

Common activities

Azores Geopark (Portugal): Live Science in the Summer

Since 2012 the Azores Geopark has promoted several activities to mark the Programme "Ciência Viva no Verão - Live Science in the Summer". This programme is financed by the Portuguese Ministry of Science, and the activities are focused on the geosciences and environmental sciences. In the Summer of 2015 the Azores Geopark provides 12 initiatives, coordinated by the Geopark Island's Delegations in close partnership with the Azores Natural Parks, the Regional Network of Science Centres and Environmental NGO's. All these activities are free of charge for the participants and are especially devoted to people on vacation. To learn more about this program or participate in the activities go to <http://www.cienciaviva.pt/>.



The "Geosite of the Year" in Bakony-Balaton Geopark (Hungary)

The "Geosite of the Year" label, a special acknowledgement of the efforts of communities to protect and interpret their local geosites, was awarded in 2015 to Eperjes Hill in Olaszfa (Bakony Mountains) by the leading organisation of the Geopark, the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate. The link between local communities and this geosite is strengthened by such activities such as an oral presentation, a geoactivity day for schoolchildren or a volunteer day for the maintenance of the site's nature trail. The award is also a good tool for promoting the site as a geotourism attraction.

Ore of the Alps Geopark (Austria) Copper for the Sky Disc

The "Sky Disc of Nebra" (32 centimetres in diameter) was found on top of a mountain (Mittelberg) in Saxony / Germany, along with a horde of other "Bronze-age" relics. It is dated at approximately 1,600 BC. The disc is one of the world's oldest charts of the. It shows representations of the sun, moon, Pleiades and three other crescents, two are presumed to represent horizon lines and the other symbolizes a possible 'Solar Barge' at the bottom of the disc. This famous artefact forms the heart of the exhibition "Heaven on Earth" at the visitor centre in Bischofshofen. The copper of the disc originates demonstrably from the Geopark Ore of the Alps.



Education



Terra de Cavaleiros Geopark (Portugal): Active participation in the Blue Flag Programme

From 1st July until 22nd August 2015 the Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark Association actively participated for the second time in the Blue Flag Programme, promoted by the ABAE (European Blue Flag Association). For almost two months good practices will be encouraged in the two fluvial beaches of the Albufeira do Azibo Protected Landscape. The activities include awareness and cleaning activities in the two beaches, a peddy-paper and pedestrian trails, thematic field trips integrated in the Live Science in Summer Programme of astronomy and biology, and also a contest on the local radio, that will put the knowledge about the Albufeira do Azibo Protected Landscape to the test.

Arts & Music

Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal): Music with in the Earth at Penamacor: "Geoconcert in Vieiro das Gralhas"

Under the Festival of the Landscape 2015 – European Geoparks Week, local communities organized a "Geoconcert" at "Vieiro das Gralhas", an ancient iron/gold/manganese mine dating from the Iron Age. The main objective was to highlight the rare geomining heritage of Penamacor Municipality following the inventory of the geological heritage submitted for the extension application of Naturtejo Global Geopark. The "Vieiros" of Salvador are now under investigation by the research team of Naturtejo, the municipality and local archaeologists. This unprecedented initiative required considerable involvement by the local communities, and the large group of participants was also accompanied by the Mayor of Penamacor and the Presidents of the villages of Aranhas and Salvador. The invited band, also came from the area of the Geopark, and has a beautiful geological name – JASPE.



Katla Geopark (Iceland): Cooperation between geoparks, geoeducation and geoart

Katla Global Geopark celebrates its fourth birthday and a revalidation this year. The Geopark is co-participating in an Erasmus+ project on Partnership for geo-education with the Papuk (Croatia) and Arouca (Portugal) Global Geoparks, led by the Polish geo-project „Land of the extinct volcanoes“ - The final outcome: Field trip geo-education methodology. While visiting Katla Geopark the group of experts, including mayors from municipalities, experienced the abundant visible effects of Quaternary volcanic activity and it's complex effects on livelihood and landscape. They also visited Reynisfjara-beach with its black sand, columnar basalt marine caves and sea stacks and saw Olga Kisseleva's geo-art installation at Vík.

