

Common activities

Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen (Austria) – International excursions in the Geopark

This autumn various field trips with international participants took place in the Eisenwurzen. Our Geologist Heinz Kollmann had the opportunity to welcome the delegates from Europe and Asia who attended the International K/T Boundary Symposium. They visited the GeoVillage Gams, an excavation site for the K/T boundary. In September the second project meeting of the Interreg Danube GeoTour with eight participating Geoparks was held successfully in Wildalpen. The Danube GeoTour meeting also included a field trip with visits to the GeoVillage Gams, the Noth Gorge and the famous Kraus Cave. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).



Geo-volunteering, a tool for empowering the local population – Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

The geo-volunteering programmes of Las Loras Geopark are a powerful tool not only for the management and conservation of heritage, but also for motivating and empowering the local population. The local people are involved in planning, designing and developing activities. This means that, on the one hand, the processes of citizen participation are inclusive and can result in visible outcomes, and on the other hand, it generates a good feeling among the local population to maintain and care for their patrimonial resources and generate new projects and initiatives. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJG2BpdLU_I&t=47s

UNESCO Global Geopark North Pennines (United Kingdom) - OREsome North Pennines

Led by the team at the North Pennines AONB & UNESCO Global Geopark, OREsome North Pennines involves volunteers to discover and record a historic mine site. Supported by professionals, volunteers are completing geological, archaeological and ecological surveys of eight Scheduled Monuments, mostly designated as being 'at risk'. Crucially, this project encourages an integrated approach to the understanding and management of the sites, combining work that is traditionally divided between 'historic' and 'natural' disciplines; there are many opportunities for transferring knowledge and skills. The project is also developing a series of trails to help people discover more about their mining heritage.





Successful events in Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Cyprus) 2017

What an incredible year for Troodos Geopark! In 2017 many innovative activities occurred in the Geopark area as the local people got to know a little bit more about this amazing place. During October 2017, the International Mountain Running Race BUFF® Troodos Mountain Ultra, with the motto "Run to the centre of earth" finished in the Troodos Geopark. The territory hosted 230 international athletes from more than 25 countries. The Geopark also held several local festivals and other sporting activities such as the 1st Honey Festival, several hiking events, two cycling races using the motto "Cycling towards the centre of the Earth", several workshops, presentations on various subjects relating to Troodos Geopark and a photo contest.

Education

New learning and educational activities in the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)

In conjunction with the Geopark's Action Plan and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark launched its comprehensive educational activities programme for 2017/2018. The new programme containing proposals dealing with geology and geodiversity, biodiversity conservation, cultural and historical heritage and local traditions was presented in September. All of the school districts in the Geopark's territory will be involved and more than 2500 pupils will be part of the programme extending from September 2017 to June 2018. In addition, the Geopark's Educational Centre joined the Science Festival in Genoa (October 26th – November 5th) to present a very interesting workshop on environmental issues. More than 1200 visitors (with 576 children from 28 classes) attended the workshop developed in collaboration with the Civic Natural History Museum of Genoa.



Molina Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) - Educational Programme

The Molina Alto Tajo Geopark Educational Programme is a series of activities designed in order to provide support for all teachers working in the several Geopark schools, especially for those who usually do not spend time visiting sites in the territory.

The Geopark is included in the Education Project of Molina's Secondary School Institute and an understanding of the main components of the Geopark's heritage is included in the school curriculum. Consequently the Geopark's staff is at the Schools' disposal to provide assistance in delivering the Geopark component of the curriculum. In addition, we can also highlight activities such as visits to geological and archaeological sites for teachers and children, initiate workshops and exhibitions and visits to the Museum of Molina.

Geopark themes were integrated for the first time in curricula of local schools in Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark (Finland)

Rokua Geopark has a long history of cooperation with local schools. In 2015 the first Geopark schools were recognized. The schools have actively pursued Geopark themes in their education programmes and recently integrated the themes in their curricula in two ways: The practical contents include for example field trips to geosites, international cooperation and lessons delivered by professionals. The theoretical framework conveys the values of issues such as the natural and cultural heritage, ecology and the environment. So far the experiences have been encouraging. The Geopark themes seem to offer valuable tools for engaging with social and environmental challenges in school education.





Protection of Biodiversity by the award “The Fruit Variety of the Year” – Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

The support of regional and ancient fruit varieties contributes significantly to the protection of biodiversity. In this context, the Geopark awards each year the “Fruit Variety of the Year” in cooperation with local nature conservation associations such as the “Streuobstwiesenretter” and other local partners. This year, the variety “Schweizer Wasserbirne” (Swiss Water Pear) was awarded with the title Fruit Variety of the Year. The celebratory tree planting took place together with the so-called “Kühkopf-Kids”, Hessen Forestry and the Environmental Education Centre Kühkopf (Geopark Entrance Gate). In addition, a liqueur has been produced from the pear, in cooperation with a local distillery. The outcome of the award is shared across the region by donating all member communities with a Swiss Water Pear tree for planting in their home territories.

