

# EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK



## Geopark Progress Reports

*September 2012- March 2013*

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GEPARK
North West Highlands – SCOTLAND UK
Novohrad-Nógrád - HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA
Réserve Géologique de Haute - Provence – FRANCE
Vikos-Aoos - GREECE

### **Environmental Education Activities**

1. Realization of a new project “At full energy!”, where the children of primary school get to know the importance of sparing energy;
2. Realization of a new project “Protected areas allies for the environment”, in collaboration with all the protected areas of Trentino Province;
3. Project for secondary school (1st degree) “The Geology of the Park” about the Park’s geology and rocks’ classification (14 classes joining);
4. Project for high school “EGN, ABGeopark and geosites”, where the scholars become familiar with the geological heritage where they live and learn the importance of preserving it;
5. Lessons at University of the Third Age about “ABGeopark and EGN”, “Dolomites Unesco WHS”, “Water and landscape of the ABGeopark”, “Firs world war in the ABG” and “Valleys of ABG” (6 Universities joining);
6. New project of 2-3 days hosted in the Park guest house about “ABG, rocks and minerals”;
7. Promotion of the educational programs about geology, geoconservation and environmental themes in all the schools of the Park for the school year 2012-13 (260 schools);
8. Meetings with each Director of the 9 School Institute of the Park to present the Environmental Project;
9. Training of the Park environmental educators about environmental protection;
10. Carrying on of annual exchange between environmental educators of Adamello Brenta, Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino Nature Park, Beigua Geopark, Adamello Lombardo Regional Park and Abruzzo National Park this year in Adamello Brenta;
11. Carrying on of an inter-religious and intercultural project through Europe with the mountains as connection, financed by the Trento Province;

### **Activities of Communication, Diffusion and Promotion of the Geopark**

12. Organization of a congress “Park values, beyond the Park” about the role of the Parks as promoter of local sustainable development;
13. Planning, in cooperation with the local tourism office, of the communication and education activities with geotouristic topic that will take place during the summer;
14. Realization and publication of two guided books about the First World War battled in the mountains of the Geopark: “Memory path in the Adamello Presanella system”;
15. Realization of the calendar-book for 2013 dedicated to water in all its forms (1100 copies);
16. Organization of a 2 days photographic workshop with guided excursion in the Geopark area;
17. Approval of the executive project of the new Geopark’s house and application to the European fund FESR;
18. Participation to the national fair about sustainable tourism as “Ecofiera” in Tione;
19. Publication of several articles about ABGeopark and EGN-GGN on local newspapers / magazines;

**Activities of Conservation, Investigation and Development of the Geopark**

- 20. Renewal of the environmental certification EMAS, on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, till 2016;
- 21. Renewal of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October;
- 22. Attendance at the meeting Alparc in Alti Tauri National Park from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October;

**Activities regarding the European Geoparks Network**

- 23. Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN Meeting in Arouca Geopark (Portugal) in September 2012;
- 24. Participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Geoparks with a presentations about “Environmental education in Adamello Brenta Geopark”;
- 25. Participation to the 4<sup>th</sup> Italian Geoparks Forum in February 2013 in Rome;
- 26. Participation with an oral presentation about the “The occupation and economy as objectives of the Adamello Brenta Geopark” at the conference “Geopark and protected geosites: economy and occupation” held in Piacenza organized by the Italian Society of Environmental Geology with the collaboration of the Egn;
- 27. Participation in the fair “Expo Dolomiti Unesco” 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **Geopark activities**

1. “Apuan Autumn: the colours of the Earth”; fair in Bosa di Careggine and opening of the Geopark Shop (19-21 October)
2. Art exhibition entitled “La Gnòsi delle Fànfole” by Fosco Maraini and presentation of the 2013 Geopark Calendar
3. Submission of a manuscript for an African geoparks network volume of Geoheritage by Springer entitled “Enhancing the geological heritage of the Apuan Alps Geopark (Italy): tangible and intangible assets”
4. Planning activities about “Geological: people, culture and territory”, in cooperation with Medina, Association for cooperation among peoples and in partnership with M’Goun aspiring Geopark (Tadla Azilal, Morocco)
5. “STIGE” Solid Transport Impact on Groundwater Ecosystem: sustainable quarrying and water resource preservation; presentation of a Life+ Environment Policy and Governance project application in collaboration with the Earth Sciences Department of the University of Florence, Serchio River Basin Authority, the Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources of the National Research Council, Helmholtz Zentrum Munchen of the German Research Center for Environmental Health
6. School year 2012-2013: educational project with primary and secondary school “Between environment and tradition: knowledge, learning and doing”
7. “Tasting the Apuan Alps”, competition for the promotion of typical products with a zero-km menu
8. Guided excursion, geoeducation for kids, laboratory in Apuan Alps geosites
9. Agreement between Apuan Alps Geopark and ToscoEmiliano Apennine National Park for starting up the Wolf Centre Apennine
10. Educational Offer 2012-2013: Contest “The Geopark in the exercise book”, collection of poems, stories, interviews, recipes and drawings.
11. Production of promotional roll up about geological heritage of the Geopark
12. Updating Apuan Alps Geopark pages in [www.apuanegeopark.it](http://www.apuanegeopark.it)
13. Updating Apuan Alps Geopark pages in [www.apuaneturismo.it](http://www.apuaneturismo.it)

### **Networking**

1. Attendance at the 4<sup>th</sup> Italian Geopark Forum in Rome
2. Attendance at the 31<sup>th</sup> EGN Coordination Committee Meeting, hosted by Unesco, Paris, (France)
3. Article “ApuanGeoLab: an educational window on the Earth Sciences”, EGN Magazine n. 10
4. Article about Apuan Alps Geopark in Italian Geoparks Book

### **Activities by Partners**

1. Hiking trails map of the Geopark by Marco Barbieri ([www.slowmaps.it](http://www.slowmaps.it)), downloadable free of charge from our web sites. The map includes the most important geosites, the museums and all the facilities of the Geopark with relative links.
2. Educational book about speleology “La speleologia per grandi e piccini – le grotte delle Apuane”  
ISBN 978-88-97157-15-1
3. Contest “Christmas Crib in the cave”, organized by Corchia Underground System

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### **Geopark Activities**

1. Providing broad media publicity in respect to EGN and GGN membership awarded during the 11th European Geoparks Conference. Informing the 151 local governments of the Geopark and the partner organisations, October 2012.
2. Placing the logos of the EGN and GGN on all of the online media managed by the leading organisation (websites, Facebook pages), October 2012.
3. Setup of online calendar for geotours, geoevents. Start of uploading English content of the bakony-balaton-geopark.hu website, October 2012.
4. Official correspondence with EGN and GGN: announcement of delegates and their substitute, finalising the borderline of the Geopark, October 2012.
5. Announcement in all elementary schools of the Geopark and involvement of 68 teams in the Bakony–Balaton Geopark Contest, October–November 2012, February–March 2013.
6. Promotion of the Geopark during the event 'Earth Science Whirl' (Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary, Budapest), November 2012.
7. Two day long meeting of the geological experts of the Hungarian national park directorates and of the Ministry of Rural Development, oral presentation about the Geopark, visit to a few key sections and geotrails, November 2012.
8. Setup of the Bakony–Balaton Geopark Group, as an independent organisational unit, signature of the Organisational and Operational By-law by the Minister of the Ministry of Rural Development, December 2012.
9. Setup of the Annual Action Plan of the Geopark, December 2012.
10. Consultation with the staff of the Ministry of Rural Development about declaring geological key sections and fossil remain localities protected, January 2013.
11. Delivering opinion regarding the Regional Development Concept of Veszprém county, including Bakony–Balaton Geopark in the document, January 2013.
12. Promotional brochure with logo and main features of interpretive sites of the Geopark (250,000 copies, in English and Hungarian). Distribution: National Tourism Fair in Budapest, 15 interpretive sites, partners, February 2013
13. Promotional flyer including logo and map of the Geopark (100,000 copies), February 2013
14. Elimination of waste on the area of the strictly protected 'Sea of Stones' of Kővágóörs, February 2013.
15. Nature conservational reconstruction of Lóczy Cave; development of a new, energy saving lighting system, February 2013.
16. Finalising the cooperation agreements of the geotour-guides, March 2013.



17. Displaying the new logo of the leading organisation on the promotional surfaces of the Bakony–Balaton Geopark, March 2013.

18. Employing a new member (a trained and experienced geotour-guide) of the Geopark Group within the framework of public employment, March 2013.

### **Networking**

19. Participation in the 11th European Geoparks Conference. Oral presentation: 'Courses for geotour-guides and a new geological visitor centre in the aspiring Bakony–Balaton Geopark, Hungary', September 2012.

20. 'Conservation of Geological Assets', a 32 page long brochure, as part of a project for the protection of abiotic natural assets, supported by the EU, October 2012.

21. Geopark IDcard to the UNESCO, articles about the Geopark: in the EGN Magazine No 10; in common publications of the Hungarian National Tourist Office and the Ministry of Rural Development: 'Enjoy naturally! Welcoming National Parks', On Green Ways in Hungary; a PR article about active tourism possibilities in the Geopark on the website of the Hungarian National Tourist Office; 'Novohrad–Nógrád Geopark, Bakony–Balaton Geopark and the EGN Week' in Természetbúvár Magazine), October 2012; February, March 2013.

22. Professional visit and discussion of cooperation possibilities in Novohrad–Nógrád Geopark, November 2012.

23. Announcement of the 'Geological Asset of the Bakony–Balaton Geopark in 2013', assigned to the Úrkút Palaeokarst Nature Conservation Area in Úrkút, January 2013.

24. Launch of the image film of the Balaton-felvidéki National Park on YouTube, Facebook and web pages, including logo and sites of Geopark. Advertisement about geotourism in the Geopark in the Atlas of the National Blue Hiking Trail, March 2013.

### **Activity by Partners**

25. Discussion with the mayor of Veszprém town about the possibilities of utilising the geotourism potential of the county seat (e.g. interpretive boards), October 2012.

26. Discussion with service provider Forrás Guest House about cooperation possibilities, preparing the agreement, October 2012.

27. Organising the saving of sandstone boulders discovered in a sand pit of Salföld, preparation of a new stone park in cooperation with the local quarrying company, the local government and local civil organisation, December 2012.

28. Discussion with the vice mayor of Várpalota town and local tourism experts concerning the geotourism development of the Várpalota Sand Pit Nature Conservation Area, January 2013.

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## Geopark activities

- Agreement for researching with UPV-EHU Basque University. 2012 continuation of “medieval iron industry in the Basque coast Geopark “ and two new research lines in 2013 related to the landscape evolution in the Quaternary. One research about sea level variation and the other one about karst valleys.
- Geological Interest Sites Inventory. 54 sites inventoried in the Geopark following a contrasted methodology based on: intrinsic value, the potentiality of tourist and informative use and vulnerability of those sites.
- Geopark cartographic map.
- Geopark newsletter. Sent by post to all homes of Geopark with latest news of Geopark. The aim is to raise the awareness of the population.
- Tourism Promotion in ITB Berlin with other members of EGN. 3<sup>Rd</sup> award NGO best exhibitor.
- Public presentation of the Geopark Interpretation Plan. This Plan defines the main topics will be interpreted in the Geopark, puts in order tourism resources and proposes the building of new ones.
- Recovery of intangible heritage. 3 videos with old people testimonies about Geopark interest subjects (sea, rocks, traditions, euskara language...)
- Promotional video of the Geopark to show at fairs, tourism offices, social networks, etc.
- Nautilus Interpretation Centre Guide. Explanation about the flysch and Ammonite fossils.
- Participation in Euskadi Enogastronomy cluster with all involved agents (producers, restaurants, lodging, food industries, etc.)
- Geopark local products Pack for selling at tourism offices, with cheese, wine, cider, handmade canned tuna.
- Primary Sector Revitalization Courses to promote alliances among producers and other activities like restaurants.. to increase the value of the products.
- Eastern tourism promotion of the Geopark in many different media (press, radio, magazines...)
- Preparation of the Guided Visit Tours new season (2013), more than 20 different guided tours classified in three topics: flysch route, karst route and culture.
- Geoconservation: Selandian Stratotype cleaning after a landslide.

## Networking

1. Continue with Spanish Geoparks Fora meeting in order to achieve the support of the Spanish authorities participating in UNESCO Science Committee Executive Council. Meeting in International Tourism Fair in Madrid (january)

2. Geoempleo Project meeting celebrated in Madrid in february with 13 spanish participants regions.
3. Participation in II Basque Geodiversity Conference in Bilbao. Two communications and field trip to Basque Coast Geopark.
4. EGN magazine Issue 10. article "The importance of geological Research for a high quality geotouristic programme"
5. Set up the Geopark Euskera Commission among three participants towns to develop common projects to promote Euskara language in the Geopark
6. Publication of the article of the 8 spanish geoparks in Quercus nature magazine.
7. Geopark rural development agencies are carrying out a project to promote rural development through the promotion of local food products among other ten territories in Catalonia, Balearic and Basque Country.
8. Local Development Agency (Debegesa) is representing the Geopark in Basque Coast Project leaded by Basque Government.
9. Advising task for two aspiring geoparks: El Hierro (Canary Islands) and Menorca (Balearic Islands).

### Activity by Partners

- UPV-EHU Basque University Thesis about the Karst in the Geopark
- Research among Southampton University, IGME (Spanish Geological and Mining Institute) and Geopark Scientific Director about "Flysch outcrop deformation" the results will be published in "Journal of Structural geology" magazine
- Thesis: "Investing the mechanisms which drive the ciclostratigraphy of the turbidite sediments in te Campanian of Zumaia (Basque Country). Stephan Fit. **Vrge Universiteit Amsterdam**:
- Project leaded by **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** : "Developing a new postextinction model for the Cretaceous-Paleogene Mass Extintion Event" Roger Summons, Julio Sepulveda, Marie Giron, Hedi Negra, Marwa Boaroumi and Laia Alegret.
- **Geological Time Scale** intenational work team has lead the project to measure the last 100 million years of the Earth "Cyclostratigraphy and astronomical tuning of the Late Maastrichtian at Zumaia (Basque country, Northern Spain)" by Batenburg, Sietske J.; Sprovieri, Mario; Gale, Andrew S.; Hilgen, Frederik J.; Hüsing, Silja; Laskar, Jacques; Liebrand, Diederik; Lirer, Fabrizio; Orue-Etxebarria, Xabier; Pelosi, Nicola; Smit, Jan.

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## **GEO PARK ACTIVITIES**

### **General**

1. English course for the Geopark team. September 2012 to July 2013.
2. Opening of the “Butterflies trail”. Cruet, September 2012.
3. Pastoral farming event. Marthod, October 2012.
4. Edition of the guide for winter activities in the thematic houses, animations on heritages and arts, October 2012.
5. Day of the Night. Light pollution, night birds, bats. St François de Sales, 13th October 2012.
6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Eductour Geopark for touring operators, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
7. “Share the Lake Annecy”, geological story of the lake, ways of water, landscape interpretation. 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
8. “Grand Bivouac” festival, aromatic and medicinal flora, vineyards, geology. Albertville, 26-28<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
9. “Plant the landscape”, local plants selling and information, 9-10<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
10. Geopark laureate of a national contest for a forest biodiversity project (50 000 €), December 2012.
11. 2013 budget approval, executive board, December 2012.
12. “Launch of the “The fourteen 2000 m summits” documentary, December 2012.
13. Launch of the water-spring study with local communities, December 2012.
14. Master plan “winter outdoor activities and nature conservation”, new website, <http://www.respecter-cest-protger.fr/>. January 2013.
15. Participation to the first advisory committee for the “Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps”, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lyon, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013.
16. Additional geological mediation in the thematic house, March 2013.
17. Participation in the regional hiking show. Lyon, 22- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013.
18. “Owls Night”, Ecole, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013
19. “Cutting and grafting day”, orchards animation. St Ours, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

### **Education activities**

20. Schools Educational Program 2012-2013, September 2012.
21. Indiana Mômes, 1 000 school children discovered geology and dinosaurs 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.
22. Local guides training on geology. 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

## **NETWORKING**

23. Leader cooperation on geotourism between Arouca, Luberon and Bauges Geoparks, training-action for the tourism partners, geotourism. November 2012 - March 2013.
24. Welcome of a delegation from Altaï Republic: meeting with the Savoie University (Tempus Project), day-work on a Geopark project in Altaï. 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
25. Constitutive assembly of the association Alpine Network of Protected Areas. Pralognan la Vanoise, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013.
26. Welcome of a delegation from Altaï Republic: Geopark project in Altaï and tourism project for the Lake Teletskoye (UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site). Le Châtelard, 13-14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.
27. Participation to the EGN committee meeting. UNESCO, Paris 20-22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.

## **ACTIVITIES BY PARTNERS**

28. Gourmet round", Christmas local products promotion, Gate-town. Chambery, 21-23<sup>th</sup> December 2012.
29. "Christmas market", local products promotion, Gate-town. Annecy, 30<sup>th</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2012.
30. Application for a Tempus Project : Portugal-Russia-France-Germany, "e-net Master on sustainable development applied to Russian mountain regions" Savoy University, March 2013.
31. Internship on canyons, improving geosites database on territory. March-April 2013.

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### **EGN – GGN activities**

1. Attendance at the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN – AC and CC Meeting in Arouca Geopark (Portugal) on September 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2012
2. Attendance at the 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference in Arouca Geopark (Portugal) on September 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2012
3. Contacting the Italian Permanent Delegation for UNESCO in Paris before the 191<sup>o</sup> UNESCO Executive Board (October 2012)
4. Acting as Coordinator (Maurizio Burlando) of the National Forum of Italian Geoparks
5. Organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Forum of Italian Geoparks in Rome 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012
6. Attendance at the Workshop “Towards the Somma Vesuvius Geopark” on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Ercolano, Naples (oral presentation about the European Geoparks and the National Forum)
7. Submission of the Activity Progress Report September 2012 – March 2013 in order to produce the total EGN Progress Report to be published in EGN web-site and to be discussed during the 31<sup>st</sup> EGN CC Meeting in Paris (France)
8. Preparation of the 31<sup>st</sup> EGN – AC and CC Meeting in Paris - UNESCO (France) on March 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013
9. Collaboration with the Italian Geoparks to organize the display roll-ups for 31<sup>st</sup> EGN – AC and CC Meeting in Paris - UNESCO (France) on March 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013
10. Collaboration with the Italian Geoparks to set the new official web site of Italian Geoparks ([www.geoparchitaliani.it](http://www.geoparchitaliani.it))
11. Collaboration with the Italian Geoparks to set the new official Facebook profile of Italian Geoparks (Geoparchi Italiani)
12. Collaboration with the Italian Geoparks to published the new official book on “Geoparchi Italiani - Italian Geoparks”

### **Geopark events and progress**

13. Monitoring visitors attendance along the trails network of Beigua Geopark
14. Working on the geo-archeological inventory of rupestrian inscriptions in the Beigua Geopark area
15. Working about the project (given to the Beigua Geopark by the Liguria Regional Administration) of inventorying the Geosites of the whole Liguria Region territory

16. Joining the national initiative “Earth Planet Week – Settimana del Pianeta Terra” organized by the Italian Federation of Earth Sciences (14th – 21st October 2012)
17. Regular programmes of walks and guided tours have been realized in Autumn 2012 and Winter 2013
18. Organization of educational activities in the frame of the 10<sup>th</sup> Science Festival – Genoa 23<sup>rd</sup> October - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012
19. Educational programs for schools about geology and geoconservation in Beigua Geopark - with some special activities about natural risks and hazards – have been realized in Beigua Geopark during Autumn 2012 and Winter 2013
20. Two new issues of the “Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark” newsletter (readable in the web-site too) has been published and distributed in October 2012 (Autumn) and January 2013 (Winter). They contain articles about projects, activities and future plans; special features were dedicated to the Geopark territory and his highlights, EGN and GGN, etc.  
([http://www.parcobeigua.it/gui\\_dettaglio.php?id\\_pubb=3881](http://www.parcobeigua.it/gui_dettaglio.php?id_pubb=3881))
21. Electronic monthly newsletter of the “Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark” (downloadable by the web site). It contains articles on activities, promotional offers and special features about the Geopark area  
(<http://www.parcobeigua.it/newsletter.php?arc=beiguanews>)
22. Publication of several articles about Beigua Geopark and EGN-GGN on local newspapers/magazine and national reviews
23. Publication of the 2011 Beigua Geopark Activities Annual Report, collaborating with the Liguria Regional Administration
24. Publication of a new guide-book about Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark about the more interesting species and habitat of the area, March 2013
25. Publication of a new 2012/2013 catalogue for educational and tourism activities for schools
26. Local meetings and workshops to raise public awareness about nature conservation and sustainable development, supported by Regional funds
27. Restoration of several thematic path trails and picnic green areas.
28. Monitoring project to survey the path trails system of Beigua Geopark through GPS in order to update the path trails map and to print a new version of it

### **Activities by others Organizations**

29. Field works and researches in Beigua Geopark leaded by the Environment and Earth Sciences Department of the University of Genoa in October – December 2012
30. Field trips and sports activities by local organizations (CAI, FIE, UISP, Canyoning Ass., etc)

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**1. September 2012**

- National Day of the Geotope: Presentation of the “Geotope of the Year”
- Presentation of BankArt project together with the International Forest Association and the artist Jems Kokoby (Cote Ivory)
- Geopark Rangers on Hessen TV
- 4<sup>th</sup> WFMConference, Romania: presentation of cooperation with Global Geopark Mt. Lushan and International Forest Art
- Participation with lectures in the 5<sup>th</sup> Intensive Course on Geopark Management, Global Geopark Lesvos

**2. October 2012**

- Cooperation workshop with Bioversum information centre: wild herbs and mushrooms - collecting and cooking
- Meetings with Geopark on site-guides
- Conception meeting for Wine and Culture hiking trail
- Opening of Geopark trail “accessible for all”
- Certificate for co-founder of “Geopark on the farm”
- Outdoor programme for the University of Frankfurt

**3. November 2012**

- Opening of Geopark photo exhibition
- Meeting of Geopark Member Communities
- Workshop for Geopark on site-guides Heidelberg
- Meeting of National Geoparks
- Completion of the Geopark thematic trail “Roman Roads”
- Ranger training for development of accessible- for- all programs
- Geopark conception for new geopark information centre Hirschhorn
- Tourism award for Geopark group of “Burghardt Gymnasium Buchen”
- Publication of regional book “Der Melibokus”
- Certificate for new Geopark on site group (Weschnitztal)

**4. December 2012**

- Meetings with Geopark on site-guides
- Planning of new Geopark on site-trainings
- Preparation of Geopark magazine 1-2013



## **5. January 2013**

- Geopark Ranger on Hessen TV
- Publication of Geopark magazine 1-2013
- Conception meeting for Geopark day
- Geopark photo exhibition: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of county Bergstrasse
- Meeting of Geopark Rangers
- Questionnaire based survey of all geopark on site guides after 10 years of operation of the geopark on site program
- Start of a new geopark training, in cooperation with the federal agency for cultural heritage preservation and the regional tourism agency: "roman remains in our region and their links to landscape and earth history"
- Opening of new Geopark MTB trails

## **6. February 2013**

- Planning of Geopark honey locations 2013
- Conception of EGN week 2013
- Planning of Hessian Nature Park hiking day
- Conception meeting photo exhibition Geopark
- Meeting related to new "Geopoints"
- Completion of the first audio-guide on landscape development and earth history for the geopark region

## **7. March 2013**

- Start of new Geopark on site-training
- Conception of Geo- Site interpretation
- General assembly of Geopark Member Local Authorities
- Activity Day for Geopark on site guides
- Start of a new geopark training: "geopark on site with bikes"
- Publication of new information brochures (Geopark on site, Youth campfire places)

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Environmental Education:

1. **Geo-Schools:** 420 students visited the “House of the Volcanoes” in the program “Learning to Read the Stones” from September to March.
2. **“Collaborator enterprises educational program”:** several enterprises conducted educational programs to the Geopark and to the House of the Volcanoes.
3. **“El Albardinal” Botanic Garden.** One of the most visited centre in Andalusia’s Botanical Garden Network.
4. **Educational programs in Cabo de Gata:** “Nature for all”, “Andalusia in its Parks” and “Open days”.
5. **Geopark and educators:** Geopark attended the *educator centre* in the Province for a field course.
6. **Collaboration with universities:** The Geopark manages all the permits to national, EU and outside EU universities in their field trips and research projects, providing assistance and guidance.

Communication, Diffusion and Promotion of the Geopark:

1. **XXV anniversary of the Natural Park:**
  - a. Logo and design contest for the XXV anniversary
  - b. Reserve of the Biosphere and geopark exhibition
  - c. Diffusion of the Natural Park, Reserve of the Biosphere and Geopark in Exclusive Magazine (El Corte Inglés Magazine), Quercus (most relevante environmental magazine in Spain), Novapolis (science magazine) airport publicity, etc.
  - d. Coastal Areas Management Project (CAMP) The project coordinated from Cabo de Gata-Níjar held several meetings, workshops and finally ended in February 2013
  - e. “Reflexiones en el Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar” XXV Natural Park anniversary book, with more than 50 writers (including authors from the EGN)
  - f. XXV anniversary flash drive with a digital collection of publications.
  - g. Painting contest in the Natural Park
1. **Creation of the Natural Park’s Steering Committee Awards**
2. **Andalusia’s Natural Protected Areas Network and GEOBIO Newsletter.** Andalusia’s newsletters dedicated to geodiversity, biodiversity and Geoparks.
3. **Filming:** The Geopark manages all the permits to conduct filming in the area.
4. **Events:** numerous exhibitions during the year hosted in the Geopark facilities.

Activities of Conservation, Investigation and Development in the Geopark:

1. **REDIAM:** Andalusia Environmental Information Network allows to reach environmental information regarding the Geopark.

2. **Flora and Fauna management program.** Investigation, census and management of terrestrial and marine flora and fauna.
3. **“El Albardinal” Botanic Conservation Programme:** On-going project that updates the threatened flora data base and collect seeds for the flora nursery.
4. **ECST.** The ECST and the Geopark strengthen its collaboration and contact with the enterprises.
5. **CAMP.** The Coastal Areas Management Project develops its work and courses with the Geopark territorio as its main target.
6. **Full Geosites review.** The Geopark reviewed the full network of Geosites with a more interpretative approach in order to use it with the collaborator enterprises.
7. **Environmental impact study in the Geopark.**

Activities related with the European Geoparks Network:

1. **Attendance to 30th EGN Coordination Committee and Conference in Arouca**
2. **EGN logo for enterprises.** Cabo de Gata-Níjar in coordination with Andalusian Geoparks is developing a strategy to support local enterprises that ask for the use of the EGN logo.
3. **Participation in “MedPAN” call for small projects to develop Geo-Submarine routes.**
4. **Geoemployment project:** along with the spanish geoparks and several partners, this project works toward a strategy to use geodiversity as a source of employment.
5. **Spanish Geoparks Forum.** Since March 2012 Cabo de Gata-Níjar is the coordinator of ths Spanish Forum of Geoparks. The main achievements of the forum were:
  - a. Obtain the support from the Ministry of Foreigh Affairs and Environmental Ministry.
  - b. Spanish forum meeting at FITUR, (Villuercas Íbores Jara Geopark facilities). The Forum gain a high degree of visibility with the visit of the Goverment of Canary island and Extremadura Autonomous Community.
  - c. Attendance of the General Secretariar of Unesco of Spain to the Forum.
  - d. First article of Geoparks in a national wide magazine at **Quercus** magazine, the most relevant environmental magazine included, with a 11 page article.
6. **EGN Corner:** reviewing of the EGN corner.
7. **Andalusian Geoparks coordination.** Coordination work with Subbeticas Geopark and Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.
8. **Consultancy for “Grutas de Palacio Geopark project”** In november 2012 Cabo de Gata-Níjar assisted Grutas de Palacio Geopark project in Uruguay.

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#### Public lectures

- "Geology and time"; March 2012
- "Meteors – a cosmic danger?"; April 2012
- "Petroleum – the black gold"; June 2012
- "Climate change"; June 2012

#### Film productions

- TV Report about the "GeoPark Carnic Alps", duration: 3-4 minutes; June 2012
- Imagefilm "GeoPark Carnic Alps", duration: 5 minutes; August 2012
- TV-Report about the Gailtal Alps and its geology, duration: 45 minutes; September 2012
- Servus TV Film in the series "Urgewalten" ("Ur-Forces") about "The wild Gail River", June 15, 2012

#### Projects

Excavation of the petrified tress of Laas, September 2012

#### **Networking**

##### Universities

- Master thesis "Geotrails in the GeoPark Carnic Alps – didactic reconception and implementation", Marlene Tillian 2012; function of the geopark Carnic Alps: assistance
- Bachelor thesis "The Lower Permian petrified tree trunks in the Drauzug near Laas (Carinthia)", Johanna Kothe, September 2012; function of the geopark Carnic Alps: assistance

##### Schools

"LIVINGSTONES" – a cross-border school project between Austria and Italy. In the frame of the Interreg IV-Project LIVINGSTONE four school classes from the Province of Carinthia, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto participated in the project. It included mutual visits, excursions and a list of performing duties for each school which finally resulted in a joint publication of two brochures. The final event took place in Italy in April 2012.

Function of geopark Carnic Alps: lead partner

##### Touristic organisations

- "Nature Experience" – a LEADER project (2010-2013) which promotes the experience of nature and strengthens the cooperation between tourism and nature protection areas. Partners are all national parks, nature protection areas and geoparks of Carinthia as well as their regional touristic organisations and the touristic head organization of Carinthia (Kärnten Werbung Marketing & Innovationsmanagement GesmbH).

Function of geopark Carnic Alps: project partner; development of touristic packages and one day programmes

- Press Conference to promote the new Geotrails; held together with the regional touristic agency "Naturarena Kärnten"; June 2012
- Cooperation with tourist board of Lesachtal to install the Millnatzen Gorge iron-rope trail and geological panels along the tour.

Homepage [www.Geopark-Karnische-Alpen.at](http://www.Geopark-Karnische-Alpen.at)

- Additional category under item “Geologie” with listing and locating of more than 100 fossil localities from the Ordovician to the end-Permian on Google Earth including references, short descriptions and photos.
- English translation of the German text. Implementation and revision of old version will be available during the next months.

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### **Geopark activities**

1. Awarding of the membership to the EGN – GGN. September 2012.
2. XII International Congress on geological and mining heritage (Manresa). September 2012. Oral and poster communication from authors from the geopark and many partners.
3. Meeting of the Scientific Committee. Discussion and approval of the 2012 period and the scientific activity proposal for 2013. November 2012.
4. TV documentary of the Geopark in the Spanish television (TVE 2). Recorded on July, 2102. Broadcasted, November 2012.
5. Plan for economic viability for incorporating the “Ecorrail” as a geoactivity. December 2012.
6. Geo-environmental field trips for all-ages across the Geopark. Organized by the Museum of Geology Valentí Masachs. January 2013.
7. Approval of the public prices for the merchandising of the Geopark. January 2013.
8. The Geopark of Central Catalonia became a new headquarter in the Barcelona province for the 4<sup>th</sup> Olympics of Geology. The competition tests were held in the EPSEM building in Manresa thanks to an agreement with the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). February 2013.
9. Scientific advice and support to companies, partners of the Geopark, for creating new geoactivities. February 2013.
10. Promotion of the Geopark in the County Council Magazine. February 2013.
11. Oral communication titled “Geoparks. A new boost to the territory, a new opportunity for Geology”, at the University of Lleida (Catalonia). March 2013.
12. Guided visit for the catalan winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Olympics of Geology. Visit to different Geopark visitor centres and to a mining company, partner of the Geoparc. March 2013.
13. Edition of new leaflets, as a Geopark, also in English and French. In process.

### **Networking**

14. Oral communication titled “The Valentí Maschs Geological Museum. The link between minerals and rocks and their everyday use” at the 11<sup>th</sup> EGN Conference, Arouca (Portugal). September 2012.
15. Article “The Geopark of Central Catalonia” for the EGN Magazine, #10.

16. Collaboration with the project of the Geopark's fossils book. In process, 2012-13.

17. Participation, within the Spanish Forum of Geoparks with the elaboration of an article for *Quercus*, a Spanish nature magazine. Edited February 2013.

18. Cooperation with the Fangshan Global Geopark, by sending them a picture for a museum. Agreement with an association of amateur photographers from the Geopark. March 2013.

### **Activity by partners**

19. Realization of the geological map 1:50.000 of the Geopark by the Geological Institute of Catalonia.

20. The County Council assisted to the meeting of the European Innovation Partnership on Water in Brussels. December 2013.

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### Geopark Activities

1. Presentation of the EGN-GGN and Geopark Chablais to Madam Sylvia Pinel, Minister in charge of Tourism *Yvoire, September 27, 2013*
2. Oral communication on «The time and the geology» by Dr. Danielle Decrouez, geologist, *Saturday 6 October, Sciez - Théâtre du Guidou*
3. «Geology and heritage» training program for local heritage guides and mountain leaders of the Chablais Geopark. *From 11 till 26 October*
4. Oral communication on «Schist Gaz» by Dr. Jean Sesiano, University de Geneva. *Saturday, December 1st, 2012, Sciez - Théâtre du Guidou.*
5. Exhibition on " Glacial Heritages of the Chablais». *From Monday, January 7th till Saturday, March 30th - Espace Grangette (Thonon).*
6. Amnagement of 23 géosites of Chablais : The arrangements of the first one of 23 sites began. *January 7th, 2013.*
7. Oral communication on «Chablais, a box with geologic ideas?» by Pr. Gilles Borel, Director of Cantonal museum of geology - Lausanne. *Saturday, January 19th, 2013 - Château de Ripaille (Thonon).*
8. Validation of the budget 2013 of Geopark Chablais by the council of the SIAC. *January 31st, 2013*
9. Oral communication on «Presentation of Chablais Geopark»by Anne Guyomard- *Monday, January 21st, Sciez - Théâtre du Guidou.*
10. Validation of the texts of 6 géosites of Chablais by the scientific council of the Geopark, or of 81 panels of interpretation - *Wednesday, February 20th.*
11. Presentation of furnitures 23 remarkable geosites of Geopark at the communities of Chablais before installation from May, 2013 till December, 2013. *February 26th, 2013*
12. Attribution of public contract "Geologic map simplified of the Chablais" Release of the map spring, 2014 - *Attribution on March 7th, 2013*
13. Attribution of public contract of assistance to the geotouristic communication strategy of Geopark Chablais. - *Attribution on March 7th, 2013*

### Networking

14. Participation in the 11th european Geoparks Conference – Arouca, 2012 . Oral Communication. (1) Analysis and conclusions from a structured geoscience teaching methodology, Chablais Geopark, France. (2) The Village of Montriond, sustainable development in partnership with the Chablais Geopark, France. (3) The developing partnership between the "Portes du Soleil" and the Chablais Geopark, France.



15. Validation of the inter-partnership agreement (convention) of Geopark Français by the council of the SIAC of January 31st, 2013 authorizing the president of the SIAC to sign the definitive convention.
16. Letter of financing application to the council department of Haute-Savoie, in the framework a new Tourism Plan, for supporting geotourism development of the Bauges and Chablais Geoparks . Letter signed jointly by the Presidents of the Bauges and the Chablais.
17. HINT – cooperation
  - Participation in the 11th european Geoparks Conference – Arouca, 2012 . Oral Communication. Heritage interpretation using new technologies. R.Barton<sup>1\*</sup>, D. Cooper<sup>1</sup>, A.Guyomard<sup>2</sup>, S.Justice<sup>2</sup>, P.Samson<sup>3</sup>, E. Pickett<sup>3</sup>, C.Posthumus<sup>4</sup> & Dirk Jan Lekkerkerker<sup>4</sup>
  - Publication : Cayla N., Guyomard A., Le projet "HINT" (Heritage interpretation through new technologies, Une coopération internationale au service de la valorisation des géopatrimoines. Ann. Soc. Géol. du Nord. T. 19 (2ème série), p. 75-80, Octobre 2012.
  - Translation in French of the web site HINT. On-line publishing of the French version planned in spring, 2013 <http://www.hintproject.eu/>
  - On-line publishing of the discovery of the geologic heritage of Chablais on the GR5 (hiking trail crossing Chablais). <http://www.hintproject.eu>

### Activity by Partners

18. Creation of the association "Thétis Chablais" including mountain leaders and local heritage guides of the Geopark Chablais. Implementation of a working partnership between Geopark Chablais and the association.

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## **Geopark Activities**

1. The process of actions "Informing the public" and "Informational material" for implementing of the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park " which is included in the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development, is in the final stage in order both actions be implemented.
2. Maintenance and enhancement of the path 'Kalavrita town-Ski Center "in the Geopark region, in collaboration with the Natural Mineral Water AVRA and ARKTOUROS non-governmental organization.
3. Creation of scientific library of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body, in which there are many books on the geological wealth of our region. The action is included in the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" of the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development.
4. Implementation of the project "Inventory of water resources and promotion geodiversity of the protected area". The action is included in the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" of the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development.
5. Meeting: "The protection of Platanos orientalis from the disease of metachromatic ulcer" was held at the Environmental Education Center Kleitoria – Akrata, on December 19, 2012. The event was attended by students from local schools, teachers, parents and the local community.
6. 423 pupils and 59 teachers from 17 schools participated in the exhibition of the Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark.

## **Networking**

7. Participation in the EGN CC Meeting - 11th EGN Conference - Arouca Geopark - September 2012.

## **Activity by Partners**

8. The Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark participated in delegation of the Greek Geoparks Forum which was met on September 9, 2012 in Athens, at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the office of the Greek National Commission of

UNESCO Geoparks seeking support from the Greek National Commission of UNESCO.

The Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body's actions are included in the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" of the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development 2007-2013.

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**Geopark Activities.**

1. We had a successful programme of geographical investigations for secondary schools, especially before Christmas.
2. We continue to build our relationship with primary schools in the wider area – with both visits to schools and visits by schools to beaches and the Centre.
3. Our Christmas Fair took place in early December – the first time in our newly refurbished Centre – very successful.
4. The café in the centre was open daily until Christmas with a small but steady stream of visitors. There is an informal exhibition of local history and geology.
5. Women's' Group runs a "Needle Natters" knitting session in the Centre each Tuesday.
6. Weekly Yoga classes for the local community.
7. Hands-on Science birthday party hosted.
8. Visit by students of post-graduate heritage-tourism course run by neighbouring InterReg "Hercules" project.
9. Visit by Oxford Geological Association & Cork Geological Association – tour of Copper Coast + visit to Copper Coast Centre.
10. Visits by Waterford Leader Partnership directors.
11. Hosted dinner party for our Twinning friends from Gams, Austria.
12. Various groups have used our new Centre to host fund-raising and charity events – raising the EGN profile in the locality.
13. Hosted one day forum on Water Power – 'From Ice to Hydro', hosted by Metal Links InterReg project. Historical use of water power in former metal mining communities in Wales and Ireland.
14. Making of series of short films, "Miners of the Copper Coast", illustrating the lifestyle of miners and their families on what is now known as the

Copper Coast, during the peak of mining of activity. To be shown to visitors to the Geopark Centre. Where possible local people took part in the making of the movies. Funded as part of the Metal Links project.

15. Special evening to show “Miners of the Copper Coast” to locals, participants and their families, in the Geopark Centre.
16. Irish premiere of film made locally about an artist who lived locally – Edith Collier.
17. Presentations to local community groups about the Geoparks Network – what geoparks are and their value to communities.
18. Interacting on various projects with D.F.B.A. community enterprise group relating to heritage and environment.
19. Development of “Anne Valley Walk”

#### **Networking.**

20. Irish Geoparks Forum - one conference at the Causeway Coast and two meetings in Dublin at G.S.I.
21. Participated in 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference, in Arouca.  
Presentation – “Copper Coast Geopark – visualising Mountain to Sea in 3D”.
22. Article in EGN magazine – about developing the Copper Coast Geopark Centre.

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**1. UK Geoparks Forum and Geopark tour for UK National Commission for UNESCO** As Chair of the UK Global Geoparks Forum (UKGGF), Melanie Border has been working over the last months to secure a positive relationship with, and the support of, the UK UNESCO National Commission (UKNC) for Geoparks. The English Riviera Global Geopark hosted the UKGGF meeting on the Thurs 7 March with a Geopark tour occurring the following day on Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March. Both James Bridge – Chief Executive, and Ian White – Senior Policy and Communications Officer for the UK National Commission for UNESCO attended the meeting and Dr Beth Taylor Director Natural Sciences Portfolio, UK National Commission for UNESCO joined delegates for the Geopark tour. The delegates enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of 12<sup>th</sup> C Torre Abbey currently undergoing major restoration, Royal Terrace Gardens, a tour of Kents Cavern, the Paignton Geoplay Park and Berry Head National Nature Reserve. The Geoplay Park on Paignton seafront was an eye-opener for the delegates, a pioneering and unique example of geological heritage being used to bring real benefits to a local community. Children from Paignton's Curledge Street Academy performed the English Riviera Global Geopark songs about volcanoes and rocks. Some verses were even sung in Japanese, demonstrating that the Geopark brings a real sense of "one-planet" to Torbay and to our children. This was a big moment for us. Not only did we have all the other UK Geoparks visiting but national level representatives from UK National Commission for UNESCO, Natural England, British Geological Survey, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales and others. The tour provided the opportunity to showcase not only our outstanding natural environment but the tangible examples of how Torbay has used its Global Geopark designation to attraction significant capital investment funding into the Bay. Unfortunately due to an urgent meeting of the UNESCO Executive Board being called in Paris the UK's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Matthew Sudders was unable to attend at the last minute however we have already been informed that the Ambassador has been fully briefed regarding the visit and we have received very positive feedback from the UK National Commission. Photo's of the visit can be seen here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.496976250338054.1073741826.258946804141001&type=3>

**2. 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks** In October 2012, Nick Powe presented the potential of the English Riviera Global Geopark holding the 2016 Global Geoparks Conference at the Mayors Events Forum. Local Authority clearance has subsequently been approved for the English Riviera Global Geopark to bid to host the conference with Torbay Council as the led body. An initial expression of interest submitted to UNESCO HQ in Paris was well received. A 2016 committee has been formed including Geopark / Torbay Council /Torbay Development Agency / Riviera International Conference Centre / English Riviera Tourism Company representation. It is

planned for a Torbay Development Agency project manager to be assigned to work on the bid reporting to the Geopark Coordinator and the 2016 Committee.

**3. Residents Survey on the Geopark** – Following the English Riviera's revalidation in 2011 Melanie Border arranged for the Geopark to be included in the Local Authority Residents survey "Viewpoint" in order to compare with results collated in 2009. The survey went to 600 residents selected to represent the age/gender profile. A couple of key points are: Awareness of the Geopark designation has risen from 35% in 2009 to **61% in 2012**. Those feeling that the Geopark will Impact on increased overall pride has risen from 21% in 2009 to **50% in 2012**.

**4. Funding** – Unfortunately both the GREAT (Geopark Routes Enhancing Awareness of geoTourism) led by Magma Geopark and two Arts and Humanities Research Council bids working in partnership with Exeter University were unsuccessful during this period. However undeterred a bid has been submitted to Arts Council England. If successful this project will fund the appointment of a specialist who will work with ERGO to develop a world class vision for our festivals future.

**6. Working in partnership** - Paignton Community Partnership have been awarded additional funding for the Geoplay Park under two award streams i.e Big Lottery, Community Spaces – Sustainability Grant and Supporting Change and Supporting Impact. Part of this funding links perfectly with the timing and outcomes of the Torquay Museum, Arts Council, Geohub funding. The museum's new geo officer will take on the production of the trails, the travelling exhibition, boat leaflet and the schools materials.

**7. Torre Abbey Restoration** – Geopark partner Torre Abbey is undergoing major heritage Lottery funded restoration and overhaul of interpretation. As a 12<sup>th</sup> C Scheduled Ancient Monument all elements of the project have to be handled with extreme care and sensitivity. It is hoped the Abbey will reopen to the public at the end of July.

**8. Comenius Funding Application** – The English Riviera has joined 8 Geoparks (Arouca, Madonie, Novohrad- Norgrad, Papuk, Gea Norvegica, Lesvos Petrified Forest, Bergstrasse Odenwald, Bohemian Paradise) and the Ardenne Natural Park in a multilateral bid for Comenius funding. A work programme has been devised to include visits to all of the areas where students will have an opportunity to learn through experience and investigation. The processes of creative outdoor learning will: actively allow the construction of knowledge and the development of intercultural competences; foster the need to preserve the natural and historical heritage, thus also developing a sense of responsible European citizenship. If successful the visit to the English Riviera Geopark will also integrate an e-school session with the Hong Kong Global Geopark

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### **Geopark Revalidation**

Fforest Fawr Geopark was successfully revalidated in 2012. In their report the evaluators highlighted the success of the Geopark's work with groups and communities and the proposed Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassador Scheme for local businesses. The Geopark's goal is to continue with, and strengthen this collaborative process in order to sustain the success of the Geopark and protect its heritage for future generations.

### **Geopark Activities**

**1. Website.** New material, particularly images, has been added to the Geopark website ([www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk](http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk)) and further work carried out to ensure that the Welsh translation is of similar standard to the English version.

**2. Training for businesses: 'National Park Knowledge'.** Training courses for Brecon- based taxi drivers (February 2013) and for Llandovery-based taxi-drivers (March 2013) included presentations on the Geopark's geology and archaeology.

**3. The Brecon Beacons National Park Ambassador Scheme.** This very popular course includes a Geopark module. In 2012- 2013 two more groups of local businesses participated in the scheme and were awarded National Park Ambassador certificates.

**4. Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassador Scheme.** The Geopark organized and delivered two workshops for local businesses and tourism providers on 22 November 2012 and 21 February 2013. In a series of presentations and discussions participants were introduced to the Geopark concept, to the requirements of the charters of the European and Global Geoparks Networks and the rigorous evaluation and revalidation procedures which ensure that the Geopark designation stands for quality. Presentations associated with field excursions provide insights into the Geopark's superb geology and landscapes, the links between its geological, industrial, tangible and intangible heritage and the need to conserve these for future generations. The first 8 Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassadors were awarded certificates at a celebration on 4 March 2013 in front of 80 National Park Ambassadors, many of whom have already signed up for the next round of Geopark Ambassador training.

**5. Lines in the Landscape.** A circular trail has been developed through collaboration between Coelbren, a community on the southern fringe of the Geopark, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the National Trust. It focuses on the local geology and history, particularly the Roman legacy and that of the Industrial Revolution. A project recording the oral history in the same community will be available both as a CD and on a new website by the end of March 2013.

**6. Fforest Fawr Geopark General Guide.** Improved and updated editions of both the English and Welsh versions of this popular leaflet were published in March 2013.

**7. Geopark Visitor Guide.** A new bilingual booklet has been produced for publication in late March 2013 detailing numerous attractions within the Geopark to complement the existing general guide.



## **Networking**

**8. 10<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference 2011 Norway.** Guest editor for the Proceedings of the Conference Volume.

**9. 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference:** Oral Presentation 1- The Global Water Crisis: an educational role for Geoparks. **Oral** Presentation 2 - GeoWorld Travel: A business proposal for sustainable tourism in Geoparks.

**10. EGN Magazine 10:** Article 1 – *Foreword*; Article 2 - *The 90<sup>th</sup> Session of UNESCO's Executive Board and Geoparks*; Article 3 - *Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassadors: Ambassadors for Geo-conservation*.

**11. Messel Pit World Heritage Site:** Presentation October 2012 – *Fforest Fawr Geopark: Von Geo-Ausbeutung zur Geo-Konservation ( From Geo-exploitation to Geo-conservation)*

## **Partnership Activities**

**12. British Geological Survey:** The British Geological Survey is currently producing a geological map of the Geopark, with publication anticipated in spring 2013.

**13. The Romans in Carmarthenshire Project:** A project involving the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the National Trust, Cadw and Carmarthenshire County Council. This project will introduce visitors to the history of the Roman conquest of the Silures tribe and is linked with the only Roman gold mine in the UK.

**14. The CALCH Project:** A project involving the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the National Museum of Wales. This exciting project will enable visitors to discover how limestone quarrying and the lime industry contributed to the Agrarian Revolution and the Industrial Revolution

## **European Geoparks Network Activities**

**15. EGN Committees:** Representation on the EGN's Coordination and Advisory Committees.

**16. The EGN Magazine.** Representation on the EGN Editorial Board and editing of articles for the Magazine.

**17. European Geoparks Book, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition:** Editing articles for the new edition

**18. Thematic Groups:** Representation on the Mining and Tectonic groups

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The outdoor session closed in October and the indoor session is dominated by preparing the next years outdoor session.

**1. Current situation.**

1. Staff: Four full time positions, and one part-time positions (80%), and one in maternity leave.
2. Our five Geopark committees are working continuously with different topics: Map/GIS, Education, Tourism/Local Enterprise Innovation and Attraction/Development. Each group meets regularly.
3. The Geopark board had three meetings during this period.
4. The board of representatives had one meeting (12 politicians representing the Geopark owners).

**2. EGN-activities / International networking**

1. Two delegates participated in the EGN-meeting in Arouca Geopark – Portugal
2. Five delegates participated in the European Geopark conference in Arouca Geopark Portugal.
3. Visiting Magma Geopark
4. Presentation on Swedish geology conference (Geoarena) on geotourism in Uppsala, Sweden

**3. Attraction development**

1. New information signs at the rest stop the main roads
2. Dream mile. Developing historical, cultural and Geological attractions
3. Signs for a new locality about limestone and industrial history.
4. Developing TurfHunt and Smart-guide, digital application for guided tours on localities.

**4. A selection of Geopark events and activities.**

1. Outdoor program and fieldtrips
2. Educational program for high schools continues
3. Thematic evenings
4. A number of talks for different groups, and politicians in particular.
5. Regular events for schools on topics relating to geodiversity and biodiversity
6. Developed an outdoor education program for all schools in Bamble municipality. Geology, mining, history and culture
7. Science day – Field trip in the Fen volcanic area and talk.
8. Geology day – National day of geology. Family event and field trip in the Geopark.
9. Norwegian geological winter meeting – talk about Geopark developing

Ingeborg Elise Klepp [Ingeborg.klepp@geanor.no](mailto:Ingeborg.klepp@geanor.no)

## Geopark activities

1. IoACC signage and interpretation. Work has progressed with the Tourism/Business Manager of Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC) and 3 of their employees re. the grant of £124,000 awarded to GeoMon to cover 3 years. We have produced material for 13 information boards/plinths that are now under production, Gateway signs are about to be placed on the 2 bridges, at the port of Holyhead and at Anglesey airport.
2. IoACC exhibits. Banners and literature of GeoMôn's and geopark display material was taken to major national tourism exhibitions at GMEX in Manchester and the NEC in Birmingham.
3. Bangor University. We are providing interpretation and displays at the Bangor University Festival this March. We continue to work with and co-supervise a Ph.D. Student there who works on our website and other display materials. Both M.Sc. Students we co-supervised last year are now in full time employment, as are 2 of our summertime student volunteers. Two other volunteers from last summer have now started University courses in Earth Sciences in London.
4. Cemaes project. GeoMôn in partnership with the IoACC and Cemaes Community Council, have progressed the work at Llanbadrig and information boards, a new path and some clearance are taking place there.
5. Contributions were provided to 5 of IoACC's new Rural Development Project, 'Ymweld a Mon' (audio trails), writing the whole of two trails, one for Porth Amlwch the other for Cemaes-Llanbadrig, and sections given for trails at South Stack, Rhoscolyn, Lleiniog-Penmon
6. Education trail. The other end Cemaes Bay work is progressing with the rock walk and education trail on the Green that is currently being constructed. Wylfa, the Nuclear Power Station has given a piece of land o this project; the rest is owned by the Local Community Council.
7. Time and tide bell. An artist from SW England is donating 12 bells that are rung by changing tides. He is placing them in 12 iconic places around Britain. Cemaes has been chosen as one such site by the artist and this will be constructed in the harbour.
8. Metal Links project. After 19 months into the project and self-financing it up to nearly £30,000, GeoMon had to pull out of this INTERREG project. We expected to receive our grant payments about 8 weeks from sending in our 6 monthly applications and it was about 1 year before we received the first payment. We continued to finance the project for as long as possible and as our last application for payment was sent in during April 2012 and on March 11th

this year it has still not reached us- though it has been promised soon. A warning to small and voluntary organisations, unless you are a large organisation backing you with large financial reserves, it is not possible to continue funding for periods of about a year at a time. Consequently, we pulled out of the project.

9. Talks and visitor groups. Cultural and archaeological heritage of the Parys copper mine, Anglesey, North Wales. Developing an integrated geo-cultural trail (Cemaes-Llanbadrig) Presentation of two papers at the EGN Conference, Arouca, Portugal. Prepared GeoMôn's latest geotrail for publication in Swn y Mor, a coastal walk from Aberffraw to Porth Cwyfan

Talks have been given to groups by request and these have been well attended. We have given 3 talks to local groups and 2 more are booked for April to the Open University tutors and Yorkshire Geological Society.

10. An interactive forum page has been created on our website.

11. Research with Professor Brian Windley of Leicester, Professors Shigenori Maruyama, and Yukio Isozaki and their teams from the University of Tokyo and the Institute of Earth and Planetary Sciences of Tokyo continues with GeoMon participation. It includes dating rocks, geo-tectonics and cosmic ray studies. This is probably the final year of more than 6 summers that this research has taken place and many new papers and dates have been forthcoming from the research.

12. Geo- guiding. This was carried out by our guides until December and will begin again at the end of March for the new season.

13. UK forum Attended the forum in Torquay (English Riviera Geopark) March 2013 where a 10 minute update on the geopark was given to members and The British Commission for UNESCO.

#### 14. **Publications**

Conway, J.S. and Mabvuto-Ngwira, P. (2012). 'Geotourism opportunities for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in developing countries,: The potential of Victoria Falls as a Geopark'. Proceedings of the 10th European Geoparks Conference 'Sustainability Through Knowledge Communicating Geoparks'. Rangnes, K [ed]. P123-130. Langesund, Norway.

Conway, J.S. and Wood, M. (2012). 'The legacy of mining - archaeological, environmental and social impact - at Parys Mountain, Anglesey'. Proceedings of the 10th European Geoparks Conference 'Sustainability Through Knowledge Communicating Geoparks'. Rangnes, K [ed]. P86-92..

#### **Contact details**

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September 12

- (1) Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN-CC-meeting and 11<sup>th</sup> EGN-Conference at Arouca Geopark, Portugal
- (2) Opening of the Archeological Park at the Imperial Palast of Werla with the prime minister of Lower Saxony, David McAllister
- (3) German Geotop Day – several guided tours and events e.g. the “Felsenfest” at the Ice Age Stone Garden Königsutter
- (4) German Monument’s Day at Show Mining Lange Wand Ilfeld, LM 6

October 12

- (5) Guided Geotour to geopoint „Burgruine Arnstein“, LM 17
- (6) Presentation of the leaflet reprint LM 14
- (7) Day of the open castle in Koenigslutter

November 12

- (8) Presentation of the leaflet reprint and presentation of the new info panel at “Tierpark Walbeck”, LM 17
- (9) Meeting of the Geopark advisory board in Braunschweig
- (10) Presentation of the leaflet reprint and presentation of the new info panel at “Fuchshalle Osterode”, LM 11
- (11) Presentation of the leaflet reprint LM 2
- (12) Presentation of the leaflet reprint LM 18

December 12

- (13) Presentation of the new Info panels at the trail “Baudenkmale Hettstedt”, LM 17
- (14) Mountain-Christmas at Show Mining Lange Wand Ilfeld, LM 6 and at Show Mining Samson, St. Andreasberg, LM 4
- (15) Presentation of 3 new Geopark brochures of the project “Monastery Landscape Koenigslutter” and presentation of new info panels at Koenigslutter Castle
- (16) Presentation of the leaflet reprint LM 12

#### January 13

- (17) Presentation of the leaflet reprints LM 5 in German and English in Bad Lauterberg
- (18) Participation in the meeting of the German Geopark Forum of European Geoparks in Messel
- (19) Presentation of the leaflet reprints LM 3 and 6
- (20) Guided Geotour „Weg des Wassers“ in Sankt Andreasberg

#### February 13

- (21) Guided Geotour to Siebigerode, LM 19
- (22) Exhibition „Bilder Oberharzer Wasserwirtschaft“ in Nordhausen

#### March 13

- (23) Participation in ITB Berlin 2013
- (24) Presentation of the new “Geopark Calendar of Events” in Koenigsutter

#### Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen GbR

- Dr. Henning Zellmer [h.zellmer@geopark-braunschweiger-land.de](mailto:h.zellmer@geopark-braunschweiger-land.de)
- Dr. Klaus George [rvh@harzregion.de](mailto:rvh@harzregion.de)

### **EGN – participation**

- Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN - Coordination Meeting and 11<sup>th</sup> EGN Conference in Arouca – European and Global Geopark.
- Editing and improvement of the EGN Website.
- Participation in UNESCO Geoparks Consultation meeting in Paris
- E-meeting of the Hellenic Geoparks Forum.
- Participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Italian Geoparks Forum.
- Promotion of EGN in ITB 2013 - Berlin
- Preparation of the 31<sup>st</sup> EGN - Coordination Meeting in European and Global Geopark
- Publication of the EGN Magazine No 10
- Preparation of the EGN Book – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

### **Geopark events and progress**

#### **1. Research, Protection and Management**

- Conservation works in fossil sites in Nisiopi island for the Lesvos Petrified Forest Marine Park.

