

# GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2022

## 1. IDENTITY

**National Fora/Committee:** National Geoparks Council, Czech Republic,  
<http://www.geology.cz/narodnigeoparky/rada-ngcr>, [martina.paskova@mzp.cz](mailto:martina.paskova@mzp.cz)

**Year of inscription:** 2007

## 2. MEMBERS

**Chair:** Martina Pásková, The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic,  
[martina.paskova@mzp.cz](mailto:martina.paskova@mzp.cz)

### Members:

Kateřina Červenková - Knights of Blanice National Geopark, [katka.cervenkova@csop.cz](mailto:katka.cervenkova@csop.cz)

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Veronika Štědrá, Ph.D. - Czech Geological Survey, [veronika.stedra@geology.cz](mailto:veronika.stedra@geology.cz)

Jan Švaříček - Vysočina National Geopark, [jan.svaricek@gmail.com](mailto:jan.svaricek@gmail.com)

Markéta Vajskebrová, Ph.D. - Czech Geological Survey, [marketa.vajskebrova@geology.cz](mailto:marketa.vajskebrova@geology.cz)  
Jiří Voves - Ministry for Regional Development, Department of Tourism, [Jiri.Voves@mmr.cz](mailto:Jiri.Voves@mmr.cz)  
Alena Zemanová – Slate Landscape National Geopark, [alena.zemanova@odry.cz](mailto:alena.zemanova@odry.cz)

### 3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

**Active application in your country:** none

**Territories that you are advising:**

- Barrandian National Geopark, Luboš Gardoň, [gardon@eco-centrum.cz](mailto:gardon@eco-centrum.cz), <https://geoparkbarrandien.cz/>, 6 years
- Broumovsko National Geopark, Stanislav Stařík, [stanislav.starik@broumovsko.cz](mailto:stanislav.starik@broumovsko.cz), <https://geopark.broumovsko.cz/>, 5 years
- Czech-Bavarian Geopark which consists of two Czech National Geoparks (Egeria National Geopark a GeoLocí Geopark) and Bavarian National Geopark (Germany), Jiří Loskot, [loskot@muzeum-sokolov.cz](mailto:loskot@muzeum-sokolov.cz), <http://www.geopark.cz/en>, 7 years

### 4. ACTIVITIES

#### **Institutional frame and activities**

The National Geoparks Council is an advisory body to the Czech Minister of the Environment which, in addition to stimulating and coordinating the development and quality of national geoparks, also share and implements the goals of UNESCO Global Geoparks in the Czech Republic within the International Geosciences and Geoparks Program. At present, there is one UNESCO Global Geopark (Bohemian Paradise Geopark) in the Czech Republic and ten national geoparks (Egeria, Iron Mountains, Knights of Blanice Region, Podbeskydí, Ralsko, Vysočina, Broumovsko, Barrandian, Royal Šumava and Slate Landscape).

The spring meeting of the Council took place on April 6-7 in the Broumovsko National Geopark. Based on the results of the evaluation and revalidation procedures, the Minister of the Environment was recommended to certify the Slate Landscape National Geopark and recertify the Broumovsko National Geopark for the next four years. The ceremonial of the Slate Landscape National Geopark certificate by the Minister of the Environment took place on June 20 at the Ministry of the Environment.

The autumn meeting was held on November 15 in Prague, in the premises of the National Monuments Institute. Here, based on the documents from the relevant procedures, it was

possible to recommend the certification of the National Geopark Royal Šumava and the recertification of the Knights of Blanice National Geopark for the next four years. Representatives of the Interdepartmental Commission of the Network of Geoparks of the Slovak Republic were also present at this meeting, thus the possibilities of Czech-Slovak cooperation in the field of evaluation and revalidation procedures as well as the preparation of a meeting of representatives of the national geopark councils of the V4 countries in Banská Štiavnica (Slovakia, May 2023) were discussed.

On November 24, at the meeting of the Tourism Committee of the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic, an item on the possibilities of supporting national geoparks was discussed. The Chairperson of the Council presented the mission, activities and current support of geoparks by state and public institutions. It was agreed that a working group will be established within the Committee, which will deal with the topic of support for geoparks in the Czech Republic.

### **Promotional, educational and involvement activities**

In February, the first Czech delegate to the Youth Forum of the Global Geoparks Network presented Czech geoparks at the CzechTourism stand at the international tourism trade fair HolidayWorld (Prague). The Ministry of the Environment supported the implementation of three geological-themed studies in order to support the popularization of geology in national geoparks.

Throughout the year, support for education focused on geoparks, interpretation of geological heritage and geotourism took place in face-to-face and online form. E.g. at the University of Hradec Králové at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, these topics are part of the curriculum of the Department of Recreation and Tourism, and students are offered practical experience and internships in Czech and foreign geoparks. This year, representatives of the national geoparks and students of this university were once again involved in the project of the Technological Agency of the Czech Republic to direct visitors' flows from congested locations to, among other things, geotrails and geosites of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark, Iron Mountains National Geopark and Broumovsko National Geopark, which are underappreciated by visitors.

In October, Chairperson of the Council lectured on the topic of sustainable tourism in the protected areas at a conference organized by the Czech Embassy in Turkey as part of the Czech Presidency of the EU. There were also negotiations with the Turkish Commission for UNESCO about possible cooperation with the Czech Republic in the field of nature protection and geoparks. In November, she lectured on national geoparks in the context of sustainable

development at the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University and at the Business Academy of Tourism in Choceň (Czechia).

### **Participation in the activities of the EGN and GGN**

Representatives of the UNESCO Czech Paradise Global Geopark and the Chairperson of the Council attended two meetings of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network (Netherlands and Italy), the General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network (online) and the Conference of the European Geoparks Network (Italy). In addition to her participation in two meetings of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (including the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network conference in Thailand in September and online in December), the Chairperson of the Council carried out two evaluation missions in Indonesia. She actively participated in the plenary sessions of the Czech Commission for UNESCO and its relevant expert sections.

Two German students worked as volunteers for half a year in the Barrandian National Geopark, based on cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO.

In the spring, the IGCP project No. 751 (<https://www.4geon.org/>) led by Czech team (Barrandian National Geopark, University of Hradec Králové and Institute of Geology of the Czech Academy of Sciences) has started. It focuses on educational and 'fun' aspects of geological heritage and Earth sciences, and its first year experienced the exchange of information between the geoparks of Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. The first Annual project meeting took place in Příbram, Czechia, between August 29 and September 7, and brought together experts from Nicaragua (representatives of the Rio Coco UGGp), Peru (The Colca and Volcanoes of Andagua UGGp), Tanzania (Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp) and the Philippines (Bohol Island UGGp). On September 4, they were joined by representatives of geoparks or educationally perspective sites from Eastern and Southeastern European countries, namely Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, and Slovakia. The 45 participants highlighted the potential of the territories of Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, and other countries on the edge of the former Soviet Union for their remarkable geological and/or geological cultural attractions. Video presentations at the conference can be found at <https://geoparkbarrandien.cz/konference-geoparku-geo-education-a-geoturism/>.