Successful Mystery of the Sleenerzand - UNESCO Global Geopark De Hondsrug (Netherlands)

Nearly 700 adults and children participated in The Mystery of the Sleenerzand on Wednesday, 18th and 25th of October. This beautiful evening walk from the Recreation Center Rijmaaran led through the forests and fields of Schoonoord to the Hunebed De Papeloze Kerk. Along the way there were surprising and exciting encounters with: a storyteller, hunebuilders, poetry about the Hunebed D49, the Papeloze Church and music. The sudden appearance of the White Wief'n around the Galgenberg on the Sleenerzand enchanted the hikers, mysterious blue lights attempting to lure them away from the trail. The many participants and many families from across the country were acquainted with this archeological hotspot in The Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark. The Mystery of the Sleenerzand is organized by the Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark in the context of the Hunebed Campaign, during the two weeks autumn holiday. Given the success of the two evenings, the Geopark will organize the Mystery of the Sleenerzand in 2018.



2nd Environmental and Sports Meeting of Lake Tsivlou – UNESCO Global Geopark Chelmos Vouraikos (Greece)

Aigialeia Municipality with the collaboration of the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark, in October 2017, organized the Environmental and Athletic Meeting at Tsivlos Lake (38° 46'01"N - 22° 13.953'E) in Greece. The Geopark of Chelmos-Vouraikos and the Environmental Education Centre of Kleitoria-Akrata guided the participants and informed them about the ecological interest of the area. The members of the Pedagogy Team of the Environmental Education Centre of Kleitoria - Akrata initiated activities involving environmental laboratories and games for children. The Road Race - Round Tsivlou Lake (10 km for adults and two road races 5.5 km and 2 km for children) included large numbers of contestants. Spectators participated in archery lessons, kayaking, rafting and two-person inflatable kayaks, flying fox, and exhibitions with local products, traditional recipes and products of local gastronomy. Stay informed at www.fdchelmos.gr and the economy, quality provision and cultural change.

“Visit Lesvos Island 2017”: european geoparks promote Unesco Global Geopark Lesvos Island (Greece) as a sustainable tourist destination

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark would like to emphasize the solidarity between all the European Geoparks in launching the campaign "VISIT LESVOS ISLAND 2017".

The campaign was proposed during the 39th European Geoparks Meeting held in Ireland in order to promote the image of Lesvos Island, which has been strongly affected by the refugee crisis, in the tourism market. The campaign is based on messages conveyed through the social networks linked to Geoparks across Europe. Thus, "VISIT LESVOS ISLAND 2017", travelled through the internet to every corner of our planet, proposing that friends of the Global Geopark's should visit Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark and experience its natural beauty, geological heritage, biodiversity, culture, gastronomy and nature tourism activities.



Science/Research



Annual seminar of the Sobrarbe-Pirineos Unesco Global Geopark (Spain)

The World Heritage Site (WHS) "Pirineos-Monte Perdido" starred in 2017 in the most important scientific dissemination event, organized annually by the Sobrarbe-Pirineos UGGp. This coincided with celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Sobrarbe-Pirineos Geopark. Between the 20th and the 22nd October, some of the most prestigious experts involved in the Geopark met during this seminar organized for the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Pirineos-Monte Perdido". This WHS is a cross-border site between Spain and France. The inhabitants on both sides of this WHS have never understood borders. Cross-border trails were always travelled by shepherds, smugglers, scientists and travellers.

In geological terms, the Pirineos-Monte Perdido is a key area for understanding the origin of the Pyrenees mountain range. The seminar, as on previous occasions, was a success, with 134 participants from various regions of Spain and France.

New projects & facilities

Gea Norvegica Geopark (Norway) – content partnership with a mobile app success

Mobile applications have evolved from being simple programmes providing you with tools you didn't know you needed, into becoming a widely used platform for communication. Companies and organizations, including our Geopark, strive to develop their own apps. Creating the app is the easy part, but to maintain it and get people to use it is trickier. Therefore, we have become a partner in an already well established app developed and maintained by The Norwegian Trekking Association. The app 'UT' (www.ut.no) consists of a map of Norway, with more than 22, 000 km of hiking paths, 7000 ideas for tours and more than 1100 cabins for public use, and most importantly, it is frequently used. During this winter, Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark will publish hiking trails for geological exploration. This will provide a new dimension for the app, as well as increasing the visibility of the Geopark.

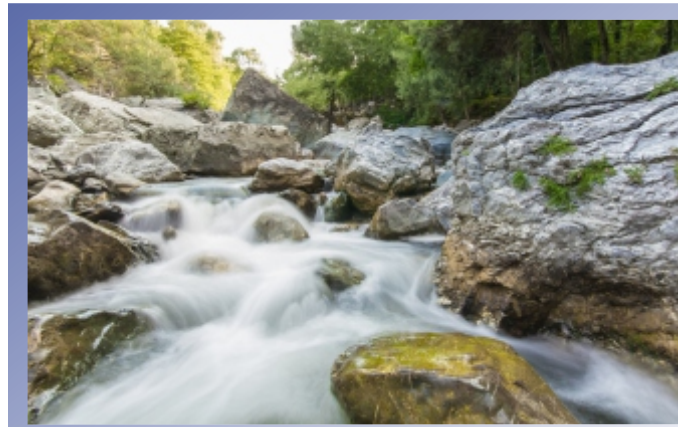


Development of Innovative Geo-Products in Idrja's UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia)

