

Papuk Geopark, Croatia

Progress report: September 2007 – April 2008

1. After Scotland Conference Papuk Geopark was featured in an exceptionally positive manner in many local and national newspaper and magazines
2. Representatives of the Papuk Geopark discussed the mechanism of applying for EGN membership with Mr. Lajos Seke from a prospective Geopark Fruska Gora, Serbia
3. Participation in TAIEX Workshop: „New Practices in Geodiversity for a Sustainable Development of the Regions” which was held on 8 to 10 October 2007 in Sibiu, Romania. Exchanging experiences in the fields of geological heritage protection and geotourism activities.
4. Dr.sc. Esad Prohic, Croatian ambassador in Iran, participated in the First Seminar on 'Role of Geoparks in Promoting Tourism' which was held in Qeshm Island and presented Papuk Geopark.
5. In local schools there were a few presentations to raise the profile of the Papuk Geopark
24th December - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to Gymnasium school in Pozega
18th January - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to secondary school in Orahovica
31st January - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to secondary school in Slatina
8th February - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to primary school in Velika
11th February - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to primary school in Vocin
6. Papuk Geopark participated in local touristic festival (Orahovica city) with stall and many visitors could be acquainted with Geopark and European Geopark Network through informative leaflets. Also Geopark staff spread information about Geopark and Network concepts to the visitors
7. Papuk Geopark is actively involved in current Geoparks projects (mostly youth projects) such as:
 - “Meet your Geopark” (TERRA.vita) – four local schools participate in this contest and prepare their projects
 - “Children of the Earth” (Haute-Provence) – local children have involved
 - “Earth materials and local arts” (Psiloritis) – exhibits of one local artist will be sent to Psiloritis
8. Submission of two abstracts (one poster and one oral presentation) for the 3rd International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Osnabruck
9. Papuk Geopark contributed with article about Park to the EGN Magazine No5

- 10.** At the six main entrances in Geopark boundary signs (“welcome Geopark wall”) have been erected
- 11.** Many guided walks through Geopark area have been organized especially for school children
- 12.** Preparation and printing of a new Papuk Geopark T-shirt with IYPE logo
- 13.** Preparation of new educational trail in the vicinity of Orahovica city. The trail is dedicated to famous Croatian geologist Josip Poljak and except geological features biological and cultural highlights will be encompassed.
- 14.** New geological souvenirs has been developed
- 15.** Work on arrangement geological exhibition in Park’s visitor centre is in progress – choosing fossils, rock samples, etc.
- 16.** One PhD project is in progress considering “Radlovac” metamorphic complex
- 17.** Scientific excursion of Croatian Geological Society to Papuk Geopark was organized
- 18.** Three public meetings with local authorities and other stakeholders considering Geopark boundary, common activities, definition of formal agreement were organized
- 19.** Process of Papuk Nature Park Management plan preparation continued with emphasises on importing geoheritage conservation and geotourism development in all features of Management plan