#### **2. Exhibitions and Events**

- Presentation of the Lesvos Geoparks in several events organized in Lesvos cities and villages
- Temporary exhibition : AEGEAN the birth of an archipelago - Guided tours – Educational Programmes
- Participation of the Petrified forest in Philoxenia Tourism Fair in Thessaloniki Greece October 2012
- Participation of the Lesvos geopark together with the other 3 Greek geoparks in ITB Berlin March 2013.

#### **3. Educational activities**

- Presentation of the Educational Programs of the Lesvos Geopark for the academic year 2012/2013 to all schools in Lesvos and Thessaloniki
- Meetings with the teachers of Primary and Secondary schools of Thessaloniki
- New Thematic Educational Programmes 2012-13
- Cooperation in environmental education programs with the Environmental Education Center of Lesvos

#### **4. Creation of promotional material**

- Publication of the new 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> issues of Sequoia Magazine

#### **5. Events - Presentations**

- Presentation of the Activity Report 2012 to the public

## **6. Projects**

- RACCE – end of a translational project for students awareness on earthquake hazard

## **7. Common Projects with EGN partners**

- RACCE

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1. To strengthen the relationships with associations and local economic operators four protocols were approved and set going, with DidArcheo snc on 14.09.12, the SlowGood group of small and medium firms on 14.09.12, the GEODE non-profit association on 28.12.12 and the CastelbuonoSCIENZA non-profit association on 28.02.13. All these agreements aim at promoting activities of environmental education and enjoyment connected to geology and archaeology, in conformity with the purposes of sustainable development pursued by the EGN and by the Madonie Geopark.
2. Participation of one of the two representatives of the Madonie Geopark in the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN CC Meeting (18.09.12) and 11<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Geoparks (19-21.09.12), both held at the Arouca European and Global Geopark in Portugal.
3. 255 young unemployed people, average age 32, 139 of them men and 116 women, graduates (113) and diploma holders (142), 163 of them residing in the communes of the Madonie Geopark and 92 residing in all the provinces of Sicily, responded to the public announcement of 03.10.12 and showed interest in attending the training course, with a duration of not less than 800 hours, to become environmental-excursionist guides under Regional Law 8 of 3 May 2004. The course is a preliminary one required by law for the examination for professional qualification prior to inclusion in the regional register. It will have to start after publication of the implementing decree contemplated, which will establish the teaching and organizational programme.
4. In Milan, on 6 December during the International Forum of BuyGreen, an exhibition and conference devoted to policies, projects, goods and services of public and private green procurement, the President of the Madonie Geopark received the prize assigned to Sicily and the Madonie Geopark for “having enacted important territorial synergies for the promotion and diffusion of the policy of public green purchases, which have also resulted in concrete actions by BuyGreen.”
5. On 12 December, after a series of meetings and seminar activities in partnership and during the first Regional Conference devoted to the “Plan of activities of Environmental Education and Education to Sustainability of Sicily”, there was approved and signed the “Charter of Intent for the institution of the Forum of the System devoted to Information, Training and Environmental Education (In.F.E.A.) in Sicily.”
6. From 13.12.12 the Isnello UrbanGeological Path was set out, equipped and made available to the public by the Haliotis non-profit association financed by the Madonie Geopark, to valorise the Isnello Gorge, a geosite of particular teaching importance from the tectonic point of view and the resulting geo-morphological one. The path affects and circumscribes part of the inhabited area, which is rich in landscape views, history and culture. With other funds of the same project 6 panels in wrought iron were installed, to present the most significant geosites in the communes of Petralia Sottana (2 panels), Petralia Soprana, Polizzi Generosa, Scillato and Collesano.
7. After the restoration and opening to the public of Villa Sgadari in May last year, on 15 December another historical structure of the Madonie Geopark, the Marini Refuge, was inaugurated and made available to the public, after major restructuring. The accommodation structure, its management already entrusted to a cooperative, was created by the Italian Alpine Club in 1947 and is situated within the big doline of Piano Battaglia, at the centre of the Madonie Geopark, where there is the first geological path in Sicily. It sleeps 68 people in 19 rooms, all en suite, and has a large restaurant for 100 people, a bar and a conference room. It is a much appreciated logistic base for geological survey campaigns by the University of Palermo.
8. Seven projects for training courses at the Madonie Geopark were activated. These come under the offer of curricular apprenticeships for the academic year 2012-2013 and the convention with the University of Palermo stipulated on 02.05.2005 and renewed on

06.07.2010. The apprenticeship activities of the students, of 125, 150, 250, 300, 325 and 400 hours, were set going on 10.01.13 and will end in September.

9. The Hermitage of Santa Maria di Liccia, an old fourteenth-century Augustinian convent that in 1650 acted as a place of accommodation and a religious hospital, for a long time was abandoned and half-destroyed. It is situated in one of the most beautiful spots in the Madonie Geopark in the territory of the commune of Castelbuono. At the end of the restoration work financed by the European Community it was inaugurated on 9 February. It was adapted to modern use and already has a management. The hermitage will become an important service centre for environmental, cultural and tourist activities on the northern side of the Madonie.
10. Participation of the President of the Madonie Park Body in the fourth meeting of the National Forum of Italian Geoparks, on 21 February, at the Maps Congress Centre in Rome. For the occasion, The President of the Madonie Geopark, also Deputy-President of the Federation of Italian Parks, among other things declared to the regional and national press that the EGN constitutes the excellence of parks in Europe and confirmed the commitment of the Park Body to the development of network activities.
11. In February the commune of Petralia Sottana completed the work of external modification of the hydroelectric plant, indicated as deserving restoration during the setting out of one of the geological paths in the Madonie Geopark. Today, the industrial archaeology find, dating from the first decade of the twentieth century and abandoned in 1976, has been completely restored. It is enjoyed by numerous school parties that go along the "Stones and water" geological itinerary set out in 2006.
12. The environmental education project "Artists for the environment" was concluded. It was financed by the NaturArt association and involved various schools in the Madonie Geopark. It was conceived in the framework of the dynamic relationship between school and territory with the purpose of stimulating in pupils from 11 to 13 greater attention to the environment. A public exhibition of the work done was held from 1 February to 10 March, while the most significant artistic compositions will be put on panels to install in particularly sensitive areas frequented by excursionists and other visitors.
13. The participation of the Pollina-San Mauro Castelverde comprehensive school in the Madonie Geopark in the Comenius Multilateral competition, whose deadline was 21.02.13, was favoured. The competition was about "The geological heritage of outlying European Regions in a perspective of education for sustainable development", and involved a partnership between schools and connected Geoparks in 10 different countries of the European Community. Specifically it involved the Geoparks Arouca, Bohemian Paradise, Madonie, Papuk, Lesvos Petrified Forest, Novohrad-Nograd, Bergstrasse-Odenwald, Gea Norvegica, English Riviera and the Ardennes Natural Park not yet a Geopark.

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### **Geopark Activities**

1. Participation in the Symposium of Geotourism about “Reserva Geológica Las Loras”, Aguilar de Campoo (Burgos). September 2012.
2. Launching of the new Kawasaki Z 2008 spot from, recorded in the Cultural Park. October 2012
3. Signature of a cooperation agreement between Geopark and Comarca del Bajo Aragón. October 2012.
4. New traffic signs featuring for the first time the EGN/GGN logos in Maestrazgo Geopark roads. November 2012.
5. Interview about the Maestrazgo Geopark in Aragón Radio. November 2012.
6. Celebration of the International Day of the World Heritage. November 2012.
7. Film screening "Porque eres Masovera" in Alcorisa, introduced by representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Environment. December 2012.
8. Celebration of "Solana and Umbria" days in Crivillén. December 2012.
9. Signature of a cooperation agreement with Alcorisa Cycle Club to name as GEOPARQUE MAESTRAZGO the event “Cicloturista VI”, December 2012.
10. Celebration of the Feasts of Winter (dealing with the cultural use of fire) in the Maestrazgo Cultural Park, January 2013.
11. Meeting with the Director General of Tourism. Aragón Government, February 2013.
12. Interview dealing with Maestrazgo Geopark in the SER radio station, February 2013.
13. Participation in the book: *Lugares de Interés Geológico y Paleontológico del Maestrazgo*. Centro de Estudios del Maestrazgo Turolense, 191 p.

### **Networking**

14. Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN CC, and in the 11th European Geoparks Conference 2012. Communications: *Investigating dinosaurs in Maestrazgo Cultural Geopark (Teruel, Spain)*, and *Reflections about the geotourism concept* (co-authored), Arouca Geopark, Portugal, September 2012.

15. Participation in the Editorial Group of Teruel City Partnership, EU FP7 Project, PLACES -Platform of Local Authorities and Communicators Engaged in Science, June 2012.
16. Participation in the meeting of Foro Español de Geoparques, FITUR (Madrid). January 2013.
17. Participation in the EGN magazine nº 10: *Breathing geology for years in Maestrazgo Geopark*. February 2013.
18. Participation in the publication: La red de geoparques españoles, *Quercus*, 325, March 2013.
19. Publication of the weekly section “Geopark Corner” in the provincial newspaper Diario de Teruel.
20. Coordination of a book dealing with fossils from European Geoparks.

### **Activities by Partners**

21. Palaeontological research projects in Galve, Camarillas, Allepuz and Miravete de la Sierra (projects 049/2012, 092/08-2012; Aragón Government), 2012
22. Participation in the exhibition “T.rex: the killer question”, Parque de las Ciencias de Granada (400.000 visitors); a cast of the dinosaur from Aliaga (*Aludino*) was displayed. Summer-Autumn, 2012.
23. Project to propose the dinosaur footprint site of Miravete de la Sierra as a geosite to be visited. September-October 2012.
23. Palaeontological research project in Allepuz, Camarillas, Galve, Hinojosa de Jarque, Miravete de la Sierra and Villarroja de los Pinares (project 037/2013, Aragón Government).

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### **Organization**

Magma Geopark (MG) has two employees: Pål Thjømøe (100%), Sara Gentilini (50%) and it will be a new employee (100%) from April 2013. In addition there are three persons on contract that work by hours: Guro Aarre, Åse Hestnes and Richard Wilson.

### **Educational activities**

- During January 2013 TurfHunt games has been run in two schools of the area involving app. 100 kids in the activities. There are also been held TurfHunt courses by MG staff for teachers in the two schools.
- The first two lessons of the GeoGuide School (Nordplus Project fund, Nordic partners are EGN Geopark Katla and Saarte Silurian Geopark project, Estonia), has taken place in March involving more than 30 local persons in frontal lessons and outdoor educational activities in several MG localities.
- The project “På Naturlig vis - outdoor teaching” run by Outdoor organisation supported by MG, has run courses for about 120 teachers and had almost 1000 kids involved in activities.

### **Promotion**

- All the MG activities have been promoted through the web page that has been renovated with new friendly-user layout, Facebook official page and twitter account.
- All the activities have been promoted through the local newspaper and one special happening in the National Radio NRK P1 with half a million listeners, fully address to present and promote the geo-tourism.

### **Project/partnerships local and regional**

- Initiative together with EGN Geopark Gea Norvegica and Geological Society of Norway about making a national Network of Geoparks with the UNESCO commission of Norway, is now getting the support of Norske Parker: the Norwegian Park Association. The two Norwegian Geoparks aspire to become members of the Network make it growing as a National Network of parks, also compromising Geoparks.
- Magma Geopark, get a grant from the Ministry of local government and regional Development of 100.000 euro, in order to develop a marketing strategy for the Magma Geopark area from 2014-2020. The plan will support Magma with an effective tourist and business development strategy involving several local stakeholders.
- MG is preparing an application for the Norwegian UNESCO Commission in order to prepare a strong proposal for the WHL of some of the Geopark localities.

## **Project/partnerships international**

- **ICT4OL** application, MG during January 2013 applied to the Life Long Learning Program, Comenius Multilateral Project. The requested grant was 300.000 Euro. It involved several Geoparks and schools from: Norway, Shetland, Iceland, Portugal, Slovenia, England, Ireland, the Norwegian Outdoor Organization, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and Locatify as software consultant. The project aims to develop innovative pedagogic methodology to increase the outdoor teaching at school. The project will develop tool kit for teachers: database with activities connected with curricula of all the Countries involved. Through the use of new technologies the teaching-learning process will be more attractive. MG will have the project result next July.
- **GEO2NOR**, part one, development: MG, in June 2012, get a grant of 300.000 DKK, app 40.000 Euro, from the NORA (Nordic Atlantic Cooperation) to develop the: Geotourism to the Nordic Routes project. The project has been run from November 2012 and will end in October 2013. It aims to set up a common booking platform for the Nordic Natural Areas, this first part of the project is focused on Geoparks, partners are: Shetland Amenity Trust Geopark (Shetland), Stonehammer Geopark (Canada), Katla Geopark (Iceland), supported by: Locatify as a software consultant, NGU, National Centre of Expertise (Fjord Norway) as a tourism expert. The project is running a need analysis, through electronic questionnaire, involving more than 200 stakeholders covering all the partner's areas, with the aims to figure out the tourism needs in the Nordic Region. The Consortium is processing the data and the result will be tourist packages that will populated the booking system included in the web page: [northerngeoroutes.com](http://northerngeoroutes.com), under construction. The project has been exploited through the most popular social networks, Facebook group and through the twitter account.
- **GEO2NOR part2**, application: MG faced the application to NORA at beginning of March 2013. The second project step includes two more partners like Greenland and Faroe: this makes the project even wider and the consortium more representative of the NORA Region. MG applied for 500.000 DKK, app. 70.000 Euro. This application is focused on developing further the GEO2NOR, in particular aims to: test, adapt and launch the website-booking system, build up a Northern Georoutes Association, analyze the possibilities to constitute a Northern Georoutes travel Company. MG will know about the results next June.

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<http://www.facebook.com/groups/magmageopark>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nordic-Geo-Guide-School/122641214487325>

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthernGeoroutes>

<https://twitter.com/MAGMAGEOPARK>

**Papuk Geopark activities:**

1. Mutual project with Hungarian Danube Drava National Park and NGO Green Osijek - "Two rivers and one hill - new eco tourist products along Drava, Danube and Papuk" was approved as part of The Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme. Project will develop number of new tourism products which will be networked in cross border programs and jointly promoted.
2. Project which included brown tourist signage on local roads, country roads and motorway is finished. Last part of project was setting up two brown tourism signs on European route E 70 which is very important for Papuk Geopark. These two signs put up on exits from motorway – exit N. Gradiška (if you go from west towards east) and exit Lužani (if you go from east towards west).
3. We have started a new service - "hiking and cycling routes" - on our website. You can look at a description of the route, an elevation profile of the route and a map of the route on the website. Each route is available for download in KMZ (Google Earth) and GPX format. GPX is a public XML text format that virtually all GPS data programs can read. Here you will find an extensive collection of hiking and cycling routes located in Papuk Geopark.
4. Papuk Nature Park signed a "Declaration on a European network of destination of excellence for sustainable tourism", which today makes up 90 destinations from 26 European countries. Papuk Nature Park was the runner up in the national competition in 2008. /2009. on the subject of tourism in protected area.
5. Papuk Geopark participated in International economic, crafts and agriculture fair „Viroexpo 2011“ which took place in Virovitica. Papuk stall was equipped with roll-up's and visitors can get promotional brochures.
6. In cooperation with The Faculty of Mine, Geology and Petroleum Engineering of Zagreb University one Master thesis is finished: *Middle Triassic lithofacies of Ivacka glava (Papuk mt.) and their influence on aquifer*. Through the field-work and micropetrographic analysis five Middle Triassic lithofacies were defined.
7. Because of increasing interest of Hungarian visitors for Papuk, a few promotional Papuk Geopark brochures have translated into Hungarian and published.
8. In cooperation with the Local Action Group „Papuk-Krndija“ we organized presentation of the Papuk Geopark to the members of LAG „Papuk-Krndija“ from Kutjevo municipality. We presented Papuk Geopark plans for the future and how we can cooperate through LAG for benefit of local community.

**9.** Celebrating International Mountain Day 2012 the seventh trip to unknown Papuk has been organized in cooperation with Croatian Mountaineering Association. Despite high snow all participants climb up to Kapavac peak (790 m). On that occasion we open new 8 meters high wooden lookout tower with great view from prominent Kapavac peak.

**10.** Recently Papuk Geopark is offering visitors the chance to geocache. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played around the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. Through small project we also provide a 10 GPS devices intended for school children or visitors who want to go geocaching.

**11.** During autumn guided walks (mostly school excursions) through Geopark area have been organized. Also at the beginning of year we visited three Gymnasium schools, gave PowerPoint presentation with workshops.

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During last six months Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark staff started his work to improve the geological heritage conservation and promotion.

The following are call out important activities:

### **Networking**

29. Partecipation for the 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference in Arouca Geopark (Portugall) on September 19<sup>st</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> 2012- Oral communication: *“museum network as educational and dissemination tool in cilento and vallo di diano geopark”*
30. Participation to the EGN CC meeting in Arouca Geopark, PORTUGALL 18 March 2012
31. Preparation, editor and print the Italian Geopark Forum Book
32. Participation to the 4° Forum of Italian Geoparks Coordination Meeting in Rome (Italy) on February 2012, during this Forum there is a meeting with journalist to present the 12<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference
33. Submission of the article for pubblication in European Geopark Magazine 10

### **Geopark activities**

34. Annual program of enviromental education in the schools of the park, with the purpose to introduce the young generations to environmental problems helping them to understand the values of the territory in which they live and the necessary actions for the correct maintenance and fruition. Such projects have been planned foreseeing moments of popularization in the classrooms integrated by excursions on the territory for the direct knowledge of the natural beauties and particularly of the geo-diversity present.
35. The general revision of the existing path network - ended
36. Realazing and Printed a book: “ The Geosites: Geopark’s gaia Symphony, in Italian and English
37. Partecipation in national programs television as “Italia uno”, “Easy Driver RAI 2 “ –“Linea blu”, were we speak about the Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark and the EGN-GGN
38. Tour with the university students on the geosites
39. Attendance at the Archeologic Tourism Meeting in Paestum (ITALY) on November;
40. The Geopark has organized with the Italian Alpine Club the “trekking rail”
41. Restailing of web site where you can find a section of promotion of local products and all touristic activities.
42. The Park Authority has issued a call for the grant to the municipalities of the National Park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano and Alburni of contributions for the creation of new distributors of drinking water, "water houses". The objective is to reduce the consumption of plastic

- 43. Workshop Italy-Brasil: the delegation of brazilian buyers and journalists visit the Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark;
- 44. The Geopark obtains fundin for 26.000,00 Euro to realize ;
- 45. the Geopark has obtained funding for € 26,000.00 to: improve some natural sites; create virtual museums, to print and produce publications for the promotion of the territory; create webgis and applications for iphone to promote geological and cultural heritage.
- 46. The Geopark is organizing the 12<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference.