The Idrja Geopark aims to lay the foundations for the development of a collective trademark as part of the Danube GeoTour project, co-financed by European EU funds (ERDF, IPA), namely, designing and developing geo-products with our suppliers. In October and November, 2017 we looked at the Slovenian trademark "Dobrote Dolenjske" and organized an introductory workshop for our local tourism providers. In this way we started to include them in project activities. A discussion about ideas, problems and challenges developed, showing that cuisine and handicrafts were the best starting points for the development of geo-products. We will organize more meetings based on feedback information, also involving external experts, who will provide professional assistance.

Geosaga: Two visitor exhibitions in Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland)

Katla UNESCO Global Geopark together with its partner Kötlusetur (Katla Centre) in Vík have made the understanding of the area's outstanding heritage more accessible to the public by opening two visitor exhibitions. The Geosaga exhibition presents the internationally important geology of Katla Geopark, together with the forces and geohazards that shape the local life through eruptions from the active glacier-covered volcanoes. The exhibition displays samples of ash and lava from recent eruptions. Across the road the Skaftfellingur Museum exhibits a century old ship along with connected historical artefacts, old films and smells. The exhibit tells the story of the transportation of goods between communities located in this territory without harbours and England.



The route of the waters: a new research project involving Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy) and the University of Calabria.

The project involves monitoring of some of the springs in Pollino Geopark in order to achieve a geo-touristic route named "The route of waters". All the most important sources of the carbonate-rock aquifer of Pollino Mount, which supplies water to many counties in the two regions of the geopark (Basilicata and Calabria) and the neighboring Apulia region, will be analyzed, classified (geological and geochemical qualitative data) and then collected in an itinerary accessible to visitors.

Building Geosites with care in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland)

Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark formally opened a new geosite in June 2017 - Brimketill - situated on the lava shore edge west of the town of Grindavík. By adding new sites and offering better access to the geosites the Geopark works towards building a more sustainable future for the Reykjanes Peninsula as a popular destination site in Iceland. The natural and geological sites in the peninsula are vulnerable and numerous volcanic fissures and lava fields need to be protected. Brimketill is a small pool carved naturally by marine erosion and is one of the most popular natural attractions of Reykjanes. According to folklore it was regularly occupied by a giantess named Oddný.



Climate change and biodiversity in focus – Climate change manager joins the team of UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel (Germany)

Funding from the European LIFE-IP Programme enabled the Nature Park and UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel to engage more with the topics of climate change and biodiversity and to recruit a climate change manager to assist with this extensive project. The project ZENAPA (Zero Emission Nature Protection Areas) aims to achieve CO₂ neutrality in large-scale conservation areas such as national parks, geoparks, biosphere reserves and their surrounding areas. The implementation of national and European climate targets is an integral requirement of the project. For the next eight years this project provides the Vulkaneifel with the unique possibility to work with an international consortium to develop and implement exemplary climate change mitigation strategies.



“Geo”music at the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

The opening ceremony of the 14th European Geoparks Conference, that took place in the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark from 7th to 9th of September, 2017, included a musical celebration by the “Conservatório Regional de Ponta Delgada”, the regional musical school in Ponta Delgada. Under the coordination of Ana Paula Andrade (piano), the students and invited artists Carina Andrade (voice), Francisco Cabral (violin), Isabel Vieira (cello) and Rafael Carvalho (local guitar) presented the Azorean traditional and popular songs “Olhos Negros”, “A Saudade”, “Meu Bem”, “Chamarrita”, “Rema” and, at the end, the music “ILHAS DE BRUMA”, the hymn of the Azores Geopark. The lyrics of this hymn are truly a “geo-poem” about the Azorean Man, as it includes the words: Because black basalt flows into my veins / And in my memory volcanoes and earthquakes.

Discover the soul of the Jameos del Agua and its surroundings - Lanzarote UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark organizes family visits to a cave, located at the Jameos del Agua Tourist Centre, during Saturdays in November. The event aims to disseminate and highlight information concerning the geodiversity and natural wealth of the area. During the tour participants find answers to questions such as: What is a jameo and how is it formed? What are the distinctive features of the blind crabs that make them unique in the world? What is the tunnel of Atlantida?, Where does it come from and what is its origin?



Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece) - The 1st Sitia Geopark Trail

The 1st Sitia Geopark Trail was held on Sunday, October 15, 2017, in Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark. An action that we planned and organized with the region's local community. Hundreds of athletes and nature lovers participated in the 24 kilometres mountain road race, the 6 km road race, and in hiking, climbing, and nature games organized for children. Our target:

1. The promotion of alternative, experiential and sustainable tourism.
2. The promotion of the rich geology, the unique biodiversity and culture of the Sitia Geopark.
3. The establishment of the 1st Sitia Geopark Trail as a mountain road race with national and international participants.

Agenda/Calendar

41st EGN Coordination Committee Meeting - Karavanke/Karawanken (March)