

# GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2020

## 1. IDENTITY

**National Fora/Committee:** Österreichisches Geoparkforum, AUSTRIA,

**Year of inscription:** 2002

## 2. MEMBERS

**Chair:** Oliver Gulas-Wöhri, Styrian Eisenwurzen UGGp, o.gulas@eisenwurzen.com

**Members:** Horst Ibetsberger, Ore of the Alps UGGp, horst.ibetsberger@geoglobe.at

Gerald Hartmann, Karawanken/Karavanke UGGp, gerald.hartmann@geopark-karawanken.at

## 3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

**Active application in your country:** No active applications

**Territories that you are advising:** no territories at the moment

## 4. ACTIVITIES

After a lockdown in March and April in Austria the country opened up again and during summer season the tourism and especially sustainable tourism went very well in Austria. Many people stayed in the country and have experienced also our Geoparks. This is and was a good advertisement for the future. At the moment activities, projects and the Geoparks in general are doing quite well in Austria. Creative solutions were found to showcase our Geoparks and new target groups were involved.

The year 2020 brought the opportunity to have more (digital) and regular exchange with the Austrian UNESCO commission and Austrian Academy of Science. Several exchanges led to possible funded projects in the field of sustainable tourism, science and/or regional development starting with 2021. It also added regular exchange with responsible regional departments and politicians and strengthened the visibility on a nationwide scale. A good networking ground source which the Austrian UGGps can build on.

Styrian Eisenwurzen: The Geopark had in 2020 a new project to involve the older generation and young people in various activities. This gives the Geopark the opportunity to involve local people, improve transfer of knowledge on various topics and open up to new target groups. Within the project they were looking for new guides or created a garden with seniors and a Geopark school.

Ore of the Alps: The visitor centre was opened with two new exhibitions - only small groups were allowed to visit them. The show mines were all closed in 2020! Outdoor storytelling of old myth and legends at selected geosites was very popular.

Karawanken/Karavanke: They were focusing on natural experience programs for different target groups. The Geopark had prepared several different offers/programs for small groups (different guided hiking tours, offers for families etc.) for spending time outdoors in their beautiful and exceptional nature with an emphasis on learning about the rich geological, natural and cultural heritage. The outdoor experiences offered the distances and unforgettable adventures!