**Activity by Parteners**

- 47. The International Workshop "Objective geomorphological representation models: breaking through a new geomorphological mapping frontier" organized by Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark and University of Salerno.
- 48. Partecipation and obtain funding for LIFE project: "Forests of the Apennines: Good practices to coniugate Use and Sustainability" (FAGUS) € 1.244.038,00.
- 49. We are realizing with Italian University research project on biodiversity and geodiversity

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## Geopark activities

1. Exhibition "Geoballade". This exhibition, made of 17 panels, proposes to discover the Luberon Geology through water paintings illustrating landscapes, use of rocks, traditional buildings, fossils, tectonic... It has been displayed in the la Tour-d'Aigues Castle, completed by other paintings representing paleo-landscapes and a collection of local fossils. Two conferences on geology and a fieldtrip were proposed in addition.
2. Festival of science. Exhibition "Geoballade" in the village of Mirabeau and conference on local geology.
3. Exhibition "Regards et paroles d'habitants sur le Calavon-Coulon". This exhibition is the result of a photographic survey carried out by the Parc du Luberon with residents, schoolchildren and watershed experts around the themes of resource, water quality, natural environments, the heritage and flood risk and flood.
4. New film. Realisation of a movie telling the Luberon geological history. It will be presented at the "Maison du Parc" for general public and given to the whole Luberon's schools.
5. Education activities. Involvement of 35 classes (about 800 pupils) in educational activities concerning geological heritage, earthquakes, mineral resources... 175 other classes (about 4.025 pupils) are involved in projects concerning biodiversity, landscapes, energy and agriculture.
6. "Bienvenue chez vous". Guided visits of the geology museum in Apt and the mammal footprint slab of Viens in October for this event proposed by the Region.
7. Participation to the Festival Sciences & Fictions in partnership with a tourist office: 1 guided tours in the Luberon mountain and a conference about the exhibition "Geoballade" on local geology topic.
8. "Roues libres en Luberon". This successful event organized by a Geopark partner (Vélo Loisir en Luberon) and other public partners promotes travels by bike. This festive event brought together over 650 people on the local cycling route.
9. Edition of a eonotourism map in partnership with local wine producers.
10. Meeting of partners (Arouca, Bauges and Luberon) to work on the LEADER cooperation project "Geotourism for sustainable development"

11. Organization of two meetings with Luberon tourism actors to create a network of qualified partners in link with Arouca and Bauges Geoparks.
12. 2nd meeting on sustainable tourism in Luberon gathering 64 tourism actors and proposing presentations on tourism, oenotourism, geotourism, offer qualification...

For more information (Fr) <http://www.parcduluberon.fr/Acces-directs/La-lettre-du-Parc>

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The period of September 2012 to March 2013 continues to be very difficult for Psiloritis Geopark because of national economic situations that have affected not only the income of the geopark. However LEADER initiatives as well as other National funds have already initiated and in collaboration with Municipalities several projects related to geopark have started.

1. A study on the development a new Info centre for the Geopark at the headquarters in Anogia has already been compiled and installation is going to start soon. A parallel project to develop a geological garden at the yard is also under development
2. In collaboration with Municipality of Amari, the study for three new thematic info-centers for the geopark has already been contacted and the call for the construction is going to appear in next month.
3. In collaboration with Anogia Municipality, a new domestic geo-route in the village has been studied and implementation is going to be finalised in summer.
4. Geopark contributed to the enhancement of the Idaion Andro cave, the most important archaeological site of Psiloritis mountains and the development of the info-center and the relative trail.
5. The geopark contributed in the finalisation of RACCE project, funded by Civil Protection Financial Instrument of E.C. that was coordinated by the Natural History Museum of Crete. Reserve Geologique Haute Provence and Lesvos Petrified Forest Geoparks were also partners.
6. The geopark coorganised on the 23 of January 2013, with the RACCE partnership, the Hellenic National Committee for UNESCO and Hellenic Geopark Forum, the Final Meeting and Presentation of the results of RACCE project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens.
7. Geopark collaborated in many educational activities of the Anogia Environmental Education Center.
8. A field trip for the Lobarough University of England students on Geotourism in Psiloritis Mts is already organised for the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, whereas a fieldtrip for the Lehman College, City University of New York (CUNY) is also organised for the first week of June 2013.

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### **Network activities**

1. Participation to the 30th EGN CC meeting in Arouca Geopark, Portugal;
2. Participation to the 1th European Geoparks Conference in Arouca with two posters and two oral communications: 1) *“The protected evaporite areas network of Sicily”* – 2) *“Evaporites in sicily: geological and karst features”*;
3. Design atlas and cartoguide of the mining civilizations in Geoparks for the EGN Mining Working Group as discussed with the partners during the meeting in Sierras Subbéticas (Geoparks participant at moment 14: Arouca Geopark, Bauges Massif Geopark, Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark, Copper Coast Geopark, Fforest Fawr Geopark, Geo Mon, Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen, Magma Geopark, North Pennines AONB, Park Naturel Régional du Luberon, Rocca di Cerere Geopark, Geological Mining Park of Sardinia, Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park, Tuscan Mining Geopark);
4. Contribution to improvement the EGN website: translation of all the texts for the implementation of the Italian version on the official website;

### **Environmental Education Activities**

5. Implementation of a new educational game *“ZIG-ZAGARIANDO”* by the Province of Enna and CEA A. Von Humboldt partners of the Rocca di Cerere Geopark;
6. Implementation of the first course *“Approach to Sicilian mountain”* by the CEA A. Von Humboldt at the Environmental Education and Interpretation Centre of Villa Zagaria;
7. Reproposal of the project for secondary school *“The Geology in sulphur lands”* about the Park’s geology and mining culture;
8. Reproposal of the project for primary school *“playing with rocks”*;

### **Activities of Communication, Diffusion and Promotion of the Geopark**

9. Daily activities for public at Environmental Education and Interpretation Centre of Villa Zagaria;
10. Editing article for EGN magazine next issue about the educational game *“Learn Geo..playing”* - a simple but effective way to know our geopark;
11. Design, implementation and updating of the official Italian Geoparks website ([www.geoparchitaliani.it](http://www.geoparchitaliani.it));
12. Design and implementation of common rollups for the all Italian Geoparks (harmonization of the graphics for the CC EGN meeting in Paris and other common events);
13. Contribution and implementation of the first book on Italian Geoparks (text, photos and maps graphic);

### **Activities of Conservation, Investigation and Development of the Geopark**

14. Activities of the Scientific Committee of the Geopark;
15. Participation to the Italian Geoparks Forum in Rome (February 2013);

16. Participation to the Sicilian Regional Network of protected areas with Messinian Evaporites in Regional Department for Territory and Environment (November 2012).

**Further information:**

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## **Management**

1. Rokua Geopark strategy for 2013-2023 was accepted by the Geopark board of directors on November 2012. The strategy gives guidelines to the future development.
2. Rokua Geopark communications strategy and communications plan were finished on October 2012. The main theme of our communication is Exploring and finding.
3. The Finnish Geoparks forum was founded in the beginning of March 2013 in Espoo at the headquarters of the Geological Survey of Finland. The first meeting consisted of participants from the Ministry of environment, the Geological Survey of Finland, The Visit Finland organization, the Finnish Unesco Committee, The Metsähallitus and of the representatives of Rokua Geopark.
4. Rokua Geopark and Schwäbische-Alb Geopark signed a cooperation agreement in Stuttgart in February. The cooperation agreement is one part of the long lasting cooperation between Oulu region and the state of Baden-Wurtemberg.

## **Developing projects**

5. The Rokua Geopark a new national and international operations model, ERDF –project is proceeding. The project is implemented during 2010-2013. The project produces new educational and information materials of the Geopark as well as it promotes the Geopark model in Finland.
6. A project focusing on enhancing the entrepreneurship in Rokua Geopark has started in the beginning of year 2012. The project lasts until year 2014; it is financed by the State of Finland and EU.
7. Rokua Geopark is applying for a grant from ERDF program for the developing of environmental education activities, the result of the bid will be known on March 2013

## **Education activities**

8. Rokua Geopark is cooperating with schools situated in Geopark area in issues concerning environmental education. Rokua Geopark serves some material for schools and arranges different kind of events in the area.



## **Dissemination activities**

9. In March 2013 Rokua Geopark was been listed into the top ten list of travel destinations inside Finland. Rokua Geopark was number five of the places all Finns should visit and experience.
10. Rokua Geopark participated to the Matka 2013 travel trade show in Helsinki in January 2013. Matka is the biggest travel trade show in Scandinavia.
11. Rokua Geopark participated to the ITB travel trade show in Berlin in March 2013 as part of the Global Geoparks stand.
12. A new Geopark brochure has been published in March 2013. For the moment the brochure is available only in English. The brochure is meant for promoting the area for tourism operators and it describes the Geopark and it's activities in detail.
13. Several articles of the Geopark and its activities have been published in magazines and newspapers during the reporting period.
14. Several presentations of the Geopark and its activities have been given in different occasions. The audiences range from school children to retired people.

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The activities of the Geological, Mining, historical and Environmental Park of Sardinia since September 2012 and March 2013 focused on growth activities in several action fields:

In particular, the Geopark:

- Worked, together with other partners, on the opening of the Mining Archive of Monteponi Iglesias, one of the European biggest mining archive, and on the Museum of mining machineries investing about 1.800.000 Euros.
- Subscribed with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia an agreement for research and studies on innovative reclamation techniques and sustainable development economies. On January the Region presented the first project on recycling mining dumps financed with 323.000 Euros.
- It was officially named as one and only conversation partner of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia in planning, programming and monitoring four-year activities on the Geopark territorial jurisdiction financed with 25.000.000 Euros a year.
- Together with other public bodies subscribed a 3years treks network plan considering environmental, historical, cultural, industrial archaeology and economic subjects, included in the Park programmatic report and financed with 5.500.000 Euros. On December assigned the task of clearing and equipping to new paths in the areas of Buggerru and Domusnovas.
- Subscribed together with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, some Sardinian municipalities and the society IGEA SpA the *Municipal Districts Strategic Plan of Guspinese-Arburese*, directed towards the safeguard and exploitation of the environmental and historic-cultural heritage of former mining sites and new economic reconversion.
- Presented a publication on Engineer Cesare Vecelli who planed 1924 the innovative site of Porto Flavia to load minerals directly on ships, 2011 recognized together with other two sites of the Geopark with the European Community Eden Prize for the Best Practices in Sustainable tourism by the Italian Ministry for Environment. Concerning this under scribed on October in Bruxelles an agreement for cooperation between all winners involving tour operators and public authorities.
- Co-financed the Forgea International (Training and Cooperation Center in the Field of Geo-Mining and Environment) to develop studies and organize experts conferences on managing natural parks.
- Co-financed the Association Miniere Rosas for developing sustainable tourism by realizing an equipped camper area in the former mining-village of Rosas.

- Applied as leader for the call Life- Nature and Biodiversity with the project "From the exploitation towards sustainable development: adaptation of forests and environment managing in abandoned mining areas in South-West Sardinia.
- Co-financed the Geopark Municipalities of Arbus, Villamassargia and Narcao to intervene in environmental reclaiming of abandoned mining areas (each 25.000 Euros).
- Co-financed environmental educational projects in the Municipality of Narcao (10.000 Euros) and reinforcement works at the Monte Acqua ridge and S. Giovanni natural cave in the Municipality of Domusnovas (30.000 Euros).
- Organized a serial on the regional tv channel to promote the historical and environmental peculiarities of about 18 Municipalities of the Geomining Park. The serial was also sent on the Sky channel accessible from all over Europe.
- Participated to the 32nd edition of the event "Sardinia meets Rome" presenting all the Sardinian hospitality, cultural and environmental excellences near the Vatican.
- Extended of one more year the contract with the SOGAER society to promote by videos the Geopark at all terminals of the main Sardinian Airport
- ***Co-financed several reclamation and touristic availability activities of the IGEA Society, the Municipality of Lula SpA and the Province of Medio Campidano on former mining sites in Montevecchio (Guspini), Lula and Sardara.***
- Co-organized together with the University of Cagliari a conference and an exhibition on the historical vicissitudes of the Sulcis Area former dominated by phoenixes from the modern to the contemporary age.
- Collaborated and co-financed several publications. Among them *// leggendario Surfuraru* about miners'life in sicilian sulphur mines and *"80 anni di calcio Rossoblu - Monteponi/Iglesias"* about an historical successful Sardinian miners football team.
- Realized together with the Association of Mining Technical- and Geotechnical Experts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of a monthly conferences series with researchers and technicians on technical, cultural and environmental issues.
- Bidding for the management of the Geopark CEAS (Center for environmental education and sustainability).

#### **EGN Delegates**

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### **1) Networking**

A partner meeting for the HINT partnership project with Chablais Geopark North Pennines AONB and aspiring Geopark de Hondsrug was held at the Arouca EGN conference in September 2013. We gave a presentation on the HINT project at the conference. As the project draws to an end we are working to get the French translation of the project website online and pull together all the findings from the project to produce guidelines on best practice for using new technologies in heritage interpretation. We have been asked to present on the project at a sharing good practice event run by the government agency Scottish Natural Heritage in May.

Geopark Shetland continues to work closely with the Scottish Geodiversity Forum established in 2010 (<http://scottishgeodiversityforum.org/>), along with Northwest Highlands Geopark. We have been encouraging further signatories to Scotland's Geodiversity Charter and are working with Forum members to help improve the teaching of Earth Science in Scottish Schools. Our Geology Project Officer has been asked to run a workshop on heritage interpretation at a conference for Geology Higher Pupils in Perth.

### **2) Geopark Shetland projects**

Despite some initial technological problems, testing of the Geopark Shetland app for Android took place during the autumn. Revisions based on user feedback have been implemented and the final app is due to launch on Google Play in the first week of March during 'Climate Week', with a view to encouraging people to get out and walk.

Work is now ongoing to develop the Iphone version, and to make the app information available via the web.

A full launch of all products will take place during the Shetland Nature Festival 2013 in partnership with EGN week.

Work is complete on the IT aspect of the EGN corner in the Shetland Museum. It uses a touchscreen app to allow visitors to find out more about the EGN / GGN and their members. EGN / GGN members have been approached for information, which was received from about 15 geoparks. This has now been used to populate the app and installation is in progress. Further information from members will be requested in due course.

### **3) Education activities**

A short course 'Introducing Geopark Shetland' was run for the third time in autumn 2012 as part of the Shetland Islands Council Adult Learning programme, along with an additional short course 'Exploring Geopark Shetland'. Plans are ongoing for 'ShEEP DIP' 2013 in partnership with the Shetland Environmental Education Partnership. This will involve the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, Shetland Islands Council, Shetland Amenity Trust Woodlands team, the Shetland Ranger Service, KIMO International and the Dunna Chuck Bruck environmental project. It will take place in the West Mainland of Shetland. ShEEP members are hoping to develop curriculum linked topic boxes for loan to local primary and secondary schools. Initial plans are being drawn up and any necessary funding will be sought later this year. A recent graduate and a high school pupil requested voluntary work with the Geopark. They have been working together on ideas for the topic box.

We are developing plans to work with Shetland High Schools on an outdoor education project that aims to support all S2 pupils to gain a John Muir Explorer award. We hope this project will work in conjunction with the Comenius ITC4OL project that is being led by Magma Geopark in partnership with Katla Geopark and aspiring Idrija Geopark, if the latest bid for funding is successful.

#### **4) Promotion**

Geopark signage to be placed at Shetland's Gateway points (Sumburgh Airport and the Serco Ferry Terminal in Lerwick) has been produced and installation is in progress.

Area specific information sheets have been developed by a geology graduate working for the Geopark on a voluntary basis. They will provide tourism and hospitality workers in Shetland with information about the geological sites and attractions in their local area so that they can better inform visitors about things to see and do. The sheets are being branded and will be circulated at the start of the 2013 season.

The Geoparks Northern Routes project in partnership with Magma, Katla and Stonehammer Geoparks has begun. The Shetland workpackage involved sending a questionnaire to all tourism stakeholders to gauge the potential for involvement in the project.

#### **5) Events**

The Shetland Nature Festival 2013 in partnership with European Geoparks Week will take place from 29<sup>th</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> July. The Festival will help to celebrate the 'Year of Natural Scotland and funding has been secured from Scottish Natural Heritage. This year we are linking with Shetland Arts Development Agency to offer more creative ways to enjoy Shetland's Earth Heritage and we will be offering the chance to participate in adventure sports such as coasteering, climbing and canoeing. The St. Andrews University Geobus project has volunteered to run geology focussed activities for young people throughout the Festival.

#### **6) Product Development**

The Geopark magnet sets are now on-sale and there is a section for Geopark products within the Shetland Heritage online shop.

We are editing the geological guide to Geopark Shetland and illustrations and maps have been commissioned.

Work continues on the visual guide to identifying Shetland's Rocks and Minerals, with most of the photographs now selected.

#### **7) Future Strategy**

We are preparing for our first revalidation in summer 2013, assessing our achievements to date and developing a Strategy and Action plan to cover the period 2013-2017.

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### **Geopark Activities**

1. Training day on *dry stone* constructions in the Visitors Centre El Robledo.
2. Installing the exhibition "The Rocks of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark " in the Visitors Center Cortijo El Berrocal.
3. Filming of a documentary film about the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark, by National Spanish Radio Television (RTVE).
4. Preparation of the activities of the 2013 European Geoparks Week, to be held from 18 to 26 May.
5. Update the list of Geopark geological and geotouristic sites, and generation of data forms of each site.
6. Works on gathering information for the recovery and enhancement of "Camino Real del Azogue" (Mercury Real Road) in Sierra Norte, in conjunction with the Geopark Environmental Volunteers.
7. Update of the contents about the Geopark on the website of the Environment Department.  
[www.juntadeandalucia.es/environment/sierranortedesevillageopark](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/environment/sierranortedesevillageopark)
8. Works on gathering information of historical mines in the Geopark..
9. Support at Geopark visits by students and teachers from various universities.
10. Participation in the making of an article in the Spanish journal of environmental information *Quercus* about the Geoparks of Spain.
11. Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment of Spain to foster support for the Geoparks initiative at UNESCO.

