt, organising a big event like this is a great investment for any geopark.



### International cooperation and exchange - UNESCO Global Geoparks Odsherred (Denmark) and Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany)

During an exchange visit, a delegation of 18 experts from Geopark Odsherred (Denmark) got an insight into the structure, the information facilities, educational activities and cooperation projects of Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany). Besides the Nature Conservation Centre Bergstrasse, the visit also included the „Felsenmeer“ Information Centre, the world Heritage Site Messel Pit and the Environmental Education Centre Kùhkopf. After intense and fruitful discussions with colleagues and cooperation partners, both Geoparks are convinced of the high potential for further collaboration, especially with regard to environmental education and the implementation of information facilities.

### Idrija Geopark and partners visit Hungarian Bakony-Balaton Geopark

On April 18-19 Geoparks' Idrija and Karavanke/Karawanken representatives and partners visited Bakony-Balaton Geopark Hungary. It was co-financed by the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO – IGGP programme. We aimed at getting to know the operating of other geoparks, to see best practices examples and to strengthen cooperation bonds. A two-day tour showed us many geological and other features and we met the geopark partners. Participants were thrilled by the orderliness and hospitality, and returned home with many new ideas. We hope to continue our cooperation and upgrade it within common project cworking.



## Agenda/Calendar

**7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks: September 27th - 30th 2016, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. Information: [www.geoparks2016.com](http://www.geoparks2016.com), [www.ggn2016.com](http://www.ggn2016.com)**