

Eisenwurz Nature and Geopark

The termination of the LEADER period and the definition of projects for a new period has put much strain on the Geopark officers. In close contact with the office for Central Europa in Vienna, Reinhard and Katharina have further initiated a new project in the frame of Interreg IVB. A definition of goals has been accomplished and contacts with potential partners are in an advanced stage.

After the very successful launch of packages together with the tourism enterprises, the Geopark has expanded its offer for this year considerably. In close cooperation with school authorities, new efforts have been made to promote one-day programmes for primary and secondary schools. The Geopark is fully integrated into Austrian IYPE activities and some of its projects for the public will be funded from these sources.

A remake of the GeoLine folder has been published in the beginning of the year. The Hieflau Snail Safari, a unique playful approach to the biology and palaeontology of the most successful mollusc group is proceeding well. The construction of the "snail house" is almost finished and the detailed planning together with scientists of the Vienna Museum of Natural History has come into its final stage. Also the Ice Age Trail is in the stage of realisation. After intensive discussion, an innovative 50 square meter geological model is currently realized in the Water Adventure Park of St. Gallen. It will demonstrate the course of water from (artificial) rain to springs, streams and rivers to marine basins. The visitor can interfere by increasing the water supply, adding sediment, building dams, manage inundations and much more.

There is currently much research activity of various groups in the area, especially on Cretaceous and Paleogene rocks. The investigations on the K/T Boundary together with Professor Andrei Grachev and other scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences is in the stage of writing up the results. Preparations for an international workshop on the K/T boundary in the Geopark in spring 2009 have begun.