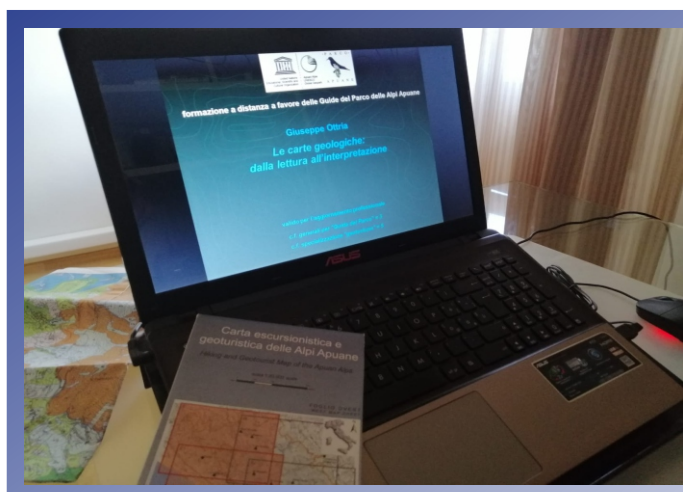


### Situation-related activities and creative ideas to support resilience in our European Geoparks

Given the continuing and challenging consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial to strengthen and support resilience: individual, institutional and in a wider perspective. UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to the resilience of their territories by supporting regional organizations and local potentials through their solution-oriented holistic approach, and their various activities related to education, wellbeing and sustainability. During the COVID-19 crisis, Geoparks have developed a wide range of interactive and site-specific approaches to experiencing the landscape in different ways and by creating a sense of awareness and appreciation for our Earth, nature and culture, which are extraordinary potentials for inspiring resilience in the face of adversity.

#### ●●●●● Provision of interactive and online activities



#### Online training for guides of the Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Apuan Alps UGGp has developed several activities to support resilience, promoting its territories through web pages and social media or supporting tourism partners by encouraging shorter, safer and more sustainable journeys. The Geopark has, with the involvement of its Scientific Committee, actively promoted the sharing of knowledge, information and expertise, aiming to provide the Geopark Guides with effective tools to improve the provision of information to tourists and students. The result is a series of online lectures dealing with the geological and environmental heritage of the Geopark. In May, the webinars which focused on monitoring the fauna, geological mapping and the endemic flora, reached a very passionate audience. In the near future, these new broadcasting tools will focus on agriculture and zootechnics in the Geopark area. A field trip will be held along a geological trail as soon as the Covid-19 guidelines allow this kind of group activity.

#### Interactive games as touristic attractions in Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark (Belgium)

The Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geoparks is a territory of resilience in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, we had to react and carried out various actions for our local producer partners and the first victims of the COVID-19 restrictions, the children. Access to education for all under any circumstances, is a primary mission for UNESCO Global Geoparks. We created 8 interactive games concerning the different tourist attractions in our territory. These games can be downloaded for free on our website and on our Facebook page. We also promoted our producer partners (those who remained open), on our social networks through short video presentations.





### Interactive platform to experience, discover and have fun for families and a “slightly different EGN Week” in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

Immediately after the lockdown, the Geopark created a social platform with the aim to support families who had to stay at home and to attract children, who were not allowed to go to school. Besides drawing schemes with nature motives and Geopark views, they provided a website with a nature artworks game and gifts for the young participants. The „one who understands what the rocks tell“, answered questions about geology and through videos explained our Earth from a local perspective. Hiking tips and a photo competition of the „favourite individual insight into the Geopark“ attracted the parents. The successful and highly appreciated platform has become a fixed component of the website and will be

developed further: <http://www.geo-naturpark.net/deutsch/infothek/Steineverstehen-und-Kreatives/kreativ-informativ.php>. Based on the success of this project, the Geopark has developed a “slightly different” EGN Week via Facebook with a daily view into the region and into European Geoparks. The resulting album, which is dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EGN will provide an extraordinary archive of this regionally and internationally highly appreciated activity (<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.3239735592718035&type=3>.)

