

Assumptions

- Institutional members of the network share a desire to improve its functioning and **have agreed a common goal, desired outcomes, and high-level actions.**
- The **themes and activities** in the model are presented at a strategic level – AC representatives will work with CC members to develop the detail.
- The focus of individual Geoparks (**such as conservation, education, tourism, interpretation etc.**) **don't relate to network functioning and** cut across all of our operational work as a network; this is also partly addressed in working groups
- The level of resources available, if we improve internal operations and structures, is sufficient to meet our operational needs and expand collaborative working
- There is an understanding that this work relates to the whole network and its functioning and activity, and not individual Geoparks and their management bodies
- There is an understanding that the EGN is firmly within the framework of GGN, this enables the EGN to operate more effectively
- The proposed **communications plan** addresses areas of work including: internal and external comms, use of technology (including development of a shared online portal for ideas and information), website development (including a focus on education and research), synergy with GGN communications and the GGN Marketing Plan, Network engagement in thematic events

Challenges

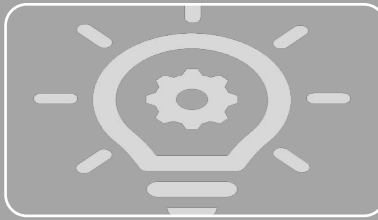
- The desire for collaboration within the Network
- The skills and abilities of members of the Network and the organisations behind them
- Increased public awareness of the global climate and nature crisis
- Greater recognition among the public, increased during the Covid pandemic, of the value of nature to boost their well-being
- The establishment of an independent EGN bank account and managing funds at this level
- The underpinning policies and processes of the GGN on which the EGN can rely
- **The economic climate and the challenge of securing new/additional resources**
- **The time and effort it may take to put new structures in place if/where needed**
- **Expectation management about the speed and scale that changes can be made**
- **The need to bring new people into the heart of the network to drive continuity, fresh ideas and legacy of past and current activity**
- **There is a real lack of capacity in the core functioning of the Network – opportunities cannot be realised without addressing this**

Our Values as a Network



We are a **collaborative** network, seeking to share good practice and support across all UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe and globally

- We collaborate through working groups, transnational projects, national fora and informal partnerships to ensure that the network is a **constantly evolving** source of learning, inspiration and action for all EGN members. **We engage effectively with the wider GGN.**



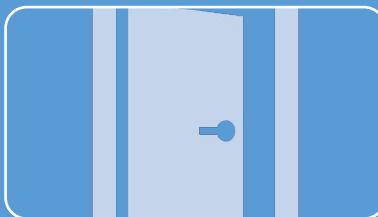
We are **innovators** in using geoheritage to support sustainable development and we share new ideas across the network

- We use the network as a platform to promote and share new ideas and new ways of working, so that each Geopark and its communities can reap the benefits of our collective experience.



We are a **sustainable** network, committed to delivering the SDGs and to reducing our environmental impact

- We are mindful of the environmental impacts of our work as a network and we take action to reduce our carbon footprint, minimise waste, make the most of communications technology and share practice from individual EGN members. We report on our contribution towards the SDGs



We are **welcoming, inclusive and democratic** and we want to support all EGN members to contribute to the life of a highly **professional** network

- We offer a warm welcome and a safe and inclusive working environment to all representatives to the Network; the professionalism we adopt in our work is mirrored in our relations with each other.