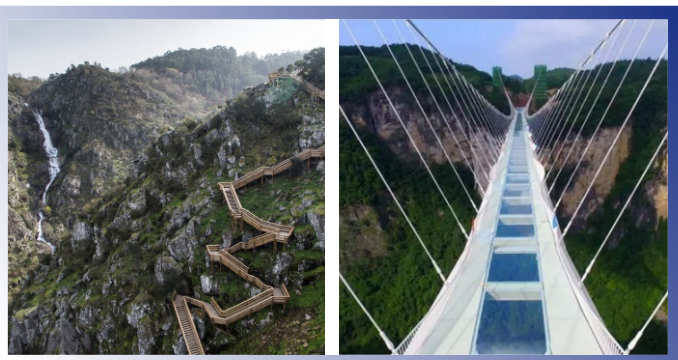


Cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks

Twinning Agreement between Arouca (Portugal) and Zhangjiahe (China) UNESCO Global Geoparks

Within the framework of its recent investments in tourism support infrastructures and a bid to improve tourism provision, Arouca and Zhangjiahe - UNESCO Global Geoparks, will celebrate a twinning agreement on September 6th, 2017 in the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark. This memorandum of understanding aims to foster the interaction and exchange of knowledge in the areas of tourism, education, culture, environment, mobility and entrepreneurship. Since June 2015, Arouca Geopark launched more than 8.5 km of walkways for visitors and in August 2016, Zhangjiahe Geopark opened the world's highest and longest glass-bottomed bridge to the public. These two infrastructures are special touristic attractions for Nature Tourism and contribute to the high visibility of UNESCO Global Geopark destinations.



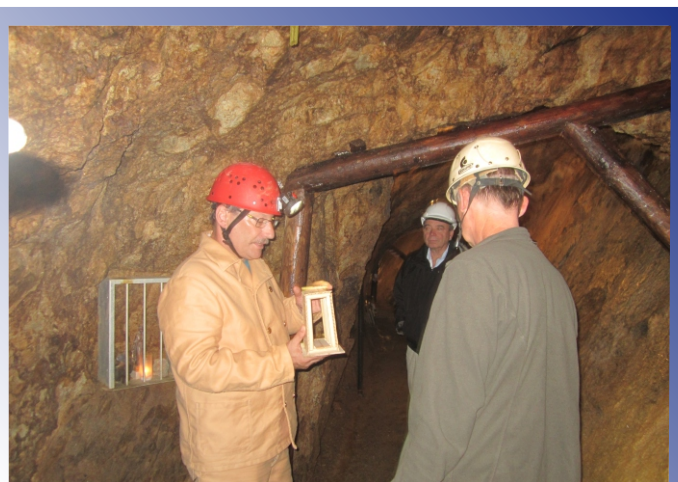
UNESCO National Seminar hosted by Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark (Denmark)

On May 4th 2017, UNESCO Global Geopark Odsherred hosted a network seminar for the UNESCO designated sites and areas in Denmark and Greenland, in cooperation with UNESCO Denmark, the Agency for Culture and Palaces, Odsherred Municipality and VisitOdsherred. Representatives from all three major programmes, including World Heritage, Man and Biosphere and UNESCO Global Geoparks participated, thereby connecting the Danish realm from north to south, at the venue on Dragsholm Castle. How do you incorporate the UNESCO concept in local communities and ensure implementation of the concept in educational schemes? What are the most proficient ways to brand and disseminate it? These questions, and many more, were the focus of the workshops during the seminar, which was the first of its kind in Denmark. The seminar was also an excellent way for Odsherred, to demonstrate how a UNESCO Global Geopark can be included in a local community, through initiatives incorporating all the pillars of UNESCO.