### Geoparks Week: adaptation and reactivity of the Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark (France)

For health and safety reasons, the Causses du Quercy Geopark decided to organize a Geoparks Week in digital mode. To replace the planned events, the Geopark has developed a rich programme via Facebook and Instagram involving: - Sharing of photos of the Geopark "seen from home" by the inhabitants of the Geopark. - Creating and sharing of culinary recipes inspired by geology. - Programming 10 mini-conferences (megaliths, palaeontology, geology, biodiversity...) - Organizing 6 geo-quizzes on different themes: fossils, rocks, place names and caves. More than 350 people watched the mini-conferences and 250 people participated in the geo-quizzes: a success for the Geoparks Week in digital mode!



### E-library of Geotrails in Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark (United Kingdom)

In response to Covid-19, Fforest Fawr UGGp is creating a library of e-presentations based on existing Geotrails and will expand the information about the Geopark's geology, natural, cultural and industrial history. Already being delivered through Zoom and Lifesize, we expect that this project will continue to provide a valuable Geopark resource beyond the immediate crisis, for tourism businesses, educators and local communities. It will also assist those with mobility impairments to 'visit' sites that might otherwise be inaccessible to them. By accessing the e-library, residents and visitors will gain a better understanding of the Geopark's geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural diversity and appreciate the need to value, care for and preserve this exceptional heritage.

### Online guided tours in Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)

Spring and early summer marks the beginning of the guiding season in Gea Norvegica UGGp. We always look forward to the time of year when we can welcome our visitors back, but due to the current global situation and the heavy restrictions we are all living under, we had to do things differently this year. The guided tours could unfortunately not be conducted as planned, but leaving our visitors empty handed was never an alternative. Therefore, we decided to make short educational films addressing the geology, culture, fauna and flora, of our different localities and upload them for our followers on different social platforms to enjoy. The response has been great, and we look forward to continuing this work.





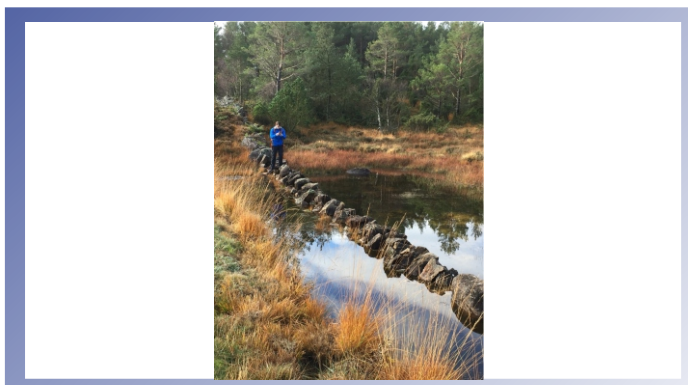
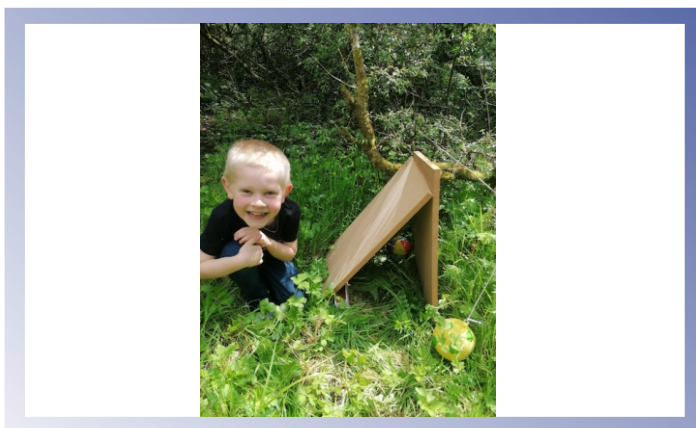


### **Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia): a virtual tour through the “Written in Rocks” exhibition**

In 2019, the Idrija UGGp inaugurated its Visitor Centre with the exhibition “Written in Rocks” showing processes in and on Earth that define the environment, the diversity of rock types and the ecological diversity that causes plants, animals, and people to adapt their ways of life. Facing a fall in the number of visitors due to the COVID -19 pandemic, we created a virtual tour through the exhibition with photos you can browse through 360°, turning around to look at the exhibition. However, this cannot replace the experience of learning by doing (touching the exhibits and models, researching with digital technologies, listening to a story, playing). Hopefully, the virtual tour will encourage more people to visit the centre and see the exhibition live, then continue the visit in the Idrija area when the pandemic is over. Welcome to the virtual tour: <https://app.cloudpano.com/tours/fU3863cfdg>.

