

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany / Poland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011 / 2019



First Youth Panel in the UGGp Muskau Arch

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 staffs including 4 geoscientists + 2 in the branch office

Number of visitors: (estimated) 150.000. In 2020, we had an increase of compared 65% to the previous year. We therefore assume a relative stabilisation in 2021 – statistical evaluation of the survey will not be available until April 2022.

Number of Geopark events: Due to the Corona pandemic situation, numerous planned events could not be carried out. Different regulations in Poland and Germany. Carried out were: Children's Walk (60 guests), Seven-Bridges-Run (200), Museum's Night (200), a fair with regional products (2.000).

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 7

Number of Geopark press release: around 50, because of the foundation of the EGTC

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- Foundation of the future German-Polish Geopark umbrella organization EGTC: On 25th of November, the EGTC Muskau Arch was officially founded with 14 regular members in Poland & Germany. It represents the responsive body of the UGGp Muskau Arch from 2022 on and thus enables a permanent, member-financed and stable administrative basis for the Geopark.

- Joint application of the Lusatian UNESCO Sites: The application was submitted by the so called UNESCO5 (in Lusatia) addressing the Structural Change Programme in Germany. It comprises 8 individual projects with a total budget of around 1 Mio EUR and includes measures as strengthening the perception of the importance of UNESCO sites, e.g. for tourism value creation, positive image building, Agenda 2030 as well as increasing the attractiveness for young people, families and qualified workers through increasing the quality of life, e.g. by improving the qualitative and quantitative educational and cultural offers.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Partner in three transnational projects between German, Polish and Czech (UG)Gps
- Participation in the 4th and 5th digital EGN Meeting and in the digital GGN Conference 2021.

Management and Financial Status

- In 2021, the UGGp was financed by a programme of the federal states and the Federal Republic of Germany to support the reorganization of the UGGp under the umbrella of the future EGTC and by diverse EU programmes with a high and partially independent budget.

Geoconservation

- On-site documentation, acquisition and re-evaluation of 140 selected geosites within the Geopark borders (~two thirds completed). Collected historic and current data have been recorded in electronic data sheets.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Opening of a second visitor centre “Culture and Education Centre” in Łęknica and start of preparations for the creation of two new Geopark exhibitions.
- Opening of an extended geotouristic path, handover of a renovated observation tower. Conclusion of the modernization of the bicycle routes (102 km).

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

- Completion of the ESD concept (part II)
- Implementation of the first international Youth Panel (with members from GER – PL – U.S.A.)

Strategic partnership

- Strengthening the partnership of the UNESCO5 by intensified networking.

Promotional activities

- First public EGTC session, first “Fair of regional products”, diverse public events (see above)

4. CONTACTS

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