

### Cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe and worldwide ●●●●●●

#### Cooperation agreement: Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal) and Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark (China)

In September 2018, the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal) and the Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark (China) signed a "Cooperation Agreement" in order to strengthen networking and cooperation between the two territories, including sharing management experiences, best practices, educational initiatives, and staff training programmes. Both geoparks are major tourist destinations, located in volcanic areas, with a rich cultural heritage that reflects the relationship between man and geodiversity. The cooperation agreement, involving a period of five years, will provide more opportunities for successfully achieving the common goals of both geoparks and will lead to benefits for the local communities and organizations.



#### Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Information and Partnership visit from Hongkong UGG and a Japanese UGG Network delegation

In 2011, Hongkong and Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGG together with UNESCO WHS Messel Pit have founded a partnership, including exchanges that involve geo-education, vocational Ranger training, networking and community participation. In this context, a delegation from Hongkong UGG, Lions Club members and a delegation from the Japanese UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, headed by Prof Ka Ming Yeung and Prof Setsuya Nakada, recently visited the Bergstrasse –Odenwald Geopark. The visits aimed to identify new potentials for cooperation regarding communicating geoscientific issues to the public, the integration of Geopark themes in school curricula, the participation of local communities in Geopark projects to create a sense of pride and ownership for the inhabitants and to develop vocational training. The visitors were shown a variety of Geopark localities and attended meetings with high ranking politicians from the State of Hesse (including Vice State Secretary Patrick Burghardt), who expressed their interest in the continued development of this partnership.

#### Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark (Czech Republic): A new partnership between Czech and Chinese Geoparks

In September, the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark was honoured by visit of a delegation from the Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark located in Central China. The main reason for this visit was to meet new colleagues, discover the most interesting geosites in the Bohemian Paradise Geopark and create a partnership between the two geoparks. This partnership will include sharing experiences in developing and possibly regulating sustainable geotourism, developing an educational system as well as supporting businesses in the production of geoproducts. This collaboration should be facilitated by the development of a project for future cooperation.







### **Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria): Visit of the Leye-Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark.**

Before the Global Geoparks Conference in Italy in September 2018 the team of the Styrian Eisenwurzen Geopark welcomed a delegation from the Leye-Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China ([www.lfgeopark.com](http://www.lfgeopark.com)). The Geopark is located in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Southwestern China. It contains the world's most beautiful karst features, the highest density of sink holes (tiankengs), the world's largest and longest natural bridges. During their visit to the Eisenwurzen Geopark the delegation had the possibility to see the heart of the territory – the GeoVillage Gams. Oliver Gulas and Heinz Kollmann presented regional development projects and introduced the visitors to the geology of the region.

### **Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway) and one of our newest GGN members: Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark**

The Fen Volcanic Complex, the world's type locality for carbonatite volcanic rocks, is one of the defining geological features in our Geopark. Today, this dark, low viscosity lava, rich in carbonate minerals is associated with eruptions from one active volcano. The Ol Doinyo Lengai Volcano is situated in the East African Rift Valley in the Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark, one of the members of the GGN family. Gea Norvegica has the type locality for søvite, a coarsely crystalline carbonatite named for the village of Søvte and the type locality for fenite in Nome close to the town of Ulefoss. Søvite also occurs in Tanzania. However, the process of fenitization, the chemical alteration of the wall rocks surrounding carbonatite intrusions by hydrothermal fluids produced by volcanic activity, is also probably associated with carbonatite volcanism in Tanzania. The shared association with these unusual volcanic rocks and volcanic processes provide an obvious incentive for discussing twinning and a sistership between the geoparks, and we are in the process of laying the foundation for a fruitful cooperation!



### **Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): A visit for more international exchange**

In September the UGG Vulkaneifel welcomed a group of Geopark delegates from Japan and Hong Kong. Besides visiting Geosites such as the Lava Bomb and the Wartgesberg Volcano, the group acquired an insight into the work that the UGG Vulkaneifel is undertaking in subjects such as climate change, regional development and tourism. Prof. Setsuja Nakada of the University of Tokyo, Dr. Ka Ming Yeung from Hong Kong UGG and the host Dr Andreas Schüller agreed mutually that visits like this should be repeated frequently as it is of high value to obtain first-hand information about innovative projects and varied approaches to management in different geoparks.