### **Social media, videos and up-to-date information about geosites in Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland/Northern Ireland)**

The COVID-19 global pandemic has provided an impetus to encourage UGGp's to innovate, create and develop solutions to a range of specific local issues. Within Marble Arch Caves UGGp, our transnational status and cross-jurisdictional differences in approaches have added a further layer of complexity which we have worked methodically and creatively to overcome. Social media have provided an extremely powerful tool in this regard. We refocused our social media plan to address the implications of COVID-19 by providing up-to-date information concerning physical access to our unique geosites but, also by using video and image led content to bring these sites into the homes of our users. We also quickly developed a series of interactive educational geologically and ecologically themed activities for children and young people.



### **The TeachOut App in Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)**

The TeachOut App, developed within the ESTEAM-Erasmus+ Programme has become a very powerful tool against COVID-19. In fact, the App has allowed local children in Magma Geopark to learn about the Geopark's amazing geodiversity and culture without incurring any risks. TeachOut is an outdoor science game that gets young inhabitants outside in nature to enjoy and learn about their surroundings. TeachOut is a mobile app based on an analysis of national school curricula and then adapted by teachers to be used by their students. TeachOut allows nature to be the classroom where students are given questionnaires, treasure hunts, experiments, drawing tasks and competitions. Nature becomes the classroom. Even though the schools were closed Magma Geopark

succeeded in increasing awareness about the Geopark within the younger and older generations. TeachOUT became one of the best practices selected within the RURITAGE project, more info here: <https://www.ruritage.eu/resilience-actions/teachout/>

### **Susi makes a journey: Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark (Poland/Germany)**

In the middle of March, the border between Germany and Poland was closed due to the Corona virus pandemic. Long-lasting connections between actors and network partners, schools and tourists were interrupted. Time for Susi to see if everything is alright! The well-preserved skeleton of the Lusatian female mammoth, Susi, was discovered and prepared in 1902. For 20 years, the mammoth has been the Muskau Arch UGGp's mascot. In March she started to look for Flint, her stone friend, who decided to visit the German and Polish UNESCO sites. And so, Susi travels through Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites. The journeys are suitable for children and impart geological knowledge.

Since the start of the journey, around 30 German and Polish children have solved geological questions and won a cuddly Mammoth. Furthermore, the stories can be used for future holiday plans. They help to increase the attractiveness of their own countries and make the children curious to discover more.







### Virtual gymkhana: A geoeducational activity in Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

During the confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and coinciding with the 14<sup>th</sup> EGN Week, Sierras Subbéticas Geopark in conjunction with two primary schools involved in the project "I'm a Geoparker" have developed a virtual gymkhana for their students. The activity, (<https://view.genial.ly/5ebc0129e87b0e0d25608fcb/game-breakout-una-aventura-en-el-geoparque-sierras-subbeticas>) involves a virtual trip through the Geopark with different challenges

addressed to pupils up to four educational levels. The challenges integrate information about geosites, rocks and key elements in the Geopark with healthy and environmental educational activities, including the creation of games with recycled materials. The level of acceptance among students and even teachers from other schools was fantastic.

### Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Instagram-Campaign with "knowledge-to-go"

The Geopark Swabian Alb launched in May an Instagram campaign with the motto "Have a close look – the spectacular lies in the details" resulted in a fantastic response. The campaign showed stunningly detailed images of plants and fossils or photos taken by the wayside. They were accompanied by "knowledge- appetizers" to arouse curiosity, encourage readers to take a closer look and to ask questions. During the corona virus lockdown, the campaign message hit the mark: Nature is always open on your doorstep and there is a lot to discover – even if geological highlights like show caves are closed. Just go for a walk through our precious nature with your eyes open!



### Virtual classes in Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

Given the public health emergency created by the COVID-19, geoparks should take the opportunity to review their resilience strategies. In response to this situation they developed several initiatives, in order to minimize the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in their territories. In this way, we tried to reconcile new technologies with the learning process and tourism promotion. One solution was to create virtual classes where themes related to the territory were considered. These classes were aided by a clarifying guide that was given to the students. In addition, videos were created for tourism and educational purpose in order to promote the territory remotely. Thus, the Terras de Cavaleiros UGGp contributes continuity to the learning process, reinforcing the pillars of UNESCO, Geoeducation, Geotourism and Geoconservation. Even so, we hope you'll visit us soon.

### TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Tree faces, geopoetry and the hiking fun pass – creative ideas for boring corona virus times

Overcrowded hiking trails – but no guided tours. Our guides found a solution by providing educational information about their tours in web videos. The hiking fun pass ("Wanderpass-Wanderspaß") motivates families to hike through the Geopark. Correctly fulfilled tasks are rewarded with special gifts. Instructions for crafting with natural materials are provided on Facebook, e. g. making tree faces by using homemade bio-degradable glue made from flour and water. The campaign "penning – no visits" motivates participants to stay at home and to write postcards. Puzzle fans can be awarded in the "geopoetry challenge", if they visit the hidden geosite in a geological poem.





## Experiencing nature



### #BiodiversidadeEmCasa (Biodiversity at home) Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

To mark the World Biodiversity Day (May 22), the Arouca Geopark became an ambassador for the stag beetle and launched the challenge #BiodiversidadeEmCasa, in which the public observed and shared living species. Additionally, we joined the challenge 'Biodiversity Day 2020', launched by the Biodiversity for All Association, that encouraged the territories to register as many species as possible on its website. We saw that about 30 naturalists registered, who surprised us with 1008 observations, and gave us the 1st prize. Also, we created the project 'Biodiversity in Arouca Geopark', which encourages the public to share observations and contribute to the knowledge about living species, and to work together for the environmental sustainability of Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark.

### Urban tours to discover unique trees in the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

This initiative was taken to address lockdown and the strict measures limiting the local people's mobility, in terms of time and distance during the COVID-19 crisis. Three tours were designed, one in each town. The approximately 3 km long walking tours were designed for families, small groups or individuals. The location of the trees was recorded on a map, each tree was explained by text, images and audio. [https://geoparkea.eus/eu/albisteak/hirigune-barruko-zuhaitzak-ezagutzeko-ibilbideak?lang\\_code=eu](https://geoparkea.eus/eu/albisteak/hirigune-barruko-zuhaitzak-ezagutzeko-ibilbideak?lang_code=eu)

The route maps can be downloaded on a mobile phone or can be opened with the Google Maps application. Each tour has about 10 trees, and participants will be able to identify 28 trees of 23 species including ash, magnolia, cork oak, yew, poplar or sequoia. The aim was to learn about urban biodiversity, as trees create breathing spaces between streets and provide a refuge for other living species. Inside the town, both in public and private gardens, there are many trees that we see daily. Some are trees from the other side of the world, others have a spectacular size or shape and there are also others involved in stories and legends.



### "Little breakaway in the Bauges" in Massif des Bauges (France)

In response to sanitary restrictions due to the coronavirus crisis, the 2020 event "little breakaway in the Bauges", a one-day bike tour, was transformed into a cycling treasure hunt respecting and involving social distancing. This low-carbon activity met with great success with a family audience, and the 70 participants exceeded the numbers planned for the event. The quest ended with a pancake tasting topped with the products of producers encountered along the way. A formula that delighted participants of all ages (from 1 to 76 years old), despite the threatening weather. A great idea to repeat!

### Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): Enjoy Geosite Doxa Lake

Doxa Lake, a small mountainous, 20 years old, artificial lake, at an altitude of 900 m., is surrounded by the oldest volcanic and metamorphic rocks in the Geopark. Its clear water, fed by the springs of Mount Chelmos, has given life and added to the beauty of the area. The natural environment which consists of tall black pine trees and Cefalonian firs hosts a rich birdlife. Opposite the lake on the north-south axis there is the old monastery of St. George and the Ancient Feneos City-State of Ancient Arcadia, mentioned by Pausanias, a writer who described Greece in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD. Lake - Geology - Natural Environment - Culture - History - Antiquity, all are pieces of a puzzle that comprise the Geotope of Doxa Lake, a tool with prospects for sustainable development of the area. Stay informed at [www.fdochelmos.gr](http://www.fdochelmos.gr)







## De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark (Netherlands) is proud to present two exciting trails

### 1. Sabre-toothed tiger trail

Are you smarter, stronger or quicker than the sabre-toothed tiger? Then take an adventurous hike through the forest trail. Follow the winding trail over the ice-age hills. Swish downhill on the cable runway, jump and scramble! And engage in exciting games using the app. Stay on the path and follow the sabre-toothed tiger. <https://www.dehondsrug.nl/routes/sabre-toothed-tiger-trail/?lang=en>

### 2. The Leewal Walk through time

This hike of 7.5 kilometres through the forests and over heaths and sand dunes, along hunebeds and fields between the old towns of

