

## **Hellenic Geoparks Forum, Greece**

### **Progress Report, September 2017 – March 2018**

**Chair (Name and email):** Charalampos Fassoulas (fassoulas @nhmc.uoc.gr)

**Members** (please list all UGG's followed by external partners involved in your Forum/Committee):

Lesvos UGG, Psiloritis UGG, Chelmos-Vouraikos UGG, Vikos-Aoos UGG, Sitia UGG,

Greek National Committee for UNESCO, Geological Society of Greece, Institute for Mineralogical Exploration, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**Active Applications in your country** (name, year of application submission):

Grevena-Kozani Aspiring Geopark, 2017

**Interested territories that you are advising:**

Lavrion area, Evvia Petrified fossil site, Syros Isl., Parnassos Mts., Eastern Macedonia-Thrace area.

**Committee/ Forum Activities** (bullet points your activities for the last 6 months):

- Forum members met in Athens on October 5th to discuss the intervention of Forum in the creation of the National List of Greek Geosites that is coordinated by the Geological Society of Greece.
- Forum members met in Athens on the 21st November at the headquarters of UNESCO Greece in an extended composition with representatives from the ministries, the regional authorities of Geoparks with the aim to strengthen the operation of Greek Geoparks, to enforce their collaborations with national and local authorities and to organise a Geoparks Congress in Athens on May 2018.
- Forum was met through Skype on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and discussed issues related with the better promotion of Greek Geoparks, the preparations for the next geopark meetings, the organization of a workshop for Geoparks in Crete, the implementation of a new Interreg project called GEO-IN, and the organisation of a big Geopark's congress in collaboration with UNESCO in Athens on May 2018.
- Forum contributed in the preparation of the National Report on Status of Nature Conservation in Greece, providing data on the conservation of Geodiversity by the end of 2017.
- The Forum has developed several communication activities with several areas of Greece interested to develop a geopark at their territories, and offered guidance and advice.

- Forum coordinated the participation of the Hellenic Geoparks in the forthcoming ITB Exhibition as well as in the exhibition to be organised under the forthcoming 41st EGN CC meeting.
- Forum members promoted Greek Geoparks under various local meetings and press releases.