### **Work in the European Geoparks Network**

10. - Attendance at the 11th European Geoparks Conference, (September 2012, Arouca Geopark, Portugal); presentation of a lecture about the recovery of a large fossil trunk.
11. Spanish Geoparks Forum meeting (January 2013).
12. Participation in the issue 10 of the European Geoparks Network magazine, with an article about a Greenway in the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.

### **Activities by partner agencies**

13. University Pablo de Olavide of Seville: practices works of students of Environmental Sciences.
14. Environmental Volunteer Network of Sierra Norte de Sevilla: informative Conference about the Geopark activities, at the Annual Meeting.
15. Provincial Delegation of Seville: edition of brochures about trails of the Geopark.

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1. Participation in Agropriego (Fair of Agriculture in Priego), with displayed material of the Natural Park-Geopark Sierras Subbéticas (14-16<sup>th</sup> September 2012).
2. Attendance to the EGN C.C. Meeting in Arouca and participation in the European Geoparks Conference with the oral contribution: *Valorising Palaeontological Heritage through the design of Geopark Products*. (17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September, 2012).
3. Management of the new geosite appeared in the Geopark: the Ponor of the Polje of La Nava: technical reports, security measures, study of plans for sustainable use. Press releases for local and regional newspapers. Management of the procedures for the exploration and the scientific research of this new geosite.
4. Doors Open Days in Andalusia Natural Parks: The fossils of Sierras Subbéticas: Ammonites (16<sup>th</sup> February 2013).
5. Participation in the EGN magazine with the article: *THE ROLE OF GEOPARK ENTERPRISES IN THE PROMOTION OF THE GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE*.
6. Elaboration of the EGN Week 2012 report.
7. Participation in the meeting of Spanish Geoparks Forum, held in Fitur (Madrid, 30th January, 2013).
8. Design of a Bookmark of Sierras Subbéticas for the bookmarks collection of the Spanish Geoparks edited by Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark in the framework of the Spanish Geoparks Forum.
9. Participation in the article of the Spanish Forum of Geoparks published in the magazine *Quercus* (the most important national magazine on environmental issues) with texts photographs and illustrations of all Spanish geoparks.
10. Celebration of a Forum Meeting and two Working Groups with the enterprises adhered to the ECST (European Charter for Sustainable tourism, as well as of collectives and administrations linked to the Natural Park/ Geopark.
11. Participation in the territorial phase of the IV Earth Science Olympiad, held in Rute, in the Secondary School Nuevo Scala.
12. Issue of a press release for the provincial and local newspapers of the Earth Science Olympiad in Sierras Subbéticas Geopark and participation in a radio interview.



13. Management to avoid reactivation of the quarries of the geosite “the Karren of los Lanchares” inside the Geopark Sierras Subbéticas.
14. Promotion of Scientific Research in the Geopark: Procedures for the research of extraterrestrial impacts in Jurassic rocks of Sierras Subbéticas Geopark.
15. Design of five new interpretive panels with contents of geological resources of the Geopark.
16. Continuous Advice to enterprises for the design of Geopark products and for promoting the geological heritage of Sierras Subbéticas.
17. Modification of the documents for the use of the EGN logo by local enterprises, after the discussion in the EGN CC Meeting in Arouca, and remittance to the EGN members for its discussion.
18. Networking and collaboration with other territories: remittance of images and information requested by other territories for EGN Corners, surveys on Geoparks, exhibitions, TV series and oral communications, and revision of Spanish interpretive texts of other Geoparks.

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### September 2012

- **Promotion of partner enterprises of the Geopark:** Going on with the project “The taste of Sobrarbe” consisting of a gastronomic route all over the Geopark whose participants are restaurants and craft food enterprises which have signed the partnership agreement with the Geopark, during last autumn the restaurants offered a special menu elaborated with food products of the Geopark. The Geopark published a recipe book containing a recipe of each of these restaurants and information about all the craft food producers of the Geopark.

- **Promotion of craft food products:** Participation of the Geopark in regional fairs to promote craft food products of the Partner Enterprises of the Geopark under the label “Products of the Sobrarbe Geopark”.

- **Edition of Sobrarbe geological map and the stratigraphic column** as promotional material for sale at the Interpretation Center.

- **Conservation:** The Geopark cooperated with the regional Government of Aragon to extract a huge fossil in a quite inaccessible place of the Geopark. The fossil was due to disappear as it was in a ravine subjected to erosion by water and rocks. It is going to be restored and prepared for its exhibition in the Geopark by the University of Zaragoza.

### October 2012

- **Scientific Itinerary for Secondary schools:** The Geopark takes part in this project through the provision of educational material and the organisation of guided geological itineraries. The project is sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education to offer to all the secondary schools in Spain, an itinerary through the Geopark. 161 students and 13 teachers from all over Spain participated in this project, whose aim is the spreading and awareness of geological natural and cultural heritage. The Geopark has signed an agreement with the regional Government in order to organise these activities each year.

- **VI Seminar of Sobrarbe Geopark:** The Seminar was devoted to “Making geology easy and funny”. From 19 to 21 October took place the sixth seminar of the Geopark. It was attended by 80 people (most of them Secondary school teachers and University students, people who had a professional interest in participating in the seminar). As in the previous year's edition, the Seminar was approved for the training of teachers in secondary education.

- **Guided tours :** They took place during the months of August, September and October. And they went on during the autumn with a program of the Geopark called “Geological autumn in Sobrarbe”

- **Training course:** From October to December the Geopark organised a training course for heritage guides. 114 people took part in this course and obtained their diploma

- **Craft food fair:** The geopark attended from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> the craft products fair in Zaragoza, with the products of the Geopark ( honey, jams, cheese...)

### November 2012

- **Workshop “Why Sobrarbe was a sea: Fossil interpretation”.** This workshop took place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was aimed to tourism guides and tourism enterprises that have signed the cooperation agreement with the geopark, in order to make it possible for them to develop some educational activities with their clients.

- **Tourism Fairs:** The Geopark took part from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> in the Tourism fair Expo Natur in Bilbao. Also took part in Mendi Expo, the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Irun. Both fairs are specialised in tourism and nature.

#### December 2012

- **Routes of the Prehistory:** The Geopark has designed several routes of the Prehistory in Sobrarbe, with promotional material and audio guides available in Spanish, English and French

- **Sponsorship of the Geopark to Basketball Teams:** The Geopark sponsored the sportswear for two basketball teams in the region.

- **Visits to the website of the Geopark:** During 2012, 116.460 people have visited this website.

- **Visits to the Geopark interpretation Centre:** During 2012 10.993 people have visited this centre

- **Renewal of panels:** The Geopark ended the actualization of the panels located in the geological sites and geological routes of the Geopark.

- **Publication of articles in magazines:** The Geopark has published articles on the subject of the Geopark and the EGN and GGN in several specialised magazines.

- **Research Fellowship:** The Geopark published the call for proposals for the research fellowships concerning the territory of the Geopark.

#### January 2013

- **Meeting of the Spanish Geoparks Forum:** It took place the 30<sup>th</sup> in FITUR.

#### February 2012

- **Promotion of craft food products:** Participation of the Geopark in regional fairs to promote craft food products of the Partner Enterprises of the Geopark under the label "Products of the Sobrarbe Geopark".

- **IV Olympic Games in Geology:** They were celebrated the 8th february, in cooperation with the University of Saragossa. They were aimed to secondary students from several regions of Spain.

- **Visit of secondary schools:** This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year the Geopark has the visit of a group of Norwegian secondary school students and teachers. Also several Spanish secondary schools have visited the Geopark.

- **Cooperation with Global Geoparks:** Sobrarbe Geopark has signed a cooperation agreement with Xingwen Geopark.

Sobrarbe Geopark

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1. Beginning with December, public workshops have been initiated in which measures for the protection of natural and historical sites and their implications for the population are discussed. There is a great interest of the population in these workshops which may result in new objectives for the Nature- and Geopark.
2. An important step is the new Geotope data base which is currently on its way. In future, it will provide the base for protection measures and touristic activities.
3. In cooperation with the Austrian Geological Survey, Heinz has finished a geological map of the Gams area which is the center of geotouristic activities in the region.
4. Members of the geopark have attended the 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference. Oral presentation: Precious times: Happy spending in the geopark
5. The number of Nature Park Partners has been raised to 12. Farmers and craftsmen qualify as partners by using local resources for special products. The Park has organized courses in marketing, product innovation and sales policy. A common folder is available at all hotels, guest houses and gastronomic enterprises. It is intended to foster the cooperation between producers and users.
6. Like in the foregoing years, an exchange of seeds of vegetable which can be raised under the rough mountain climate was organized and attended by peasant women who traditionally take care of vegetables for the family table and hobby farmers.
7. It was a logical move to install a stand with these products in the Nature and Geopark headquarter in the centre of St. Gallen. Organized by Irmi Auer, this stand offers non-perishable products all the time and fresh products on Fridays.
8. The Park office prepares the forthcoming season. The interest of schools to spend between one day and a whole week in the Park and join its activities is higher than ever. Furthermore, new touristic products have been developed for the forthcoming season.

**Kollmann Heinz** <heinz.kollmann@nhm-wien.ac.at>

### **Geopark activities and progress**

1. September 10<sup>th</sup>: Awarding of a prize to two GeoPark information centers (Open-Air Museum Neuhausen ob Eck and cave “Charlottenhöhle”) because of their especially family-friendly supply
2. September 12<sup>th</sup>: Participation in a regional workshop of the Swabian Alb Tourism Association on development of a tourism concept
3. September 16<sup>th</sup>: Germany wide “Day of the geotop”. Participation of GeoPark’s partners with different activities like guided tours or activity days
4. September 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> EGN Coordination Committee Meeting and the 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference at Arouca/Portugal
5. October 13<sup>th</sup>: Participation in the large final event of the common project “time travel” (with the Swabian Alb Tourism Association) with different activities and workshops of our partners
6. October 23<sup>th</sup>: Meeting of the GeoPark Infocentres at the Biosphere reserve information centre (also GeoPark Infocentre)
7. October 25<sup>th</sup>: Participation in a regional workshop for the development of a tourism conception for the Swabian Alb Tourism Association
8. November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>: Participation in the meeting of the organization’s management of the German National GeoParks and in the meeting of the German National Geoparks in Berlin
9. November 14<sup>th</sup>: Meeting of the GeoPark task force with representatives of the 10 rural districts and the Swabian Alb Tourism Association at the Biosphere reserve information centre in Münsingen
10. November 28<sup>th</sup>: Meeting of the working group “Zeitreisen” (time travel) together with members of the Swabian Alb Tourism Association. Planning of the common project 2013.
11. November 30<sup>th</sup>: Meeting of the Geopark advisory board at the Biosphere reserve information centre in Münsingen and election of a new chairman (Prof. Dr. Roman Lenz)
12. December 5<sup>th</sup>: Participation in the annual general meeting of the Swabian Alb Tourism Association
13. December 6<sup>th</sup>: Release of the new brochure “Abenteuer GeoPark”

14. December 13<sup>th</sup>: Annual general meeting of all members of the registered association GeoPark Swabian Alb at the Biosphere reserve information centre in Münsingen an election of a new chairman (Hans-Jürgen Stede)
15. December 16<sup>th</sup>: Release of the new brochure about the GeoPark Infocentres
16. January 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>rd</sup>: Presentation of the GeoPark at the tourism fair CMT in Stuttgart, activity program with partners
17. January 13<sup>th</sup>: Participation in a big press conference of the Swabian Alb Tourism Association during the tourism fair
18. February 5<sup>th</sup>: Visit of a Finnish delegation from the region Oulu and the Rokua Geopark
19. February 6<sup>th</sup>: Signing of a cooperation agreement between the GeoPark Swabian Alb and the Rokua Geopark at the state parliament (Landtag) of Baden-Württemberg
20. February 25<sup>th</sup>: Geopark training of around 20 staff members of the new Geopark Infocentre in Sonnenbühl (inauguration in April 2013)
21. February and March: Preparation of the Week of the European Geoparks with probably more than 100 activities
22. March 6<sup>th</sup>: Meeting of the GeoPark information centres at the Nature conservation centre Schopfloch. Preparation of the fourth GeoPark-Festival in April.

Renate Schrembs, 05.03.2013  
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### **1. Scientific conference on the existence of a Pluton in TERRA.vita**

The University of Osnabrück and TERRA.vita organized a scientific conference to discuss the controversial existence of a pluton, which is supposed to be the origin of special geological features in the Geopark. The regional newspaper had a one page special issue on this case.

### **2. Dutch Delegation**

A second delegation of 30 politicians from the aspiring Geopark De Hondsrug from the Netherlands visited TERRA.vita to check on structures, POI'S and experience concerning the EGN(GGN). The application of De Hondsrug for EGN/GGN has been delivered in time.

### **3. Opening of an exhibition for children in the visitors mine Kleinbremen**

As a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of TERRA.vita in 2012 new and attractive installations have been added in the running visitors mine to serve the need of young people, helping to understand the miners work in recent years.

### **4. Social volunteering**

Coca Cola Germany approached TERRA.vita to discuss volunteering projects for local and regional employees. As a result, Coca Cola employees will help to maintain and clean geosites on the 21.3.2013. TERRA.vita will provide background cooperation. This kind of cooperation could serve as a role model for other companies.

### **5. Talks with German ministries on responsibilities for new UNESCO Geoparks**

In Nov. 2012 a first meeting was held in Berlin. Participating were members of parliament from Geoparks, the ministries of the environment, economics and the exterior, the German UNESCO Commission and Andreas Schüller and Hartmut Escher representing the German GGN Parks.

End of February 2013 the German UNESCO Commission invited to a workshop to Bonn to continue discussion. The German Forum of National Geoparks meet in advance at the Messel Pit on invitation of Marie Luise Frey to agree on a common position. In February M.-L. Frey and Klaus George were also present. As a result, the UNESCO Commission issued a coordinated German position paper and has send it to all UNESCO delegations worldwide.

## **6. New law in Lower Saxony to conserve the paleontological heritage**

As we all have been surprised by this new law, the scientific ministry agreed on a proposal by TERRA.vita and Harz - Braunschweiger Land – Ostfalen to use the two geoparks as experimenting fields.

## **7. Increased cooperation between the Province of Drenthe (NL) and TERRA.vita**

Based on the ongoing collaboration between TERRA.vita and the aspiring Geopark de Hondsrug the Stenden University in Emmen (with a special expertise in tourism) it was agreed to develop common projects and to exchange student. The “Geopark expedition” (action based one week family event) is the first project to reach out to the local population, to meet across the border and to learn about each other. Meanwhile 3 meetings took place. Others will follow, aiming to develop an attractive annual project

## **8. Members assembly of Megalithic Routes association**

This meeting was held in the Netherlands (De Hondsrug) and is aiming to establish a new touristic route to unite European sites with megalithic graves. Actually members are coming from S, DK, NL and G. As an offspring the region of Odsherred in DK is going to strengthen relations with TERRA.vita to apply for EGN/GGN membership. A delegation exchange is planned for May 2013.

## **9. ITB Berlin**

TERRA.vita was participating in the common presentation of the EGN, helping out at the stand and giving a presentation (Timo Kluttig).

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Timo Kluttig

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### **Geopark Activities**

- September 2012 – February 2013. Project “Gateways of the Park” - Regular, guided museum tours were organized at all the seven Park Gateways: 1) Follonica Park Gateway (Iron and Cast Iron Museum) "the factory city"; 2) Scarlino Park Gateway (Portus Scabris Archeological Museum) "the mining freight village"; 3) Gavorrano Park Gateway (Mining Park) "the pyrite mountain"; 4) Massa Marittima Park Gateway (Museum of the Mine) "the city of metals"; 5) Monterotondo Marittimo Park Gateway (Route with facilities to the Biancane Hills) "a journey to the heart of the earth"; 6) Montieri Park Gateway (Boccheggiano Documentation Centre) "miners for 3000 years"; 7) Roccastrada Park Gateway (the Ribolla Mine's Documentation Centre) "land of castles and coal";
- September 2012 – May 2013 - Project “know the Park II edition” (September 2012 - May 2013). The project was dedicated to the schools of the Province of Grosseto. The park offered transport, services and free guided tours in 16 geological, mining and natural locations, with the possibility of a theatre play in the mine, telling stories about miners and geological discoveries. 1,500 students participated.
- September 2012 – March 2013 - Organization of the Course for Park guides and for the staff at the ticket "The geology and mineralogy of the Colline Metallifere" (80 hours of lectures and workshop). Teachers - Prof. Armando Costantini and Giancarlo Pagani - University of Siena.
- September – November 2012 – Project “Discovering the Maremma. Visits to the Park” with 17 different tour routes to archaeological sites and geological sites in the park. It's been made a brochure with all the system of trails in the park for geotourism and a program of guided tours has been organized lasted all summer. Multithematic guided tours, (archeology, geology, mining, environment) are allowed to make easily accessible the cultural and geological heritage and of the Park.
- 9th and 16th September 2012. Organization of the guided visit to medieval mining area of Serrabottini and Teresa Gallery (Massa Marittima) which was part of the initiative “Passeggiate tra Storia e Natura. Alla scoperta del Parco” or "Walks through History and Nature. Discovering the Park" organized by Gateway of the Park of Massa Marittima.
- 15th September 2012 –Inauguration and opening of the open area museum of Ravi Marchi Mine - Gavorrano. The cultural offer of the park has increased for the opportunity to visit an important area for the mining history of the Colline Metallifere where you can understand the formation of the mineralization and the techniques of extraction and processing of

pyrite in the XX century. The site is included in the Gateway of the Park of Gavorrano.

- 16th – 17th September 2012 – Ravi Marchi Mine – Gateway of the Park of Gavorrano Theatre play. "Rivolta e Pietas (Revolt and Pietas)" directed by Alfonso Santagata, performed by KATZENMACHER theatre company. Original theater production and theater workshop on the history of the miners of the Colline Metallifere. Project of Regional interest, funded by the Region of Tuscany.
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 - Participation in the National Forum Geoparks organized in Rome.
- May 2012– February 2013 Participation in the book "Italian Geoparks", Produced by all Italian Geoparks.
- 2012 -2013 Participation and membership in the Association Network EDEN - Destinations of Excellence Italian - coming 2nd place in the Competition" EDEN European Destinations of Excellence 2011.
- 2012 – 2013 Measures to protect and research of the geological site of ROSTE in the Municipalities of Montieri.

### **Networking**

- 9th - 11th November 2012. Conference "Città e Territorio. Conoscenza, tutela e valorizzazione dei paesaggi culturali (City and Territory. Knowledge, protection and enhancement of cultural landscapes)" Massa Marittima. Organized by the University of Florence. Speech by Alessandra Casini - Director of the Park "The possible future of the mining landscape of the Colline Metallifere: the National Park.