## **Cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe**

### **Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark (France): Climate Change and Adaptation in the Alps**

The Alps are affected by climate change more intensely than the mid-latitude regions. Public institutions are reacting in many ways; some avoid this politically sensitive subject, others are investigating the issue, and yet others are developing plans to adapt to the situation. The Haut Chablais, an administrative area of the Chablais UGGp through the Interreg Alcotroa Project, Artacim, is considering climate change, adapting to climate change and from a territorial perspective in cooperation with the city of Turin, Italy. The Haut Chablais, the Chablais UGGp and partners participated a seminar concerning current climate research, the cataloguing of territorial risks, and the discussion of future developments for this 3-year programme.







## Cooperation agreement between Kula UNESCO Global Geopark (Turkey) and Conca de Tremp – Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

Kula UNESCO Global Geopark and Conca de Tremp – Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark agreed to cooperate as partners in the promotion of geo-conservation, sustainable tourism, environmental education and sustainable regional development. In this cooperation agreement each participant will take the necessary steps to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas:

- Facilitating and promoting the sharing and exchange of scientific and technological information including expertise and know-how in conservation, management, sustainable development and use of geological resources and educational activities;
- Helping each other in promoting the activities of the two geoparks by sharing the dissemination of information for the general public.

## Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): IV Spanish Geopark Open Day

On the 25th and 26th October 2018, Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UGG organized the IV Spanish Geopark Open Days in the framework of the project “Atlantic Geoparks”, Interreg Atlantic Area Programme. The open days aimed to raise awareness about Geoparks in Spain. During this event, we were able to experience the wide range of possibilities provided by the Spanish geological heritage for companies, entrepreneurs, educational and tourism associations, social groups and anyone who has an interest in knowing and spreading the value and opportunities offered by geoparks.

We will share our experiences with geoparks to ensure that we can all achieve new goals within an economy that respects our heritage and our environment.



## GAIA MEMORIES - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS GREECE-CYPRUS - Partner travelling exhibition focus on geotourism development in island Geoparks

The exhibition "Gaia Memories - UNESCO Global Geoparks Greece-Cyprus" presents, in a comprehensive and attractive way for the general public, the impressive geological features hosted by the island Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus (Lesvos, Psiloritis, Sitia and Troodos). The exhibition introduces viewers to the beauty of the landscapes, the processes and time involved in shaping the landscapes and creating the environments for the development of the variety of modern natural ecosystems. It also introduces the general public to the opportunities and potential for engaging in geotourism and educational activities. The exhibition started its journey from Athens on 12th October 2018 and will be at the Egenidion Foundation until 12th of May 2019.

## Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland/Northern Ireland): Drifting Apart Project

Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark was one of seven lead partners to participate in the INTERREG VB Drifting Apart Project which involved partners from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Iceland, Canada and Russia between 2015 and 2018. The project aimed to improve the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the fascinating and interconnected geological heritage of the Northern Periphery and Arctic Area, and its many links to the natural, architectural and cultural heritage. The project supported the development of aspiring Global Geoparks, the promotion of innovative products and services and created a strong network of geological heritage destinations in the territories. These aims were achieved through the development of a physical trans-national geological trail, a virtual trail through the development of the innovative GeoVR, a Geopark mentoring programme, and the development and delivery of community based business and educational workshops and resources. These outputs linked the conservation and promotion of the shared geological heritage between aspiring and established European and UNESCO Global Geoparks in the region.