Exloo and Odoorn. You will see impressive remains from the ice ages, such as large erratic boulders and the enigmatic Leewal that curves through the landscape. Will you walk using the app? That way you will learn even more! Stay on the path and follow the mammoth. <https://www.dehondsrug.nl/routes/leewal-walk-through-time/?lang=en>

## "LUBERON LABO VÉLO" BICYCLE PROGRAM: promotes the bicycle as a means of transport in everyday life in the Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark (France)

Selected in 2019 as part of a call for proposals "Bicycle and Territories", the Luberon Regional Nature Park, and UNESCO Global Geopark, leads this project which promotes cycling in everyday life, for commuting, shopping and recreation. The use of bicycles is becoming increasingly popular with the growth in awareness of environmental and climate issues. LUBERON LABO VÉLO provides support for this cultural evolution and advocates a better quality of life. Supported by public funding, this project focuses on: - standardized knowledge about cycling, - common

guidelines for the development of a cycling infrastructure, - creating new services related to cycling. This project encourages the use of bicycles in the most inhabited areas of Luberon, where activities are concentrated. LUBERON LABO VÉLO is helping to establish cycling policies and supports the local communities in developing new cycle-friendly infrastructures. We are now seeking funding to carry out these actions and implement the work. The project starts in 2020... To be continued.



## Supporting regional potentials and community



## The Geopark, next to the food producers of the territory in Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

To encourage local consumption and support local producers who, despite the situation the COVID-19 pandemic, have continued to work and supply food to the population, the Geopark has collaborated in a campaign that promotes contact between producers who deliver home orders and potential consumers. The Internet and social media have served to raise awareness of a dozen producers in sectors as diverse as fruit and vegetables, cheese, wine, meat and oil. The campaign has been carried out through the project "El Rebost del Bages", which works to enhance local production and thus benefit the economy of the territory, the environment and the health of the people.

## Harz.Braunschweigerland.Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Renewed fossil exhibition

In cooperation with the natural sciences club Goslar and the city of Goslar, the UNESCO-Geopark organized the renewal of the fossil exhibition in the Goslar Museum. Titled "On the traces of life", this exhibition shows a selection of significant fossils found in the Harz region and invites visitors to take a journey through life's history on Earth. The renewal aims to make palaeontology accessible for amateurs while still being interesting for experts. New informative boards and an easy to follow colour scheme support this aim. A children's corner with a trilobite puzzle and a Geopark quiz even address young visitors.







## Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark and the RURITAGE project

Since June 2018, the cross-border Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken is a partner in a 4-year H2020 project with the acronym RURITAGE. This project establishes a new heritage-led approach to rural regeneration, transforming rural areas into laboratories for sustainable development and building on the enhancement of their unique cultural and natural heritage potential. Within the framework of the so-called "Final event for the launch of the implementation phase", different activities, which will be carried out in the frame of the RURITAGE project, were presented, i. e.: (1) Design a set of new touristic and cross-border information packs, integrating different cultural experiences; (2) The digital use of the Karavanke/Karawanken Geopark; (3) Safeguarding and making the

site of St. Hema Mountain - St. Rosalia Cave accessible again; (4) Selection of "Geopark partners" sharing RURITAGE vision of local food as part of local heritage and (5) Boost local pride by making the heritage of the area more accessible. Photo: Urosh Grabner.

## Geovolunteering- An action for change, Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

The small aging population has endangered the conservation of many sites of interest involving the natural and cultural heritage of Las Loras UGGp. Geovolunteering allows the Geopark to engage in collaborative actions to rebuild and maintain these sites. Together with external volunteers and the local population, we consider the actions to be carried out each year, the nature of the work, the necessary materials and the human and economic resources. A collaboration that empowers the locals and encourages them to participate in the management of their environment. Thus, we are recovering resources, springs, planting trees, protecting geosites, recovering traditional trails for tourists and investigating and evaluating activities involving conservation and protection.



## Molino Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Spread hope and optimism

From our Geopark, a series of actions have been carried out aimed at tourism companies in our territory through telephone calls and emails, and using social networks to energize our region.

With this campaign we are trying to transmit optimism, enthusiasm and the active participation of the entire population, by successfully publicizing and promoting our territory.

