

National Geoparks Council, Czech Republic

Annual Report 2019

Chair: Martina Pásková martina.paskova@mzp.cz

Members:

2 representatives of Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark (BPUGG)

2 representatives of the Czech Geological Survey

2 representatives of the Ministry of the Environment (Geology Department, one of them also member of the Czech Commission for UNESCO)

1 representative of the Ministry of Regional Development (Tourism Department)

1 representative of the National Tourism Agency CzechTourism

1 representative of the National Museum (The Palaeontology Department)

1 representative of the National Heritage Institute (UNESCO Heritage Department), member of the Czech Commission for UNESCO)

1 representative of Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic

1 representative of the Cave Administration of the Czech Republic

1 representative of Charles University

1 representative of the Masaryk University

1 representative for each national geopark: Egeria NG, Iron Mountains NG, GeoLocí NG, Blaník Knights Region NG, Podbeskydí NG, Ralsko NG, Highlands NG and Broumovsko NG

Active Applications in your country (name, year of application submission):

None

Interested territories that you are advising:

Barrandien Geopark (aspiring on National Geopark)

Czech-Bavarian Geopark which consists of two Czech National Geoparks (Egeria NG a GeoLocí Goeopark) and Bavarian National Geopark (Germany)

Council Activities:

Institutional activities

- The Council met on 17th April and the day before the fieldtrip in the GeoLocí National Geopark was organized. Chair of the Council was re-elected, the new Vice-chair elected and the Executive Board was elected. The Council checked the progress achieved by the Barrandien Geopark and Royal Šumava Geopark aspiring geoparks. The Council also recommended to Minister of Environment to prolong the certificates “National Geopark” to the Egeria (4 years) and Bohemian Paradise NG (2 years). The extension of the Bohemian Paradise NG territory was approved.
- The autumn Council session was held on 30th October. The decision of Council on the certification of Barrandien Geopark as a “national geopark” has been postponed to its next meeting. The Geopark GeoLocí did not defend its certification “national geopark”. The internal workshop focused on the issues of financing and marketing of national geoparks was realised.
- The chair of the Council as a member of the Czech Commission for UNESCO attended its plenary meeting and the meetings of the environmental session.

Promotional, educational and involvement activities

- To promote both Czech and UNESCO global geoparks, the Council presented geoparks and their activities during two international tourism fairs: Go& RegionTour at Brno (January) and HolidayWorld at Prague (February). The geoparks were presented at the stand of national tourism agency CzechTourism.
- Geoparks were presented also at the Conference on the regional tourism support held in Hradec Králové City (September).
- Various workshops and seminars are held regularly, especially by the BPUGG together with the Ralsko National Geopark. An excursion for the public as part of the series “For the Sandstone Phenomenon of the Bohemian Paradise” organized by the House of Nature of the Bohemian Paradise in cooperation with the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, Natural Science Faculty of the Charles University, History and Geography Museum in Česká Lípa and the BPUGG. As part of the International Day of Archaeology, the House of Nature of the Bohemian Paradise organizes a guided tour of the Drábské světničky rock castle in Příhrazské Rock City.
- The BPUGG, in cooperation with the Nová Paka Municipal Museum, organized a Summer Geological Camp - a weekly event for children interested in local geology, mineralogy and traditional forms of stone processing.
- The Environmental Education Centre of the Bohemian Paradise (BPEEC) organizes the Guardians of the Earth Programme. In order to meet the high demand for the programme, the BPEEC has expanded the programme to include other environmental education centres, which are gradually adopting it and thus expanding its availability throughout the Czech Republic. The intention is, to make it available to all potential candidates not only in the Bohemian Paradise Geopark but also in other parts of our country.

Cooperation with universities

- The education focused on geoparks, geoheritage interpretation and geotourism is provided (lectures, excursions and workshops) with University of Hradec Králové, Mendel University, Masaryk University and Charles University at Prague.
- Relating University of Hradec Králové, the subjects as geoparks, geoheritage interpretation and geotourism are included in curricula of the Department of Recreation and Tourism as well as the practice of students in both Czech and UNESCO Global Geoparks. One student is preparing her final thesis on the geotourism and interpretation in the BPUGG. Two students are currently working on thesis with the topic of the Rio Coco aspiring geopark (Nicaragua), both of them have visited its territory and communicated with its actors. This department provides training and officially recognized certification of geo-guides.

Participation in the activities of the EGN and GGN

- The chair of the Council participated in the 4th Open Sessions of the IGCP Council and presentation of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks applicants (February), the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council meeting (September) and the UNESCO General Conference (November).
- The representatives of the Council and Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark participated in 43rd EGN CC meeting, Schwabian Alps Geopark, (March).
- The representatives of the Council and Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark participated in 44th EGN CC meeting and 15th EGN Conference (chairing the session, presenting contribution), Sierra del Norte Geopark, Spain (September).
- Representatives from Saimaa Geopark (Finland) visited the BPUGG (April).
- Representatives from Muskauer Faltenbogen UGG, Germany, participated in seminar organized by the BPUGG (May).
- Two geologists from Kütralkura UGG (Chile) volunteered one week in the BPUGG (September).
- Representatives from Slovak National geoparks and Nature Conservation Agency visited the BPUGG (October).
- The BPUGG representative presented the BPUGG in the conference of UNESCO aspiring geopark Landscape of Extinct Volcanoes, Poland (October).
- The volunteer from the BPUGG helped in the Rinjani-Lombok UGG (Indonesia) in the frame of the foundation "School in Paradise" with English and environmental education of local pupils and students (January – March, November and December).
- The BPUGG contribution to the EGN Magazine and Newsletter
- Realization of cross border Czech-Saxon project with Muskauer Faltenbogen GGU (Cooperation and promotion of UNESCO global geoparks Euroregion Nisa), Germany (17 000 EUR) 2018 - 2020
- Partnership in the GECON cross border project (Geological Cooperation Network) with Czech, German and Polish Geoparks and geological institutions.