

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

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



Signing of the Lusatian UNESCO site Agreement

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 6 staffs including 3 geoscientists

Number of visitors: about 70.000 (

Number of Geopark events: 13 (1 “Snow Flurry” wintry event, 2 Building Cultural Treasures – town walk, 3 Season Opening, 4 „Anradeln“, 5 “Heating up”, 6 “Geopark Moves” - German-Polish sport event, 7 German-Polish Park Run, 8 Geo’n Concert – German-Polish choir event, 9 Children’s Walk, 10 / 11 German + Polish Geosites Days, 12 Conference of Lusatian UNESCO Sites, 13 “Stone of the Year”)

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 30

Number of Geopark press release: around 40, basis is a continuous press work in Germany and Poland with local and regional press, radio and TV

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Foundation of the future German-Polish Geopark umbrella organization EGTC: The

founding papers were committed by all future members and therewith the process reached the stage of ratification.

- First Meeting of the transboundary UNESCO Global Geoparks: At the invitation of us, three other transnational GPs (Novohrad-Nógrád SK-HU, Karavanke / Karawanken SLO-A, Marble Arch Caves UK-IRE) spent three October days in Germany and Poland to formulate the special challenges of transnational Geoparks. Result: foundation of the Transnational UNESCO Global Geopark Forum (TNUGGpF) and the Łęknica Declaration.
- Signing of an Agreement between the Lusatian UNESCO Sites: On initiative of the Muskau Arch UGGp, the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves 'Spree Wood', 'Upper Lusatia Heath and Ponds Landscape', the World Heritage Site Muskau Park and the Intangible Heritage (inscribed in the German list) of the Lusatian Sorbs signed a joint agreement.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Initiator, host and lead partner for the first official meeting of the transnational UGGps (two meetings, one unofficial in March during the CC Meeting and the second in October 2019)
- Partner in four transnational projects between German, Polish and Czech (UG)Gps
- Participation in the CC Meetings in March and October 2019 and the EGN Conference 2019

Management and Financial Status

- The UGGp has a higher independent budget since September 2019. Since then, the UGGp head office increased his staff from 4 to 7 (together with the branch offices 9 members).

Geoconservation

- update and re-organisation of the geosites cadastre of the entire Geopark region. In parallel followed first concerted actions, for ex. the renewal of trails. The result of the first stage of the perpetuate geosites cadastre will be presented in 04/2020.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Modernisation of the geotrails and bicycle routes in the Geopark area

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

- Commission for an Concept of ESD, first stage

Strategic partnership

- Strengthening the strategic partnership by finalising the EGTC foundation process.

Promotional activities

- diverse public events (see above)

4. CONTACTS

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