### **Activity Partners**

- 8th September 2012 – Project "I Luoghi del tempo (Places of Time." At the site "Terra Rossa" of the Gateway of the Park of Scarlino was made a theater performance "CITLUVIT: 100 years of Fosco Maraini" - walking with Mieke Maraini and Gloria Roselli and Concert "Fanfole and Clouds" - Concert taken from the collections of poems by Fosco Maraini. Art, geology and industrial archaeology, organized by Catalyst Association - Florence

### **INFO**

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### **GEOPARK'S ACTIVITIES.**

1. Realization of a geopark familiarization tourist trip with tour operators of Lusanova Group, Portugal (October).
2. Technical Assistance to the Biosphere Reserve of Monfragüe for designing its interpretation center on geology (October).
3. Geopark promotion within the tourism promotion events of the County Council of Cáceres in Valencia (October)..
4. Design and development of new pedagogical materials: a collection of rocks, minerals and fossil replicas, and teaching aids for conducting workshops. Distribution to primary schools and secondary in the Geopark territory (November).
5. Activities for the educational community and social groups: Interpreted route for the Disabled Association The Villuercas (September). Rio Ruelas geosite interpreted route with the Cañamero Primary School (October). Castaño de Calabazas geosite interpreted route for 3rd Age Association (October). Lecture on Geopark Environmental Education in the Primary Schools of Deleitosa, Fresnedoso of Ibor, Villar del Pedroso and Aldeacentenera (November).
6. Conference about Villuercas Geopark in the Workshops “Tagus International and other natural areas of Extremadura” (November).
7. Celebration of the Coordination Committee of the Action Plan which analyzes the geopark investments (November).
8. Presentation on the Geopark in the Third Meeting of bloggers “Extremadura on the Web”, Conventual The Coria, Trujillo (November).
9. Presentation on Geopark and Geotourism strategy in the Gastronomic Workshop of Valencia de Alcántara and Tagus International (November)
10. Meeting of the Villuercas - Ibores - Jara Geopark Executive Committee. Annual Report. Appointment of new members of the Education and Science Committee. Preparation of the agenda 2013 (December)
11. Adequacy of the ancient schools of Cañamero as new Visitor Reception Center of Geopark. Inauguration of this center (December).
12. Starting the new communication plan. They put up internal communication devices (society, educational community, businesses, partners) and external communication towards ecotourism and nature conservation media (January).
13. Starting the new marketing plan. Business support for geotourism experiences design and selling in the tourism market (January).
14. Editing of a geopark's resources Reference Manual for the companies participating in the Geopark's Tourist Product Club (January).
15. Development and printing of the Geosites' Guide of the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark. It contains information on accessibility, geological

interpretation and other attractions of the visit of 40 geosites. There are other chapters with complementary information (February).

16. Adequacy and inauguration of the interpretation room of the Carnival of Souls (geopark intangible assets) of Villar del Pedroso (February).
17. New companies are associated in the Geopark tourism association "Geovilluercas" which have had access to training activities (February).
18. Meeting of the Geopark educational project. Activities are decided for the first half of 2013. Among them a festival for Primary School pupils, a photo contest, workshops for teachers and guided excursions in the geopark. (February)
19. Meeting the Educational and Scientific Committee of the Geopark. It was decided to prepare a geological guide, the completion of a project called "Geoitineraries" and participation in scientific dissemination. (February).
20. Meeting in Guadalupe with the Geovilluercas entrepreneurs to work about the marketing and communication plans (February).
21. Conference on Geopark as territorial development opportunity for a region at the Rural Development Master of the University of Extremadura. (February).
22. Adequacy and inauguration of the interpretation room of the lime kilns of La Calera in Alia (March).
23. Appearance in various travel magazines, broadcast and social networks.
24. Presentation of the geosites' guide at the Bird International Fair in the national Park of Monfragüe (March).

### **Networking.**

25. Participation in drafting an article for the Journal Quercus about the Spanish Geoparks for its February 2013 issue. (December).
26. Spanish Geoparks Forum meeting in the Extremadura room at the International Tourism Fair of Madrid (January).
27. Geoempleo Project Meeting in Madrid with LEADER groups and Spanish Geoparks. (February).
28. Starting a tourist cooperative activity between Naturtejo Geopark and Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Spain-Portugal (ERDF).

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## **1. Events/workshops/seminars**

### **- September – December 2012**

40 excursions, guided hiking tours, guided museum tours for autumn season.

### **- September 7, 2012**

Open evening lecture on Maars as climate archives by Prof. Dr. Zollitschka

### **- September 8, 2012**

Official opening of “Lieserquellpfad”, a new hiking trail

### **- September 14, 2012**

Open evening lecture on soil by Dr. Dambeck

### **- December 6, 2012**

Public lecture on mineral waters in Vulkaneifel by Prof Schwedt

### **- October 26, 2012**

Public presentation of “Masterplan Nature- and Geopark Vulkaneifel” in Hohenfels-Essingen, The masterplan presents the vision and aims, fields of activity and the division of responsibilities for the future sustainable development of Vulkaneifel in the time frame of the following 10 years.

## **2. Geopark marketing, promotional activities and public relations**

### **- September 2012 – February 2013**

Continuation of educational training for Nature- and Geopark Guides including touristic product development

### **- September 2012**

Established contact to GeoWorld Travel, a tour operator from the UK

### **- August 31, 2012**

Participation in the eco tourism fair “Tour Natur” in Düsseldorf

### **- November 2012**

Re-launch of website www. [www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de)

### **- November 2012**

New website on promotion of nature tourism: [www.eifel-natur-reisen.de](http://www.eifel-natur-reisen.de)

### **- January 18-20, 2013**

Participation in the tourism fair “VAKANZ” in Luxemburg with release of calendar of events 2013

### **3. Participation in meetings and projects**

- Continuing work in the approved **LEADER-project: “Development of sustainable geotourism in Vulkaneifel”**

- Continuing work in the approved Euregio Maas-Rhine INTERREG IV A project: NEEGAN – Development of exclusive nature experience programs. Cooperation project with partners from Northern Rhine Westphalia and Belgium

- **October 24, 2012**

Annual EUROPARC Conference in Genk, Belgium: Re-connecting Society with Nature. Presentation of the development of a Geopark, case study of Vulkaneifel

- **November 26, 2012**

Consortium of Nature Parks in Rhineland-Palatinate

- **November 30, 2012**

Consultation and information of federal ministries on the proposed initiative “UNESCO-Geoparks” together with national German UNESCO committee in Berlin

- **January 30, 2013**

Meeting with representatives of federal ministries, EUROPARC, Federation of German Nature Parks, MAB, EGN and GGN-Bureau with the office of German UNESCO Committee, Bonn

### **5. Evaluation**

- **September 05, 2012**

Inspection of Nature- and Geopark Vulkaneifel by Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Food, Wine-growing and Forestry of Rhineland-Palatinate

### **6. Press/Media**

- Weekly press information of **Geopark Programs** in local bulletins and internet

- Weekly press information with **personalized presentation** of Geopark Guides and programs

- Documentation of Geopark activities in local bulletins of municipalities

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1. Geopark development
  - GEOEDUCATION IN ACTION - Leonardo da Vinci project application, in partnership with other geoparks (coordinator Arouca geoparks)
  - New national projects for education and cultural events dedicated to EGN Week
2. Tourism
  - Printing promotional materials (booklets);
3. Promotion of the geopark concept and EGN / GGN structure in international events and educational programs:
  - European Virtual Seminar Course, 2012 - 2013 (on-line course of 9 European Universities) on seven subjects and case studies, one of them being Geoconservation and geoparks;
  - Preparing the third edition of the two weeks Erasmus Intensive Program held in Sinaia, 28 students and 15 staff from nine European universities: Sustainable development and geoconservation;
  - Development of MSc Program in University of Bucharest: Applied Geo-Biology in conservation of natural and cultural heritage (including geoconservation and geoparks), 2012 - 2013;
  - Support for a new geopark initiative in Denmark: Geopark seminar – Flexika. Geopark Struer – Lemvig.

Andrasanu Alexandru

### **Contribution towards the work of the Network**

- Participation of two representatives at the EGN CC meeting in Arouca
- Participation in the EGN AC
- Participation on the ITB international tourism trade fair – the stand with other 6 European geoparks (price of 3<sup>rd</sup> best exhibitor in the category of NGOs)

### **Organization**

*Head office Geopark has moved to address Vejrichova 539, 511 01 Turnov. A new visitors centrum in Nová Paka. Tourist Information Centre was equipped by software application traffic monitoring system and use of official tourist information center in the framework of the Integrated Operational program of marketing activities to increase awareness of Czech tourism, before entering the building was installed the information kiosk widescreen LCD monitor with a touch screen located in the interior of the PC assembly.*

### **Science and surveying**

Research in paleontology and, mineralogy has continued, New program, granted by National Geography Magazine New Mexico Highlands University USA, the Czech Geological Service and University. Clermont Ferrand,, France. The implication of geoinfomation system of the BPG was launched with cooperation of the Czech Geological Service (an organisation of Czech Ministry of the Environment). Specialists from various geology disciplines are finishing five map lists 1: 25 000. The study is the basis for further development of the region and creates a geoinformation system for the development of Geopark, Protected Landscape Area Administration, State and local administration. Research in paleontology, mineralogy y has continued.

### **Conferences**

Organization and participation on International Conference “7 years Geopark Bohemian Paradise - expectations and reality”, conference hall) Sedmihorky Spa, May 31,th - June 1.th 2012 participation Franco Colosimo, President of GAL Valle del Crocchio, Italy: and representative form Geopark Meteorum, Sweeden Participation on Geopark conference Rattvik, Sveeden at June and Dalhala, September 2012, 11 EGN Confererence – participation and exhibition, September 19<sup>th</sup>-21th, Arouca, Portugal  
Conference on Best practice of Sustainable Tourism - EGN presented and promoted



### **Conservation (geoconservation)**

Maintenance of geo trails and information system repairs

### ***Marketing and promotional activities***

Two press conferences about the activity of geopark, 6 television programs on Czech television 1 and 8 broadcast on the radio about geopark and 3 new books, 16 exhibitions in Czech Republic and Poland. 62 scientific and popularization articles. Presentation on ITB Berlin, Geopark was presented in GO and REGIONTOUR – the Central European tourism fair. There were the presentations of the EGN and BPG on the tourist fair in Brno and on ITB Berlin, 6 exhibitions in Turnov and Polen.

**EGN week:** 24 Geo Education Action, 26 Geo Cultural action, 15 action Geo Kids and were attended by more than 15 thousand visitors

### ***Geotourism actions***

47 geotourism actions for 672 peoples from 15 european countries

### ***Educational activities***

62 lectures, 43 workshops for pupils and students

#### **Students' works:**

- 3 theses completed (1 bachelors, 2 thesis) on the geopark topics
- Geopark course on the University of Hradec Králové

### **Creation of promotional material**

36 articles in professional journals about geopark, 14 articles in newspapers, 60 leaflets were created for Czech Bavarian Geopark, 10 geoguides books were created for Czech Bavarian Geopark

### **Contacts:**

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### **Geopark Activities**

**Education:** The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark continued its strong educational programme by strengthening its ties with primary, secondary and third level education groups as well as making information available to the general public.

1. Co-presented 'Stone, Water & Ice – an introduction to the geology of the Burren. A 5 night evening course for adults with day field trip. March 2013
2. Development of new geology summer field school at Caherconnell Stone Fort, accredited by NUI Galway.
3. Continued development of national schools programme; introduction to geology talk to Mol an Oige 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class, national school, Ennistymon, followed by field trip. September 2012
4. Further contributions to national schools programme in collaboration with the Burren Outdoor Education Centre. February 2013
5. Presented introduction to geology course to Kilfenora National School as part of the Ecobeo school programme. November 2012
6. Participation in field trips for NUI Galway and University college Dublin university geology students. October/November 2012
7. Assisted Lisdoonvarna Secondary School with development of a project on turloughs for the Young Scientist of the Year competition.
8. Partner in application for FP7 Geoparks and seismology project

**Community Programmes;** The Geopark continues its support for community festivals and events

9. Contributed two guided walks to the local community Burren Winterage festival. October 2012
10. Participation in public information outreach meetings as part of the Burren Charter in Kinvarra and Doolin. November 2012
11. Working with community groups and National Parks service to develop 'Geopark Heritage Trails' around 11 villages in the Geopark

**Sustainable Tourism;** the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark is committed to the development of the Burren region as a sustainable tourism destination.

12. The EU LIFE + Burren Tourism for Conservation programme, managed by the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark, is working with partners from Universities, government agencies and private individuals to assess the impact of tourism on sensitive areas, identifying appropriate new areas for development within the Burren region as well as developing training schemes and a long- term monitoring programme with local tourism businesses.

13. Recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Burren Ecotourism Network which agrees the principles supporting a sustainable tourism strategy for the Geopark.
14. Adopted the European Commission's recently developed Indicators for Sustainable Tourism Destinations as a benchmark for the measurement of sustainable developments in the Geopark

#### **Public Talks and Publications:**

15. Presented public talk to Shannon Archaeological and Historical Society on 'The changing landscapes of the Burren' February 2013-03-20
16. Article on 'The sand volcanoes of west Clare' accepted for publication in 'The Other Clare' published by the Shannon Archaeological and Historical Society. March 2013
17. Article on 'A day in the life of a Geopark geologist' accepted for publication in 'Earth science Ireland'. March 2013-03-20
18. Attended 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference in Arouca, Portugal; Oral presentations , accepted for publication in the Conference proceedings publication. September 2012

**Media coverage:** We continue to use national and local TV and Radio to promote the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark.

19. Interview for National TV about geology and trace fossils from Rockmount quarry. September 2012
20. Took part in live national radio talk show about the risk of subsidence in limestone areas. March 2013
21. Interview for national TV and Radio about graffiti on Cliffs of Moher. February 2013

<http://www.irishcentral.com/roots/The-Burren-County-Clare---300-million-years-in-the-making-192573171.html>

<http://www.rte.ie/news/player/2013/0220/20158563-graffiti-painted-on-cliffs-of-moher-geologist-dr-eamon-doyle/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-21518918>

<http://www.clare.fm/blog/afternoon/afternoon-show-wednesday-february-20th-2013>

<http://www.meteotimes.net/2013/02/the-burren-region-and-plate-tectonics.html>

<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/-Police-to-investigate-death-defying-artists-graffiti-at-the-Cliffs-of-Moher-192252641.html>

<http://raidiocorbaiscinn.wordpress.com/2013/02/20/workshops-on-the-the-burren-workshops-to/>

<http://www.clareherald.com/2013/02/the-burren-300-million-years-in-making.html>

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### **Territorial Research, Protection and Management**

1. Creation of monitoring sheets on geosites
2. Official opening of the Rocks Birthing Stones - Interpretative Center - geosite –Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Exhibitions and Events**

3. Collaboration at the “Harvest Fair - 2013” – September
4. Support and promotion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Concentration of Canyoning at Freita Mountain – 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October
5. Institutional support and supply of promotional material for the 9<sup>th</sup> all terrain ride of the firemen of Arouca - October 27<sup>th</sup>
6. Disclosure of the painting exhibition of "Arouca Geopark territory" - October
7. Participation at the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Gastronomy Festival in *Santarém* – Oct 26<sup>th</sup> to Nov 4<sup>th</sup>
8. Promotion of the event “looking seed” in partnership with the Portuguese Network of Traditional Variety and Arouca Municipality - from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November
9. Promotion of the exhibition "Linen: Home to wear" - 25<sup>th</sup> October to 25<sup>th</sup> November
10. Organisation of the 2nd edition of the "Chestnut Festival" - from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November
11. The Rocks Birthing Stones – IC promotes the activity "Open Doors to Science" to mark the National Day of Scientific Culture - November 24<sup>th</sup>
12. Support and dissemination of the contest "ÁreaTalentShow" from Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>
13. Disclosure of the Geo Bike Challenge - February 23<sup>rd</sup>
14. Support and dissemination of the information session for financial support to tourism activities in partnership with Municipality and ERTPN - February 14<sup>th</sup>
15. Disclosure of the photo exhibition “*Santa Eulália* on pictures” patent at the Municipal Museum of Arouca - February and March

### **Educational activities**

16. 2450 students visited the Arouca Geopark, under the Educational Programs - September to March
17. Disclosure of the ecological activity “Planting in the Granja Nursery” - December 1<sup>st</sup>
18. Participation in the 20<sup>th</sup> “Pedagogical Workshops on Environmental Education” in *Leiria* - from 17 to 19 January
19. Collaboration on the national training course "Discovering the Arouca Geopark – workshops on fossils, rocks and technologies" in partnership with publishing house *Porto Editora* to promote the Arouca Geopark to the teachers - January

### **Scientific Activities**

20. Creation and Exhibition on National Chanel TV - RTP2 – Geosphere Documentaries (7 thematic Documentaries on European Geoparks and geosciences)
21. Continuing scientific study “Geological Heritage of the territory of the ADRIMAG – LAG”

### **Touristic Activities**

22. 630 tourists visited the Arouca Tourist Office/ AGA headquarters and 12 groups of geotouristic visits were accompanied – March to September
23. Promotion of thematic field trip about local mushrooms organized by Quinta de Novais rural hotel (AGA’s associated) - October 27<sup>th</sup>
24. Co-organization of visits to geosites for seniors from Arouca Municipality - October
25. Participation and meetings in tourism fair in Valladolid, Spain – 22<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November
26. Guided visits at Rocks Birthing Stones - Interpretative Center - about 5.000 visitants - November to March
27. Participation in the Seminar on Tourism "Resources, Dynamics and Opportunities", with presentation of the oral communication "Arouca Geopark: Geotourism and Territorial Marketing" – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December

28. Co-organization with the LAG - ADRIMAG in the workshop "Magic Mountains - A Strategy for Sustainable Tourism"- December 17th
29. Participation in the Lisbon International Tourism Fair (*BTL2013*) Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>
30. Participation of Arouca Geopark, as a good practice on creation of touristic product, in the presentation of "World Heritage Tourist Routes - North Portugal" - March 13<sup>th</sup> promoted by Tourism of Portugal.

