

European Geoparks Week 2008
Report

Name of Geopark: **Madonie Geopark**

Dates of geoparks week: **28 May - 23 June**

Contact person: **Dr. Pasquale Li Puma -
uob5@parcodellemadonie.it**

Special motto of geoparks week: **When you start to know Europe savouring its wines and cheeses and the character of the different countries in it, you start to understand that after all the decisive factor in a culture is the spirit of the place (Lawrence Durrell)**

1. Please give the following information:

- number of activities/events held in geoparks week	12
- number of press releases announcing geoparks week events	6
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters	1000
- total number of visitors/participants	3000

2. Describe the Geoparks Week 2008:

The 2008 EGN Week in the Madonie Geopark first of all meant to involve, for the enactment of the programme, as in preceding years, various associations, environmental education centres, museums and institutional bodies in the territory also connected to the world of school. The aim was both to strengthen the relationships of collaboration and to encourage future and independent entrepreneurial, environmental education and play-formative initiatives closely connected to the geological features in the Madonie but also to succeed in perceiving and communicating the most hidden interconnections among geological phenomena, human transformations of the territory in the past and in the present and ecologically sustainable activities like geo-tourism that the EGN intends to promote in Europe.

Thus with Geo & Geo we set out to go over some well-known geological paths but we also endeavoured to construct other ones, experimentally, for people with different demands.

With Geo & Relish we set out to discover "mother nature" among rocks and trees and highly appreciated flavours of our traditional dishes, also collected together in a recent publication of ours handled by Slow Food. Highly successful and crowded was the workshop for presentation of the hallmark of environmental quality and typicality for accommodation structures and restaurateurs in the communes of the Madonie Park to implement the economic and social politics and more specifically the tourist sector, inevitably connected to food and agriculture policies.

With Geo & Culture we made available the exhibition "Georisks and Georesources", organized by the Regional Association of Geologists in Sicily and inserted in the national programme of events to celebrate the IYPE with 50 big thematic panels, prevalently made up of significant photographs and images, on the various

peculiarities of our territory. From hydro-geological risks, volcanic and seismic ones, to the resources of the Sicilian territory, immensely rich in environmental value.

With Geo & Sports we were concerned with orienteering, a noble sport for the mind and for the body that is well suited to discovering and enjoying the territory, as was done by over 300 young people at junior and senior secondary school assisted by experts from the National Federation for Orienteering and by the Mountain Aid Nucleus on horseback of the Regional Forestry.

With Geo & Kids we did the publication "*The Madonie Park – A Guide for Children*", to guide children among the wonder of the Madonie Park, and the cahier "*The ecological footprint of the Madonie – calculated by the children of the Park*", at the end of the environmental education project "*Let's think about it. What is our weight on the world.*"

Finally, with Geo & EGN, great stress was laid on the EGN and geo-tourism during the sessions of the Conference on Mediterranean Ecotourism, which involved the principal governmental and nongovernmental organizations, voluntary initiatives and networks for the development of sustainable tourism and ecotourism, certifiers in the sector, tour operators and travel agencies, marketing services and environmental and consumer organizations.

3. Photos:

