

GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2022

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

The year 2022 brought again the opportunity to have more (digital) and regular exchange with the Austrian UNESCO commission and Austrian Academy of Science. Several exchanges led to the following funded projects in the field of sustainable tourism, science and/or regional development starting with 2022:

- Scientific small scale research project for each Geopark on Geosites
- Approval for funding of a research project within the Austrian academy of sciences' research program Earth System Sciences (ESS): Moving mountains - landslides as geosystem services in Austrian geoparks (with University of Salzburg and Graz)

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. The Geopark Karawanken/Karavanke had the opportunity to present the Geopark concept towards a delegation from Georgia. The annual Austrian Geopark conference had to be canceled due to Covid19 but will be held in the Ore of the Alps Geopark in 2023. Styrian Eisenwurzen UGGp celebrated 20 years and Ore of the Alps

received a green card after positive revalidation.

The cooperation is very close since 2020 between the Austrian Geoparks and national partners. We are looking forward to further joint activities.