### **Promotion**

31. Disclosure of 190 news in the local, regional and national media and on multiple digital platforms – from September to February
32. Monthly publication of the Arouca Geopark newsletter – from September to march;
33. "Arouca Geopark - Travel through time with the stones as a guide", title of the report published by the Turisver (a tourist magazine of national circulation) – February
34. "Arouca Geopark - Where the stones are born 'by magic'", title of the report published by the Publituris (a tourist magazine of national circulation)
35. "Arouca Geopark: to find himself back in time" title of the report published by the Outdoor (a tourist magazine of national circulation) – March
36. Rocks Birthing Stones – Interpretative Centre, interviews from Lusa, national agency of information – November;
37. Disclosure of 70 press releases concerning the 11th European Geoparks Conference in the local, regional and national media - September
38. Participation in the "Portugal at Heart" programme of RTP1 (national TV channel) – December 21
39. Participation at the gastronomic event " Flavors of Portugal" at the *Barão de Fladgate* restaurant - from 9 to 11 November

### **Projects / partnerships**

40. Presentation in the regional event "Gastronomic Weekends" – November
41. Arouca Geopark territory integrates the application to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism - January 25
42. Co-organization of the training course "Geotourism Qualification" framed in a cooperation project, with the support of the LEADER - December 12
43. Organization of the geoparks exhibition at the Portuguese Assembly, under the motto "Geoparks: a reality of sustainable development" - from 14 a January 18
44. Dissemination of the 4<sup>th</sup> Film Festival on Landscape organised by Parco delle Madonie Geopark – November to March
45. Promotion of the photo contest "Arouca Geopark: landscapes and culture" - February

### **EGN Participation**

46. Support the organization of the AC meeting and CC meeting - September
47. Organization and dissemination of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference realized in Arouca on September
48. Organization of the workshop "Development & Innovation - Case Study: European Geoparks" with presentations of Arouca, Naturtejo, Maestrazgo, Sobrarbe - March 15<sup>th</sup>
49. Organization of a business mission to 6 local agents from Arouca Geopark to Sobrarbe Geopark (Spain) – 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March

### **Management Structure**

50. AGA integrates the governing bodies of Turismo Porto and North Entity – December
51. Monthly meetings of Directors of the Board of AGA
52. Meeting of AGA General Assembly with the approbation of the Business Plan for 2013
53. Auditing the Management Quality System of AGA - ISO 9001:2008– February 22<sup>nd</sup>
54. Support one curricular trainees on Tourism – since February
55. Support two professional trainees on tourism – since January

1. **Recently created Geocakes company inspired by the Geopark.** Cake designer Raquel Ramos started a new project in Idanha-a-Nova. This young Chef specialized in confectionery already presents a long and notable curriculum dedicated to the fine arts of gastronomy.
2. **The first European Wolfram Journeys in Pampilhosa da Serra.** After the brilliant framework established by the well-known expert João Avelãs Nunes, several presentations on the history of Wolfram in several regions of Portugal followed, where three presentations by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues and several collaborators stood out, about various regions within the Naturtejo Geopark and how projects are being developed, in cooperation with the communities and people who lived during WWII and the beginning of the Cold War.
3. **11th European Geoparks Conference.** The Naturtejo Geopark was also represented by 9 works which demonstrated several fields of work, such as geoconservation, educational activities, community related activities and activities for schools, as well as partnerships involved. The Naturtejo's committee included Armindo Jacinto, Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Manuela Catana and Cristina Preguiça.
4. **New company Georural inaugurates the Santa Margarida Hotel.** Oleiros opens its first 4 star hotel, by the margins of the Perbeques river. The inauguration of this small hotel of modern architecture, integrated with the traditional schist local rock, counted with the participation of the Portuguese Minister of the Economy, Álvaro Santos Pereira, the President of the Municipality of Oleiros, José Marques and Armindo Jacinto, President of the Naturtejo.
5. **Proposal for the protection of Serra da Gardunha as Protected Landscape.** The proposal was unanimously approved in the Municipal Assembly Castelo Branco. Among the natural and cultural values in which the proposal is based on it is included the Geological Heritage and the hydrogeological richness.
6. **Geopark in the European Week of the Regions and Cities, at Brussels.** The Coordination Commission and Regional Development of the Center Region guarantee in the last 4 years the participation of Center Region in the Open Days – European Week of Regions and Cities. This is the major annual event in the calendar of European cities and regions (joining more than 6000 participants) and is organized by the Committee of the Regions together with the European Commission – General Board of Regional Politics, with the European Parliament and more than 200 regions and cities from 35 countries. This year general subject was "Europe's regions and cities: Making a difference", being defined three thematic priorities: "Smart and green growth for all", "Territorial cooperation: an asset for Europe" and "Delivering results". Naturtejo Geopark was represented in this important European event by Armindo Jacinto.
7. **Rural World: Land of Opportunities.** The conference "Rural World: Land of Opportunities" was organized by the Management School of Idanha-a-Nova, the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Jornal do Fundão media partner, with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. Being a subject particularly relevant for the region the conference had high participation by about 200 people. Many entrepreneurship projects were presented as well as the opportunities of investment made available in the region by several institutions.
8. **1st Congress of Tourism in Campos Gerais, Brazil.** The Congress of Tourism from Campos Gerais was organized by the Department of Tourism of the University of Ponta Grossa, in the state of Paraná, with the financial support of Fundação Araucária. The main subject was "Tourism in Natural Areas" and aimed to discuss in technical and scientific basis the Tourism, promoting synergies among university, authorities and enterprises, and reinforcing the cooperation among the sectors constituting the tourist

system in the region. Among presentation of many applied research works developed in this Paraná region, including the Campos Gerais National Park, it was emphasized the geopark regional and international experiences, through Naturtejo (Portugal) and Araripe (Ceará, Brazil) geoparques, as well the Project of geopark being developed in the region of Bodoquena/Pantanal, at Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil).

**9. Launching of the store Produtos da Terra at Vila Velha de Ródão.** The company Incentivos Outdoor opened in its resort of Portas de Ródão the store Produtos da Terra. In line with the strategy of diversification of tourism products, Incentivos Outdoor is selling local products from the whole region of the Naturtejo Geopark, also promoting to the clientes other interest points to visit in Naturtejo Geopark.

**10. Meeting of Geoparks Enterprisers at Idanha-a-Nova.** The Management School of Idanha-a-Nova held a meeting of Enterprisers from Andalusia and from Naturtejo Geopark. This meeting chaired by the School Director Ana Rita Garcia was aimed to make closer the trading between these two regions of Spain and Portugal which in the last years were strategically valuing the natural heritage, in particular the areas internationally-recognized as geological sites included as geoparks endorsed by UNESCO.

**11. Travelling exhibition “When we went for Ore”.** The travelling exhibition that records the mining memories of local communities came to the villages of Medelim and Proença-a-Velha, where was presented in the social centres.

**12. A new geo-company operating in the Geopark.** Actigeo was just born at the base of Monsanto inselberg, in Adingeiro. Constituted in July this company run by Jorge Costa is operating guided visits in the Geopark main geosites and historical places.

**13. Monte Filipe: new 4 star hotel in the southernmost corner of the Geopark.** Monte Filipe Hotel & Spa is the new acquisition for the delightful area of Alpalhão, in Nisa. The new born opens the doors to Nature Tourism, 4 stars of comfort and quality of life with 48 rooms and 2 suites. Strategically located between Portas de Ródão Nature Monument and S. Mamede Nature Park, and in contact with S. Mamede and Lage de Prata Natura 2000 sites Monte Filipe Hotel is the closest way to enjoy the Geopark’s geological heritage and biodiversity.

**14. Portuguese Geoparks showcase at National Parliament.** The Portuguese Geoparks Forum organized in the National Parliament the Week of the Geoparks. In the main lobby the European and Global Geoparks of Naturtejo and Arouca, as well as the Geopark projects of Azores and Terras de Cavaleiros provided to the parliamentarians, secretaries of the state, ministers and Parliament workers in general an exhibition introducing geoparks, a conference and cultural animation with booths representing each geopark involved. The aim of this initiative developed with the National Commission for UNESCO was to promote geoparks as sustainable approaches for regional development in rural areas.

**15. Successful participation in International Tourism Fairs.** Naturtejo Geopark was present in BTL Lisbon, FITUR Madrid, FIO Birdwatching Fair in Extremadura and ITB Berlin. Organizing the “Geoparks” stand together with other 6 geoparks they won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Exhibitor Award in the category NGO’s/Non-Profit Organizations

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### **Geopark activities**

1. In late June Katla Geopark signed a contract for IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for EU) the total amount of the grant is 560.000 and national funding is 187.000 Euros. This will cover the operation for the next two years including projects like study visits for stakeholders, improving a total of 30 Geosites, educational programs for locals and tourists and destination marketing.
2. The new COO Vilborg Arna Gissurardóttir resigned and stopped working at the end of September 2012. A new full time COO did not come to work until 1. December 2012. During that period Steingerður and Sigurður worked on the Geopark as possible part time.

A new website was made for guests of the area [www.katlageopark.is](http://www.katlageopark.is), the website has undergone serious remodeling and made more professional as well as being promotional. All the Geosites 81 in the whole have been GPS located and put on a map on the webpage.

3. Has been looking very much to inwards promotion, held 3 seminars on the philosophy of Geoparks for the inhabitants and businesses within the three municipalities and making a plan for building up infrastructures and to make selected geosites more accessible.
4. KGP has taken part in different European projects – Northern Georoutes is a project that is designed to develop a high quality tourist offer and booking system for Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks in the North. Nordic GeoGuide School II is another project developing the guiding skills of people in Katla Geopark.
5. Promotional video was made in August with Visit South Iceland – the regional marketing agency that was shown on the entertainment system of Icelandair, the biggest international airline that operates in Iceland. In January Katla Geopark also promoted a video on its own to be used in a promotional purpose.
6. A marketing plan is being worked on based on a survey that was made in cooperation with stakeholders in the area. Questionnaires were made available in hotel rooms, hostels and guesthouses and in visitors' centers in the area. After the survey had been done another survey was made for people in the tourist business in the area and workshops were held with stakeholders in order to make needs analyzes of the geopark.



7. Katla Geopark held a 3 day seminar on local food production with about 30 participants from within the area. The seminar was held in Hvolsvöllur and through the videoconference to two other places within the area – i.e Vík and Kirkjubæjarklaustur.
8. Two personnel were hired, one in December and another one started on the 1. February. Ragnhildur Sveinbjarnardóttir who started work in December is part time hired as an assistant and Rannveig Ólafsdóttir is an educational expert whose main responsibility is to write texts for signs and the webpage, based on the geography, culture and heritage of the area.
9. Katla Geopark took part in an outdoors activity tourism fair in Stockholm Sweden as a part of promoting the various activities on offer within the geopark all year round

Further information:

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1. The **2013 edition of our magazine, North Pennines News**, has been produced and distributed to all households in the Geopark. 2013 is the tenth anniversary of the North Pennines as a European Geopark and of the articles in the magazine focuses on the achievements during those ten years. It also features articles on other work of our team, including progress with the refurbishment of our own visitor centre, our work on restoring our extensive peatlands and our events programme for 2013.
2. **Geological walks, talks and events.** At the end of 2012 we provided a range of walks and events on a geological theme as part of festivals by community groups. We supported the first Stone Festival organised by a community group in Teesdale in the south of the Geopark and the very successful Haltwhistle Walking Festival in the North of the area.
3. A further two geologically-themed '**Rocky Weekends**' were held in Holwick and Dufton. Both comprised guided walks on Saturday and Sunday and an evening meal and a talk by invited speaker. The Dufton Rocky weekend was especially successful with most participants staying in accommodation nearby and the meal being provided in the one winery in the North Pennines geopark.
4. A **new panel for Langdon Beck Hotel** has been completed. This interprets the view from the hotel of the crags of Cronkley Scar, which are made of the famous Whin Sill. The hotel also hosts further information on the geology of that part of the Geopark. An **interpretive panel for West Rigg Opencut**, one of our geosites showing both lead and iron ore mining, is nearing completion.
5. In partnership with the Friends of Killhope Museum a new project to **record the memories of people working in Fluorspar mines** was started. The Fluorspar mines was the most recent mining activity in the North Pennines Geopark and recording the social and industrial history of the activity is very important as those who worked in it are now very elderly. We hope this project will lead to a larger initiative on fluorspar mining in due course and photographs, sound clips and some text will be made available on our website in due course.
6. New **geological walks** have been developed. The **Richard Watson Trail** uses the writing of a 19<sup>th</sup> century lead miner to give visitors an understanding of the cultural heritage of that part of the

Geopark. The **Allenbanks Trail** uses a very popular gorge owned by the National Trust (a national NGO) which shows dramatic signs of on-going geological processes.

7. **Heritage Interpretation through New Technologies (HINT).**

Work on this transnational LEADER project with Geopark Shetland, Chablais Geopark (France) and the aspiring Geopark Hondsrug (Netherlands) continued slowly. The technology we are aiming to use has proved to be a challenge in Upper Teesdale as the broadband signal is so poor. We expect this project to be completed around Easter 2013.

8. The **Bowlees Visitor Centre** is now being run by our team. With the help of LEADER and Heritage Lottery Funding it is being refurbished to increase the size of the café, to improve the heating and to upgrade the interpretation and information for visitors. The site also includes an old limestone quarry full of wild flowers and a popular walk to a waterfall. It will reopen to the public in early May 2013 and will provide us with an opportunity to provide more events and courses.

9. **Heritage Skills Training.** Our training project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund which allows us to place young apprentices with professional dry stone wallers in the area is now recruiting the final two trainees. The training leads to a qualification in dry stone walling and apprentices also receive training in business skills. We have made a further funding application to do more skills training, this time including young people to work in traditional quarries which provide stone 'slates' which is a traditional roofing material in the area.

10. Elizabeth Pickett attended the EGN CC meeting and conference in Arouca in autumn 2012 and a meeting of the **UK Geoparks Forum** in the English Riviera Geopark in early March 2013.

**Dr Elizabeth Pickett** (elizabeth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk)

**Peter Samsom** (peter@northpenninesaonb.org.uk)

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## Current situation

In January 2013 the geopark office moved into new accommodation (the office is located in the little town Döbern). From January to March office rooms and vestibule became established as geopark point.

## Geopark events and progress

### October 2012

- October 24<sup>th</sup> opening of geotouristic path “Historical mine area Babina” consisting of 5,5 km long bicycle and hiking trail in the waste land of Babina mine, three representative entrance gates, 14 adequate representative information panels as well as in Polish and German language, some visitor points with views to coloured lakes (green lakes – former clay pits, red lakes – former lignite mines); opening event with lecture meeting, representatives of local authorities , press and TV (600.000 € project)
- October 27<sup>th</sup> opening of 1<sup>st</sup> geopark hiking path “Drachenberge” (Dragon’s Hills) with local authorities and press
- edition of 2<sup>nd</sup> geopark photo calendar (2013)
- further qualification of geopark guides

### November 2012

- development of an general orientation system for different geopark and geopark related touristic points and offers, students project in cooperation with High School Zittau/Görlitz, execution is planned in a common project with Geopark Bohemian Paradise

### December 2012

- torchlight procession at the river Neiße in the night of New Year’s Eve (common Performance of UNESCO Heritage Fürst-Pückler-Park and geopark)

### January/ February 2013

- preparation for the new touristic season (participation in several touristic and marketing events)
- promotion with four schools for future cooperation

### February 2013

- edition of two so called “Tourentalers” (Nr. 77: Ścieżka geoturystyczna dawna kopalnia Babina” and Nr. 79: Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen / Geopark Łuk Mużakowa). These wooden disks are a proof of the visit, a souvenir and a collectors-item as well. On both sides of the Tourentaler is a picture of the destination and a number (<http://www.tourentaler.de/english.html> <http://www.znaczki-turystyczne.pl/?limitstart=0>).

Geopark Muskau Arch (in German: Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen, in Polish:  
Łuk Mużakowa [w:ug m:ushakova])

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### **Geopark Activities**

1. Visitor numbers to the Marble Arch Caves in 2012 were up by 1.2% from 2011. This was primarily due to a large number of visitors from tour companies in Germany who specifically requested a visit to the Geopark.
2. The Geopark was nominated for two national awards: the first was the Northern Ireland Travel & Tourism Visitor Attraction of the Year Award, and the second was the Chambers Ireland Supporting Tourism Award for the Geopark Local Tour Guide Programme.
3. Science Week activities continue to be very popular with National Science Week activities taking place in November and National Science and Engineering Week taking place in March. Over 600 pupils from both Fermanagh and Cavan now attend the event and places are booked up months in advance for this increasingly popular event.
4. Teachers' workshops on how to deliver Earth science lessons were organised in conjunction with the Earth Science Education Unit for post-primary level geography and science teachers. These workshops are now in their fifth year and are delivered at the Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre. The majority of the attendees were trainee teachers from the University of Ulster and in the past three years all trainee geography teachers in Northern Ireland have received this training.
5. The Geopark continues to feature heavily in local and national media outlets. This has included a feature on the Geopark in UTV's Lesser Spotted Ulster which featured the Burren Forest, Whitefathers Cave, and the Shannon Pot.
6. Several new walking routes have been established in the Geopark as part of the INTERREG IVA-funded Harnessing Natural Resources (HNR) project. These include a number of looped walks that spur from the Cavan Way, a national way-marked way. Other actions under HNR that are now underway are the extension of the Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre and Car Park and the development of new infrastructure at Geopark sites.
7. The Border Uplands Project, again funded under INTERREG IVA is well under way and includes a new interpretative centre for the Burren Forest, a key archaeological and geological site within the Geopark. The tender documents for the design and build of the centre have been advertised and should be completed by the end of 2013. All other actions within this project are well underway.
8. A number of new staff has been employed at the Geopark including a new cave supervisor, a project officer for the Border Uplands project and a development officer who is replacing Martina O'Neill whilst she is on maternity leave.
9. As part of a nationwide BBC campaign called Stargazing Live, the Marble Arch Caves was the site of the launch of the BBC Sky Balloon, a massive weather balloon aimed at measuring atmospheric conditions above Fermanagh.
10. The annual events calendar continues to go from strength to strength with a record number of events taking place last year.
11. The excavation of Drumclay crannóg began with completion expected before June 2013. This man-made island dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries and excavation has revealed that it is more important than first

thought. The site includes the remains of 30 wooden houses, one of which is thought to be the largest house structure of the period ever to be discovered and this will change the current thinking of ancient Irish life by archaeologists.

### **Networking**

12. Participation in the 11<sup>th</sup> European Geopark Conference in Arouca, Portugal.
13. Participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Global Geopark Roundtable Conference after formally signing a sistering arrangement with the Hong Kong Global Geopark. This included a presentation on the benefits of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark to the cross-border community. This visit will be reciprocated in March 2013 when delegates from several Chinese Geoparks will be visiting the Marble Arch Caves.
14. Participation in both the Irish and UK Geoparks Fora. These have included drafting responses to the UNESCO National Commission from both Ireland and the UK and in contributing to terms of Reference for both fora.
15. Application for partnership in the FP7 GOSE Project to develop a Europe-wide seismology training programme for school teachers through Geoparks. This 24-partner project includes Geoparks from 10 member states and various seismological and academic institutions. Lead partner is the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (BGS).
16. Application for partnership in the COMENIUS GEO4OL Programme to develop educational opportunities for Geopark-based schools.
17. Development of LEADER-funded transnational cooperation programme to assess the economic benefits of each Geopark and to establish links on best practice for economic development. This will include promoting local produce, developing community partnerships and tourism infrastructure.
18. Assistance to Mourne-Cooley-Gullion geotourism project in developing an application for Geopark status.

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