

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Catalunya Central UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, European Geoparks Network.

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2012 / 2021 (postponed from 2020).



Examples of the infrastructures rehabilitated to become geotouristic facilities. Pictures of the tower (interpretation viewpoint) and inner hall of the Castellet castle (room for the interpretation of the ancient sea and UNESCO Global Geoparks) at Sant Vicenç de Castellet - left and bottom right pictures. Picture of the enotouristic centre of the DO Pla de Bages (Navàs) - up right picture.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 8 in the geopark core management body, including two geologists.

**Number of visitors:** The total number of visitors is very difficult to estimate accurately. In some of our main visited spots, we've noticed increasing visitors. For example, in the Montserrat caves (18.100) and El Toll caves (23.300), numbers are approaching those in pre-pandemic times. Instead, in Montserrat, the recovery was less than expected (917.000).

**Number of Geopark events:** Twenty-nine, eight held by the geopark.

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** Around 10.000 scholars assisted to about 300 educational activities related to geology and environmental education.

**Number of Geopark press release:** 23 press releases, two radio interviews and 1.275 posts in different Digital Media and Social Networks.

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2021**

- Finalization of the works of four more, out of nine, new touristic infrastructures rehabilitated with the project called "Geotourism as a backbone for the touristic and economic dynamisation for the Bages County". The total amount was 1,6M€ co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund at 50%.

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participation in the digital Forums and meetings of the EGN, GGN and Spanish Forum.
- Organization and coordination of the events of the EGN Week.
- Joint activity with the Girona's UNESCO Friends.
- Three talks at the webinars organized by the Spanish geoparks.
- An article at the EGN Newsletter 19.
- Participation at the Open Meeting of the Spanish Geoparks.
- Contribution to the Spanish Geopark's Karst book.
- Member of the Mining Working Group.

#### **Management and Financial Status**

- Increasing up to 50.000€ the annual grant from the Government of Catalonia.
- Incorporation of the city Council of the capital city of the Geopark, Manresa, as a member of the Patronate.

#### **Geoconservation**

- Work meetings with technicians from the Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona Province Council to prevent damage to the geosites outcrops, especially those close to the roads, through sharing the database and SIG data.
- Elaboration of reports on geoconservation in areas affected by eolic wind mills park.
- Cooperation with the Rural Agents Corps, the Culture Department of the Government of Catalonia, the University and the Geoparc for the preservation of icnite trail outcrops.

#### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Completion of some of the infrastructures carried out with the FEDER Plan on geotourism.

#### **New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

- New educational suitcase focused on climate change and its effects to live through our geological history and the use of the natural resources in our geopark.
- Preparation of two new geological field trips for local schools.
- Participation in the seminar "Encounters with the experimental sciences". Formative action for teachers.

#### **Strategic partnership**

- Continuity of the agreement with the Catalan Government railway company (Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya) that needs to be renewed yearly.

#### **Promotional activities**

- Contribution to the promotional website of the Spanish Geoparks.
- Promotional videos to foster our Program on sustainability for our official partners and to promote some of them. This action will continue next years to involve many of the partners.

### **4. CONTACTS**

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