Tourism

Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark (Germany): New set of comprehensive books and maps in cooperation with the Odenwald Tourism Association and World Heritage Site Messel Pit

The Geopark, Odenwald Tourism and WHS Messel Pit have published a set of two comprehensive brochures in combination with two extended folding maps reflecting the geological as well as the cultural highlights of the territory. The publications are used to attract tourists as well as local inhabitants to discover the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark's territory. Inside, visitors also get information about accommodation, which can be directly booked by the Odenwald Tourism Association combined with guided tours, delivered by the Geopark and WHS Messel Pit. Already during this early stage, the feedback from the visitors is very positive - and the partners continue to cooperate by preparing a new set of common hiking brochures, which will be published in autumn this year.



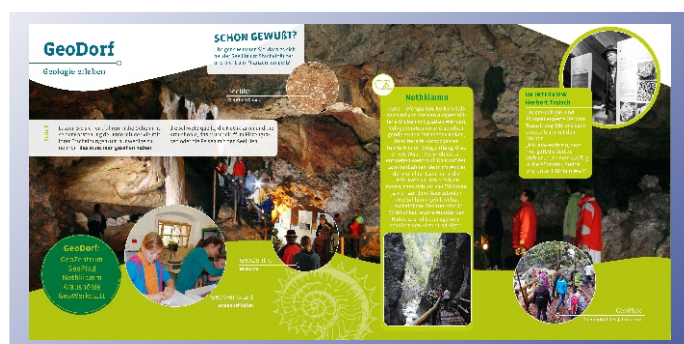
EDEN award for the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark (Ireland)

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark has been named the Irish winner of this year's "European Destination of Excellence - Tourism and Local Gastronomy" (EDEN) award for developing a tourism offering based on their local gastronomy that balances sustaining the local environment with the promotion of viable tourism. The Burren Food trail was launched by the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark with the Burren Ecotourism network in 2013 to attract visitors to the Geopark by showcasing the region's cuisine and providing unique food experiences in the landscape.

New projects and facilities

New external exhibitions in Bohemian Paradise Geopark (Czech Republic)

Bohemian Paradise Geopark has built nine new external exhibitions dedicated to several topics. The Exhibition in Libuň, "How the time went before" presents geological time; the Jilemnice exhibition celebrates the founder of economic geology Prof. F. Pošepný; in Nová Paka visitors are introduced to Palaeozoic forests and their transformation into fossilized wood; the Čistá exhibition shows the products of Palaeozoic volcanic activities; the in Tatobity visitors are reminded of its famous history of quarrying and stonemasonry; in Kacanovy the exhibition introduces sandstones; the exhibition with playground in Olešnice "From sandstone to basalt" shows the geological history of the area and Vyskeř hill presents volcanic activity during the Tertiary Period. A promenade Koberovy Village involving 36 panels helps visitors to locate themselves in the geopark.



Nature and Geopark Eisenwurzen (Austria) - New name and brochure

Geo-tales about the diverse geological heritage of the Geopark, guided geo-tours, 3D pop-up cards depicting ancient landscapes, presentations of erupting volcanoes and an ancient alginite lake, a geo-walk to discover the rocks in the walls and buildings of Kapolcs Village and many other programs enrich the Valley of Arts Cultural Festival between 26. June and 3. August, in the heart of Bakony-Balaton Geopark. The Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate, the leading organization of the Geopark and volunteer geo-tour guides have provided free programs for the festival since 2011.

Hondsrug Geopark (Netherlands): Expedition Gate Forests has been opened.

The Expedition Gate Forests of Geopark de Hondsrug (The Netherlands) at the outdoor centre 'het Boomkroonpad' was opened on the 18th of June 2015. Central is a thrilling adventure and experience trail entitled *De Groene Veder* (the Green Feather). By means of questions, assignments and foraging in the forests around the outdoor centre, the participants learn all there is to know about the variety of forests in the Hondsrug area. In the Hondsrug Geopark there are trees and forests in all shapes and sizes: impressive old forests with old oak trees and beeches, beautiful so called 'Strubben forests' (Strubben are oak bushes with a twisted appearance) at the edge of the heather moorland and the many seemingly endless pine forests.