Common activities

“Geotope of the Year 2017” - the historical mine “Marie” - a special window into the Earth history of Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

On September 17th 2017 the historical mine “Marie”, an extraordinary window into the Earth history of the Geopark, will be designated “Geotope of the Year”. After 15 years, this tradition has become a highly appreciated and successful promotional tool for the geological heritage of the territory. The historical lead and silver mining site “Marie” has been restored by the “Historical Mining Association Odenwald” as a visitor mine. The volunteer organization cares for the protection of the mining heritage, which goes back to Roman times, and also initiates scientific research. During the Geotope celebration, which starts at 2 pm, the visitors are invited to discover the usually hidden subsurface world of the mine and experience the surrounding historical mining landscape together with the volunteer experts. Information: www.geopark.de





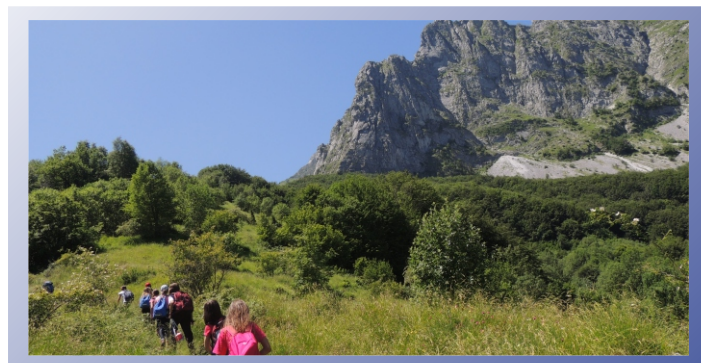
GEOfestival IN THE KARAVANKE/KARAWANKEN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK (Austria/Slovenia)

The GEOFestival 2017, organized as a part of the transnational project with the acronym „EUfutuR“, started on the 19th of May 2017 and offered a colourful palette of cultural events. These included a choir meeting with 300 pupils, a theater play dealing with the origin of rocks, literature days, a photography contest and numerous sports competitions, such as a relay race with 250 participants, a football tournament and several guided hikes. The aim of the GEOfestival was to emphasize the geological, natural and cultural heritage, to strengthen the perception of the Geopark's bilateral identity and to raise awareness in the local population of the international importance of the Geopark Karawanken, as a part of the worldwide UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Education ●●●●●

Summer Camps for children in the Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark

In the Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark the weekly summer camps for children aged 8 to 16 are about to begin! This year the project is entitled “Walking slowly to the Geopark”, recalling the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. As during the previous nine years, it will provide a great opportunity for more than 160 boys and girls to acquire a direct knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of the Apuan Alps under the guidance of the Geopark guides with particular attention to the promotion of environmental and human well-being.



Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark (Czech Republic): Geological and mineralogical Summer Camps for kids

Annually, the Bohemian Paradise Geopark and a local non-profit organization arrange a summer camp for children interested in geology and mineralogy. Participants stay close to the town of Nova Paka, where agates, jaspers, garnets, and other minerals are found at a number of famous sites. Over the period of a week, children gain knowledge about nature, geology, geological history and the origin of local gem stones. They have many opportunities to find and collect gem stones, mostly on the fields or in abandoned quarries. Finally, all participants try to prepare their samples using a historical saw and polishing machine as souvenirs of their visit. The camp is traditionally very successful and popular with children.

“Earth Sense” for pre-school groups in Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland)

A new initiative of the Copper Coast UNESCO Geopark for 2016/2017 was the development of a pilot programme for Earth science engagement with educational groups involving children aged between 4-8. This programme was developed on a pilot basis with the Waterford Childcare Committee (a local educational NGO) and given the working title “Earth Sense”. In practice, “Earth Sense” was organized with a local pre-school group over a time period of several months. The programme included; Earth science education for staff, provision of a simple educational activity kit and a field trip to a local fossil outcrop with the group and the Copper Coast Geologist. A follow-up report on the project was highly positive and there are now plans to organize a larger version of Earth sense with more educational groups later in 2017.





Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark (Netherlands): Travelling through the Earth

The Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, de Nederlandse Aardoliemaatschappij (NAM) and IVN Drenthe launched a programme called "Travelling through the Earth", which has been developed specially for upper primary school children. "Travelling through the Earth" includes the bottom of Drenthe and the genesis of the Hondsrug area. The Geopark and the NAM are both concerned with the deep subsurface and sediment/rock layers. The programme considers the creation of the geological strata. How Drenthe was once at the South Pole and later in the tropics, about the ice ages and their associated deposits and also minerals and their everyday use. IVN is launching the project through its network of schools Drenthe. Teachers are familiarized with the package and can then work with their students. The educational programme "Travelling through the Earth" is designed for primary school groups 6, 7 and 8. We work with various themes with subjects such as a fossil forest, the formation of salt, Drenthe under the ice etc. Primary school pupils experience challenging assignments and materials and discover and encounter a history of millions of years. This discovery includes the various strata, their associated fossils and associated minerals that we use every day. The Hondsrug Geopark is central to this programme which also investigates the soil and the landscape of Drenthe.

Geological, Biological and Intangible Heritage

Artisanal Fishing as an ethnographic treasure in the Cabo de Gata UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

The Geopark has launched a new programme involving raising awareness and environmental participation. The main activities are focused on conservation in protected natural areas, but also on the value of artisanal fishing. The first of these activities was a talk presented by the PESCARTE Association, formed by fishermen from the area for the conservation of this type of fishing. During two days of workshops, field visits were provided for participants to experience the day-to-day life of fishermen including their return to the port of San Jose with their catches. The lives of these fishermen enhance the rich ethnographic heritage of the area.



Tourism



Connections between Geoparks/Nature Parks and the economy – Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)

On Monday 11th April 2017 the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark hosted the 17th Day of the Protected Areas of Trentino dedicated this year to Sustainable Tourism, as a tribute to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017. The most interesting developments emphasized by the presenters was the fact that general tourism is increasing by 5% per year, while tourism involving the natural environment is growing by 20%, revealing a huge potential for further development. The key words of the Day were: connections between Geoparks/Nature Parks and the economy, quality provision and cultural change.

Styrian Eisenwurzen Nature and UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria) – Partner Network focus on Sustainable Tourism.

Our Geopark has a diverse Partner Network including restaurants and accommodation providers. Different projects are helping to strengthen these partners, including the transfer of knowledge to their guests about nature protection, geology and biodiversity. Every two years the Geopark has a best practice competition in these fields. The winner of this year's award is the so called "Stiegenwirt" in the municipality "Landl". Their team created a restaurant menu including information about our Geopark and the protection of its nature and geology. Furthermore, different workshops and excursions are introducing our partners to the importance of sustainable tourism.



Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece) - an ideal destination for alternative geotourism activities

Lesvos offers a unique wealth of geological monuments, places of great natural beauty and ecological interest. The network of trails on Lesvos provides visitors with an opportunity to experience a rich variety of geosites, habitats, archaeological sites and cultural monuments. Lesvos Geopark works to enhance the island's geological, natural and cultural heritage through a series of alternative tourism activities involving the interpretation of geological monuments. The visitors can participate in different alternative tourism activities like birdwatching, cycling, climbing, hiking, trekking, sailing, diving, riding, fishing, educational programmes, sea- and agritourism activities, cultural festivals and a variety of nature tours and activities with live unique experiences. E-mail: lesvospf@otenet.gr www.lesvosgeopark.gr

Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): GEOBIKING, healthy geotourism in the Green Way.

The 22 kilometres Subbética Green Way (former railway of the Olive Oil Train) embraces the northwestern boundary of the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park and connects half of the Geopark's municipalities. GEOBIKING occurred during the XI EGN Week in Sierras Subbéticas. It consisted of a 20 km guided biking route, with stops to interpret the origin of the spectacular mountainous landscapes and to observe geological features involving the most ancient history of this territory. It has proved to be a successful initiative combining healthy activities in nature (geology, bird watching, environmental education, etc.) with sustainable development.



Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Cyprus) - Web-Map Applications have been proven as powerful geotouristic tools

As part of the ongoing effort to upgrade the services provided to geopark visitors, special interactive applications have been created, aiming to make it easier for visitors to be informed about the TUGG and all other UNESCO Geoparks. Specifically, a Google / ArcGIS application and two ESRI ArcGIS Web Maps applications were created to promote the geosites and geo-trails of the Troodos Geopark. It is expected, that these interactive and dynamic tools will stimulate the interest of visitors, especially children, to discover some of the most important geosites around the world as well as the most significant sites of TUGG. These applications are available on the TUGG website as well as the Visitors Centre via an interactive touchscreen.

Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia): First results of the ESTEAM Project: E-BOOK - Natural Science Curricula Research in Portugal, Norway and Slovenia

Over the past few days, the ESTEAM project, financed by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, successfully concluded activities related to the first tranche of the project. The main result of which was an E-book, primarily intended for primary school teachers who are actively involved in developing natural science teaching programmes. The content of the E-book is based on research related to the natural science curriculum which was implemented in cooperation between the UNESCO Global Geopark Idrija, the Magma UNESCO Global Geopark, the Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Črni Vrh nad Idrijo Primary School, Agrupamento de Escolas Jose Silvestre Ribeiro, University of Ljubljana and the Locatify Computer Company.

