

GGN/EGN – Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovakian - Hungarian crossborder, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2018



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 16 people including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: to main geosites approx. 140 000 people

Number of Geopark events: 28

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 24

Number of Geopark press release: 23

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- Organization of the 5th OLYMPUS Medves Photo Marathon despite pandemic difficulties
- Organization of the X. Summer Day Camp in the area of Novohrad-Nógrád UGGp

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in GGN and EGN CC online meetings
- Participating in the EGN Volcanic, Fossils and the Intangible Heritage Working Groups
- Taking part in the Erasmus + Geotur project with other UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Successful project application in the GEOTOP programme Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
- Organizing events for the EGN Week and for the first Volcano Day in Europe
- Jointly submitted project in the Europe for Citizens Programme with other transborder UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Taking part in the transnational, crossborder UNESCO Global Geoparks' online meeting
- Providing articles to the EGN Magazine 18

Management and Financial Status

- Due to the covid-19 pandemic restrictions, like the border lock between Slovakia and Hungary caused serious difficulties in the work of the transborder management. Educational and geotourism activities were totally suspended twice during the year, the financial status of the geopark worsened a bit, emergency measures were introduced.
- Co-operation among stakeholders was less frequent, instead of face-to-face meetings, discussions were forced into digital forums.

Geoconservation

- Conservation and rehabilitation of excavated areas and geosites was an ongoing activity in partnership with the Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD), Cerová vrchovina Protected Landscape Area and other stakeholders. Geological asset protecting infrastructure renovations took place behind the locked doors of the Ipolytarnoc Fossils (main gateway to the geopark).

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Organized events had to take into consideration the pandemic restrictions, instead of indoor activities thematic outdoor programs were introduced like during the EGN Week and the social media platforms were more frequently used.
- The cross-border Medves Photo Marathon happening in every two years is a favourite best practice of the geopark, took place between October 9-11. 250 amateur and professional photographers participated in the event. In the previous occasions people from other countries also attended the program, this time the pandemic kept them away.
- On the spot geotourism activities had to be suspended between 16 March and 8 May, and after November 11, in between controlled outdoor programs were allowed in the Hungarian side of the geopark, indoor programs and exhibitions reopened only on 19 June there, the Fil'akovo Castle geosite, as the main centre on the Slovak side, got reopened only on 1 July. The border lock down declared first in the spring wave of the covid-19 (lifted on 27 May) and later in autumn limited the crossborder tourism as well.

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

- The five-day long X. Summer Day Camp for children between 7 and 13 years with guided tours and environmental education was organized.
- Geosite guided tours and trainings were held to trained staff of the BNPD
- A bird park project was finished in Eresztvény, close to the geopark headquarters.
- 23 summer bicycle tours were organized for elementary schools to visit important geosites and stay overnight within the Geopark when the pandemic restrictions were lifted
- Special thematic programs were organized in winter weekends before the pandemic
- During the Volcano Day at Ipolytarnóc Fossils an outdoor program targeted the geohazards

Strategic partnership

- Co-operation with the Slovak and the Hungarian National Geopark Commissions and state nature conservation agencies, beside municipalities and the Nograd county happened
- Expertise and endorsement was given to the aspirant Bükk-region Geopark's application towards the national geopark commission
- Project partnerships with stakeholders helped gaining EU funds for conservation purposes

Promotional activities

- Participation in the events of the BNPD, the OOCR N-P, the SAŽP and local NGOs.
- Presentations of NNG UGG during various events for the general public and specialists.
- Several press releases, social media presence and publishing printed material

4. CONTACTS

Coo-Managers: Dr. Attila Agocs and Dr. Peter Olah (info@nngeopark.eu)

Geologists: Peter Prakfalvi and Ludovit Gaal (office@nngeopark.eu)

GGN / EGN representatives: Balazs Gyorgy and Imre Szarvas (office@nngeopark.eu)