

Annual report 2007
(From April 2007 to March 2008)

- 1.** The Geopark **participated at the Leader+ Common Project**. For this purpose they proceeded to an alliance with the “Natural History Museum of the University of Crete” sharing the actions that each party should carry out. In addition a new experienced in geoconservation and management, geologist Mr. Spiros I. Staridas has been hired to implement and force forward the project for AKOMM.
- 2.** 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 now preparing signposts and outdoor infrastructure for the visitors of the routes, as well as a booklet including details and maps for each route.
- 3.** The design of the **overall geopark signposting** has almost finished and the new signposts will be established soon. Additionally, three old damaged signposts, at the areas of “Petradolakia”, “Zaros Lake” and “Nida Plateau” (all significant geosites within the park) **have been replaced**.
- 4.** 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.
- 5.** 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.
- 6.** 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. This exhibition will last ten days, from 01 to 10 of June 2008.
- 7.** A strategy of promoting the “**Land of Psiloritis**”, a recently formatted network of local enterprises associated with alternative tourism (such as traditional hostels, restaurants, agrotouristic cooperatives etc), has been **set and commenced**.
- 8.** 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.

9. EGN 2007 activities included: i) an exhibition at the beautiful cave of Sfentoni, in Zoniana village, with specially designed posters illustrating subjects like the “European Geoparks Network”, the “Geopark of Psiloritis and its monuments” and the “Local and traditional art of Psiloritis”, ii) a guided tour through the geopark that educated about the geopark’s geology, its monuments and the orogenetic processes that elevated the mountain of Psiloritis and iii) a festival of local art in Armi Square in Anogia village, where 22 artists from the overall geopark exhibited items from their work, demonstrated their techniques and illustrated how the geopark’s environment has inspired their art.

10. The evaluation of the Geopark of Psiloritis took place in July 2008 by two representatives from two European Geoparks, namely Mr. Andreas Schuller from Vulkaneifel and Mr. Timo Kluttig from Terravita.