## Outdoor teaching task force in Corona virus times in Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark (Denmark)

By Easter 2020 it appeared that the COVID-19 restrictions in Denmark had proved their worth resulting in the gradual re-opening of Denmark. Schools now had to conduct outdoors teaching. This proved to be a challenge to many teachers, but in Odsherred UGGp the three nature interpreters decided to establish a task force, and offered their experience in the use of the outdoors as a room for teaching. Thereby, the level of knowledge about the Geopark rose dramatically, not only amongst the teachers, but more importantly, amongst the young people in the area. The task force will obviously continue its work after the summer vacation.





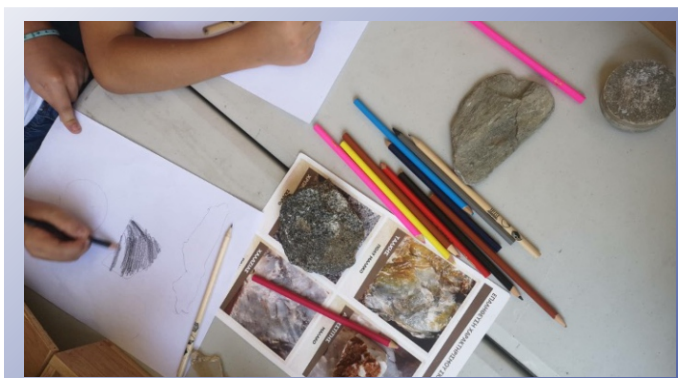


### Engaging entrepreneurs from the tourism, agri-food and commercial sector in Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rocca di Cerere UGGp in cooperation with its local partner CNA Enna has organized a programme of free webinars coordinated by experts and engaging entrepreneurs from the tourism, agri-food and commercial sectors. The initiative, called "#prontialdomani", included a series of webinars on the themes of sustainability, marketing, digital communication and destination management. The initiative has supported local entrepreneurs to be equipped with key competences, orientation and views in order to face the current changing scenario.

### Mountain escorts: Supporters of Geotourism at Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece)

In Sitia UGGp, geotourism has in recent years shown a remarkable growth and is the tool for the developing tourism focused on the environment, the geo-heritage and the local traditions. However, the new specialty "Mountain Escort" operated by the Public Institute of Vocational Training in Sitia Geopark seeks to address the lack of specialized individuals that would be able to support this type of tourism. They are the professionals who will design and implement activities in the Geopark, such as hiking, climbing, descent, bird watching, geology, biodiversity and organizing outdoor activities and utilizing its existing infrastructure.



### Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): New Programmes and initiatives 2020

2020 is destined to be a very significant and memorable year for the Troodos Geopark. New, exciting, and most importantly, informative and educational activities will take place under the new programme of the Greek – Cypriot Geopark's Network. Guests at the Geopark Visitor Centre will have the opportunity to learn about and experience the geological uniqueness of the Troodos area, the most complete fragment of oceanic crust on Earth. Promotion of Geopark products through new electronic platforms, geo-tourism and geo-educational exercises, cultural and sporting events as well as pioneering exhibitions and conferences are some examples of the activities that will take place within the year as part of the programme. Moreover, the audience will have a chance to discover

and appreciate the charming scenes that Troodos Geopark can offer as an alternative destination for tourists through hiking, traditional climbing, cycling and many other pursuits. These activities will take place mainly during the summer months and early autumn. The goal of this new initiative is to inform visitors and help them interpret the geological beauty of our planet as well as the secrets of the life that resides in our Geopark.

### Together with one aim - Implementation of LED street lighting in Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

Long before COVID-19, Vulkaneifel UGGp involved the villagers in the so called "Future Conferences" and in collecting their ideas for the future development of their communities aimed at generating and increasing the resilience of the communities. The ideas created a cluster of activities including social life, ecology and economy such as coexistence of the old and young, common gardening, supply services, mitigating climate change, biodiversity, flood risk assessment and many others. The Geopark and the County of Vulkaneifel recognized the heartfelt wish to install LED street lighting and convinced all the villages to cooperate. In the sense of "together we are strong", negotiations with the energy supplier were very successful. During the next 3 years, all street lighting will be renewed with LED. This reduces the demand for energy and CO<sub>2</sub> – emissions; furthermore LED lighting is much more insect-friendly. The villages will almost halve their energy costs and this money is now available for other activities. Up-to-date LED lighting reduces light pollution and results in the idea of implementing "Dark Sky Communities" within Vulkaneifel UGGp.