See the E-book here:

https://issuu.com/esteam/docs/ebook__research_of_national_curricu



Envisioning a sustainable future for the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): Grass- roots engagement initiatives supporting the Geoparks planning strategy.

With funding provided by the Landscape Research Group, a series of grass-roots engagement activities are being conducted, involving local communities, the youth of the Geopark as well as representatives from the cultural and agricultural associations of the area. Activities have aimed at identifying the key characteristics and landscape elements which the locals identify with and wish to preserve as well as promote through the Geopark. An exercise asking people to describe how they ideally envision their area in 25 years from today is also included.

Geothermal energy – an intensive course in TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

TERRA.vita Geopark wants to initiate the use of geothermal energy in the region. An intensive course was organized at the beginning of March especially for architects, planners and members of the communities. One hundred participants joined the course to learn about “near-surface geothermal energy”. County chairman Dr. Winfried Wilkens stressed the fact, that using geothermal heat as an energy source is becoming a more pressing issue: “Concerning the production of renewable electricity, we are already well on the way” Wilkens outlined, “substituting fossil fuels for heating is by far the hardest task. Every new gas - or oil heater is a missed opportunity for climate protection over the next 20 years.” The presentations shone a light on the issue of geothermal energy from different perspectives. In addition to technical aspects, issues involving permission and funding were discussed. A new aspect for many of the participants was the fact, that geothermal systems can also be used for cooling in summer.



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ New projects & facilities



Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Geo-talks - science, culture, music and fun

Scientists and artists gathered in an innovative artistic-scientific initiative called Geo-Talks. The event included brief scientific talks delivered by six specialists, all members of the Scientific Committee of the Geopark. Each specialist approached the subject of the values of the Geopark based on the perspective of the individual's expertise. The event included the participation of actors, musicians, singers and a cartoonist who managed to bring fun and a freshness to the event through the innovative dissemination of science.

Interactive visitors' centre – Gea Norvegica Geopark UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)

A brand new visitors' centre, focusing on interactive and "hands on" learning, has been created in Gea Norvegica Geopark. The centre features traditional elements, such as a rock collection and information about the region through texts and maps. In an attempt to make these displays more dynamic, modern technology has been implemented. The rocks of the rock collection are fitted with radio frequency identification tags, allowing visitors to unlock information about each specific object by placing them on a reading plate connected to a screen. The maps are also "re-invented" with the help of touch-screens, so visitors can orient themselves in our Geopark, and also access information about the entire UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

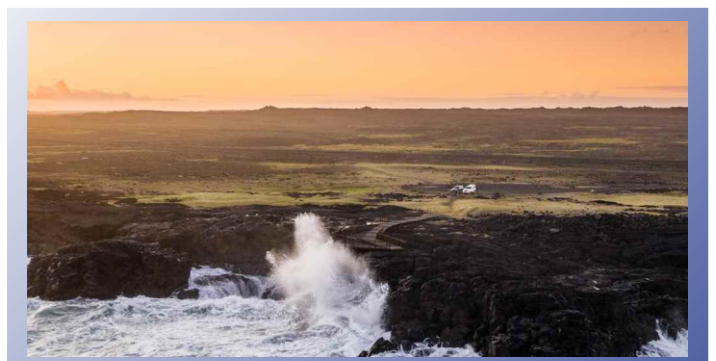


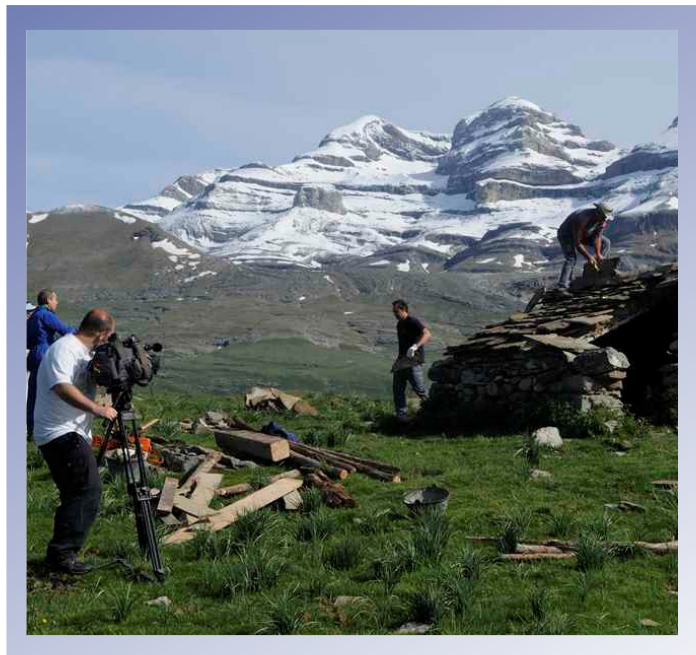
MAGMA UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway) – historical mining site as new Geopark location

Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (MGP), within the framework of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 is planning to launch one new Geopark location: the Ørdsdalen mine (MGP Geosite n 5). The mining history is characterized by three main periods starting from 1904 to 1953. Ørdsdalen mine has a long and interesting history in producing molybdenite and tungsten minerals for the steel industry. Traces of the mining activities are still visible in the ruins of houses and buildings dating back to the beginning of the 20th Century. Magma Geopark has completed the necessary procedures to open the mine to the public (clean and safe procedures, info panels). The mine will open on the 17th June and become part of the Magma Geopark provision for schools and visitors. post@mamageopark.com

A 360° view of the Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland)

The landscape of Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark offers a great opportunity for easygoing adventures. With more than 240 kilometers of hiking trails across the peninsula, visitors can choose to wander along the rugged coastline with geothermal highlands or moon-like lava landscapes. This summer the Geopark - in cooperation with Geocamp Iceland, Visit Reykjanes and Google Education - will map the many different hiking trails with a 360° camera. The result will not only be available for future hikers but can be used as an educational tool in every classroom around the world. Meðfylgjandi: 360°mynd, dæmi um google view





"MALLATA PROJECT": New life for the Shepherds huts of the Pyrenees (Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain))

The Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Geopark is launching an initiative to recover the "Mallatas", traditional buildings used by the shepherds in the Pyrenees, which represent one of the characteristics of the pastoral landscape that define the World Heritage Site "Pirineos-Monte Perdido", located inside the Geopark. The Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark, in collaboration with the National Park of Ordesa and Monte Perdido, wants to valorise a traditional element that is in danger of disappearing namely the "mallatas", small refuges for shepherds, built from dry stone. The "Mallata Project" was launched by the Geopark with the cooperation of neighbours and friends of the Geopark. The aim is to restore these architectural elements, and thus recognize the importance of transhumance grazing in the "Pirineos-Monte Perdido" World Heritage Site, and its relationship with the Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark. Between May 15th and May 25th 2017, 24 volunteers from the Geopark, led by a neighbour of Nerín, a specialist in dry stone constructions, restored the walls and roof of the refuge. Visits to the restored "mallata" were included in the events of the European Geoparks Week 2017. Given the success of this initiative, the Sobrarbe-Pirineos Geopark plans to rehabilitate a "mallata" each year, through this same procedure.

Meet our Geoparks

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (UK)-#therockconnectsus!

As a legacy for all from the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark is delighted to share the Earth Echoes film which documents the development of the incredible community-led opening ceremony of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. The film, found here www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk, is also accompanied by a fantastic Learning Pack designed to inspire, help and support other UNESCO Global Geoparks, schools and community groups to follow their own creative journey. The performance script, music score, mp3's, as well as the project evaluation report assessing the project against the conference theme of Health and Wellbeing through Creative and Active Engagement are also provided as part of the accompanying resources. Please help us share this wonderful resource with anyone you feel will be interested. m.border@englishrivierageopark.org.uk



Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) – a great celebration at the House of Volcanoes

In 2017 the "House of Volcanoes" celebrates the 30th anniversary of its creation. The Centre covers more than 2500 m2 consisting of a large exhibition area with geoscientific instruments and support for research groups. Its functions are in accord with the Geoparks' concept and involve scientific research in all areas related to volcanology, education, and the dissemination of information related to volcanology. The "House of Volcanoes" supports socio-economic development based on the realistic management and promotion of tourism to protect the natural environment, culture and education. The celebration will take place in November with a large number of events that will increase awareness of the value of our headquarters.

Agenda/Calendar

Annual Europea Geoparks Conference, Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal):
September 7 – 9 2017. Info: <https://egnazores2017.com>