

Psiloritis Natural Park

Progress report for the period November 2007 – March 2008

Since the last meeting various actions took place on behalf of the Park. Some of them are listed below:

1. The construction of two **educational kits** has been completed. The first, which is a common action of the program demonstrates the procedures of the water cycle and is going to be translated in English and shared to the partners; the second deals with the biodiversity of Psiloritis Mountains.
2. A new **series of leaflets**, related with key subjects of the geopark (natural environment, history and archaeology and people and culture), has been published in two languages (Greek and English). A detailed **map of the geopark**, comprising all the spots of geo-tourist interest (geological, historical, archaeological, cultural etc), is at the last stage of designing and will be published soon. Moreover, a **field guide** for the geotops of Psiloritis Natural Park has almost finished. Finally, the geopark contributed to the implementation of the EGN coffee table book.
3. Four **hiking routes** with signposts have been formatted and established at selected areas of the park by the Natural History Museum of Crete. AKOMM is going to prepare signposts and outdoor infrastructure for the visitors of the routes.
4. A **database** of the geopark's local artists has been completed and the procedures of materializing a **natural and focal art exhibition**, at a central place in Heraklion, have begun.
5. A strategy of promoting the "**Land of Psiloritis**", a recently formatted network of local enterprises associated with alternative tourism (such as traditional hostels, restaurants, agro touristic cooperatives etc), has been **set and commenced**.
6. The geopark of Psiloritis **participated** at the 2nd exhibition of "**Tourism, Agrotourism and Alternative Tourism**" that was implemented at the International Exhibition Center of Crete, from 09 to 12 of November 2007, as well as at the 3rd exhibition of "**Kinds of Alternative Tourism**" that took place at the same time with the 3rd conference of Alternative Tourism, from 14 to 16 of December 2007, at the city of Florina.
7. The organization of the **EGN Local Art Festival** is at the final stages. The event will host exhibits from many European Geoparks and local artists. The event will take place during EGN week and is part of the activities for the celebration of the IYPE.