### **Molina-Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Young Geopark ambassadors collaboration programme.**

Molina-Alto Tajo Geopark developed a project based on the exchange of students from the island of El Hierro with our students. We got in touch with them because we realized that we shared common needs. The project began with the establishment of coordination of teams involving the directors of both geoparks and the management teams of the corresponding secondary schools. Training the teachers resulted in the dissemination of the knowledge to the students. Working groups were created. The students who achieved the best grades were designated as Geopark Ambassadors and assigned appropriate tasks based on their achievements. Finally they travelled to El Hierro Island to learn about the geological characteristics of the Geopark. At the same time the students of El Hierro also visited Molina-Alto Tajo Geopark. In conclusion, it was a very successful project and will be continued for future generations.

### **Possible partnership between Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark (Denmark) and Harz – Braunschweiger Land – Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)**

Based on a mutual understanding of the benefits from an exchange of experiences, the governing bodies of Denmark's only UNESCO Global Geopark, Odsherred, and that of Harz – Braunschweiger Land – Ostfalen have decided to engage in a preliminary discussion to create a possible partnership. Both places are popular amongst tourists from both Denmark and Germany, and the fruitful discussions will hopefully generate a better understanding of the mechanisms driving tourism in the respective areas. The partnership discussions will commence in the spring of 2019 during a visit to UGGp Harz – Braunschweiger Land – Ostfalen, by a delegation from UGGp Odsherred.



## **International activities in UNESCO Global**



### **EGN Week in Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark (France): An eight days's bike tour to discover geoheritage and promote soft mobility by bike.**

An inspiration and a call for developing cycling and a cooperation programme between geoparks and greenways, corridors of undeveloped land maintained for conservation and recreation. In 2018, the Massif des Bauges UGGp initiated, within the framework of EGN week, an event with the following three aims: to increase awareness of the natural, cultural and geological heritage; to improve the level of participation by local inhabitants in addition to developing new practices for tourists to discover the Geopark; to promote the use of soft travel and mindfulness practices. This event involves a slow tour over eight days, visiting a succession of sites at designated meeting times. An exhilarating experience that inspires and forms the basis for a cooperation programme between cyclists and greenways. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Um177IsfgY>



## Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): A “smoker” that has quit

The UNESCO Global Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen has installed a new information panel at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Rammelsberg Mine. The topic of the new panel is the development of the enormous ore deposits of zinc, lead, copper, gold and silver. They were formed in the Middle Devonian (ca. 390 million years ago) by hot, metal-rich thermal springs, also known as “smokers”. The World Heritage Site Rammelsberg Mine, the Old Town of Goslar and the Upper Harz Water Management System determined the content and supported the development of the panel. In 2015, the Geopark and the World Heritage Site signed a cooperation agreement and have worked closely together ever since. Photo: Reuter/RVH

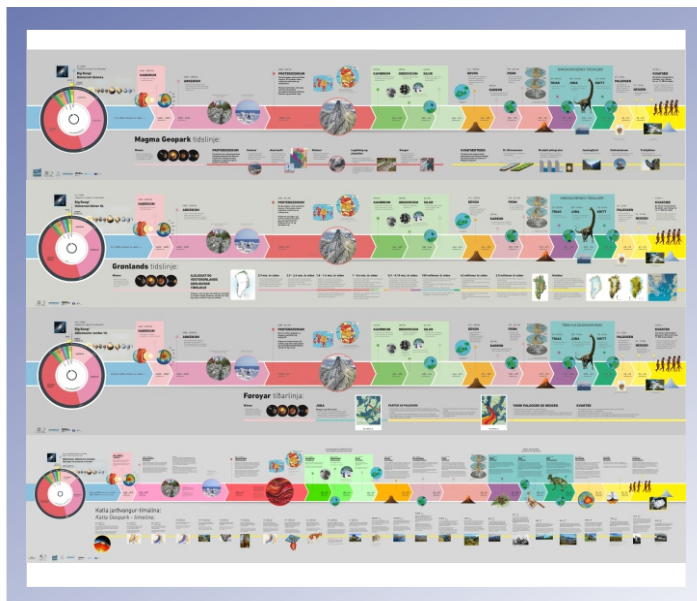


## Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland): Educating geo-schools through GeoVR –

On October 12th, Katla Geopark invited their geo-schools to an exhibition in Vík in connection with the Katla conference - 100 years since the last eruption. The students tested the virtual reality of GeoVR, a 3D visualisation project developed by Magma Geopark. It provides viewers with an opportunity to experience locations from geoparks and partners around the world while introducing them to nature, geology and culture. Locations offer 360° views with highlights, drawing attention to significant sites. Katla Geopark focusses in the GeoVR project on the different types of eruptions within the Geopark. A new and exciting way to educate and experience nature!

## Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway): GEOMuseum-geological journey

GEOMuseum is a project supported by the Nordisk Kulturfond lead by Magma UNESCO Global Geopark and involves: Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland), the Geological Survey of Faroes Islands, Ilulissat UNESCO World Heritage Site in Greenland. The project supported by the Geological Survey of Norway aims to develop the interpretation of Earth's geological evolution and to define the main geological processes in the regions involved in the project. The GEOMuseum established a common graphic design and defined the required educational material. GEOMuseum contributes to developing the best positions for displaying the virtual exhibition (GeoVR,) in the visitor centres of the involved territories. The project combines traditional techniques used by museums for teaching and disseminating knowledge with a new approach utilizing virtual learning. There are currently five GEOMuseums distributed globally and Stonehammer UGG intends to establish a GEOMuseum in Canada. GEOMuseum can provide a common storyline format for other geopark territories! Contact us for more information at [post@magmageopark.com](mailto:post@magmageopark.com) Article authors: Sara Gentilini (Magma Geopark), Pål Thjømøe (Magma Geopark) Magma UGG 10 mt storyline in the visitor tourist information office





### **Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Lusatian Network of UNESCO sites**

Against the background of the forthcoming fundamental structural changes in the Lusatia mining region, four UNESCO sites and an organization concerned with intangible heritage joined forces using their combined expertise to address the region's second most difficult challenge in over 30 years. At the initiative of the German-Polish Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark, the Biosphere Reserves Spree Wood (Spreewald) and Upper Lusatian Heath and Ponds Landscape, the World Heritage Site Muskau Park and the Domowina umbrella organisation of the Lusatian Sorbs (a Slavonic ethnic group living in eastern Germany) have met five times since October 2017, to share experiences, define common core capabilities and negotiate a common position in preparation for a framework agreement. Through its work, the initiative seeks to stimulate a dialogue between the various regional participants to achieve a balanced approach between economic objectives, sustainable development and the modernization of an entire region.

Photo: Axel Heimken, Mainz

### **Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal) will be the Portuguese capital of sustainable development in November**

During November Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark will provide the national reference for discussions on sustainable development. The programme started on 2 November with the International Meeting on Healthy Food and Biodynamic and Biological Farming in the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha. On 8 November the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, as the First Bioregion in Portugal, introduced the project during the World Forum on Rural Innovation held in the border Spanish town of Moraleja. At the same time the Idanha Food Laboratory was held in Idanha-a-Nova, an international meeting to promote technological companies involved with the green economy. On 13 November Idanha-a-Nova hosted the National Meeting of Biological Agriculture while Naturtejo Geopark provided a field excursion for Spanish companies from the tourism sector. Finally, on 15 November Idanha-a-Velha was the host for "Destinations of Sustainable Tourism", with the participation of the World Tourism Organization, ONU, Tourism of Portugal, among others.



### **Save the date: 15th European Geoparks Conference – Natural Park Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)**

The next European Geoparks Conference, organized by Natural Park Sierra Norte de Sevilla - UNESCO Global Geopark, will be held in the city of Seville, 25th-27th September, 2019. The main theme of the Conference is: "Memory of the Earth, Future for People". The celebration of this Conference is an opportunity to know the great Geological Heritage of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark, and also the other two Andalusian geoparks, as well as to enjoy the city of Seville and its impressive historical and cultural elements.

**Conference web: [egnsierranorte2019.com](http://egnsierranorte2019.com)**