NW Highlands Geopark (UK) open the Rock Stop pilot Geo-centre at Unapool, Sutherland, Scotland

The Rock Stop is located at Ullapool, where beneath the Assynt Mountains visitors can enjoy spectacular views. The Rock Stop has a café, shop selling locally made crafts and an exhibition telling the story of the landscape. The dramatic panorama which surrounds the Rock Stop combined with the new exhibition provides an unrivalled opportunity to learn how mountains are made. Hosts Helen O'Keefe and Tim Hamlet are on hand to share their passion for rocks with visitors and help unlock the secrets of the spectacular landscape. For further information: www.nwhgeopark.com

The travelling exhibition "The FOREST below the ROAD" in the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, Lesvos Geopark (Greece)

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest presents the travelling exhibition "The FOREST below the ROAD". The exhibition showcases the new discoveries in the Petrified Forest of Lesvos that were unearthed during the construction works of the new Kalloni-Sigri road.

Dozens of fossilized tree trunks were discovered, standing or recumbent and in an excellent state of preservation. Horizons with leaves, branches and tree root systems that were found revealed

a new impressive picture of the ancient forest. The findings are of particularly high scientific and educational value and of great importance for the study of plant fossils. For further information: Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest www.lesvosmuseum.gr, E-mail: lesvopf@otenet.gr, Tel: +30 2251047033



Paiva Wood Walkways : a new Site in Arouca Global Geopark (Portugal)

On 18th June, Arouca Global Geopark launched the Paiva Wood Walkways which are located on the left margin of the Paiva River. On an 8 km trail along the river walkers are , surrounded by beautiful landscapes, where it is possible to discover exceptionnel geology, fauna and flora, in an undisturbed natural area. This Walkway links the river beaches of Areinho and Espiunca and has 9 painels about the biodiversity and geodiversity of this unique valley. Another great site to discover in Arouca Global Geopark under the auspices of UNESCO.

Geoheritage/Bioheritage

Basque Coast Global Geopark (Spain) hosted successfully the XI Spanish National Congress on Geoheritage

This congress under the title of "Geoheritage and Geoparks, Progress in a Common way" was held between the 9th and the 13th of June with the main aim to show the potential of Geoparks to use a holistic approach to working on Geoheritage. More than 150 participants from Spain, Portugal and many countries in South America participated in many of the programmed activities including a complete guided excursion along the Geopark. Organizing this conference has provided great training for hosting the next Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Geoparks Network in spring 2016 and a great opportunity for new collaborations and projects.



Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark (Greece): 2 day workshop on the Biodiversity of the Protected Area

Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark will organize a 2-day workshop in order to disseminate all the results of all the monitoring projects implemented in the area during 2012-2015. The projects "Monitoring of habitat types and species of flora and fauna of Directives 92/43 and 79/409 EEC" refers to assessing, recording and evaluating the conservation status of the habitat types, the endemic and priority species of flora and fauna under the Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and the fauna of Annexes II, IV, V of Directive 92/43, of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park and Geopark. These projects are

implemented by a large network of collaborating research teams from various institutions and Universities in Greece. The results of these studies are crucial for the sustainable management and the future decisions on the conservation measures of the biodiversity of our Geopark.

Meet our European Geoparks



Geopark Idrija (Slovenia): Idrija comes alive with lace during the 34th Idrija Lace Festival

Every year in Idrija Geopark, the summer season events start with the Idrija Lace Festival, which is the largest event of its kind in Slovenia. Over the three days of the festival, which is co-organised by Idrija Geopark, visitors have an opportunity to see exhibitions, and participate in lectures, competitions, workshops, local arts and other associated events. The event is also an opportunity to taste the local food, take part in evening entertainment and even sports events. This year's festival is an introduction to the 17th World OIDA Lace Congress, which will take place next year in Idrija, Ljubljana and other places around Slovenia.

Drifting Apart – Reuniting Our Common Geological Heritage

In June 2015 the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) met partners from Stonehammer Geopark, Reykjanes Aspiring Geopark, Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Geopark Shetland, Magma Geopark and Kenozero National Park to launch an exciting three year, €1.6m Geology Project entitled Drifting Apart. Part-funded through the European Regional Development Fund's Northern Peripheries and Arctic Region Programme, Drifting Apart aims to reconnect the geological heritage of six partner countries. Partners will deliver a series of projects which aim to support geotourism, education and businesses across the project area. Keep up-to-date by visiting www.driftingapart.eu

Cooperation with EGN/GGN



Agenda/Calendar

3rd – 6th Sep. 2015: Annual Conference of the EGN, Rokua Geopark (Finland)