

# GGN/EGN – Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

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

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 20 people including 2 geoscientists

**Number of visitors:** to main geosites approx. 120 000 people

**Number of Geopark events:** 21

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 6

**Number of Geopark press release:** 29 articles, 4 times on TV, 7 newsletter, 8 PR

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

**Major achievements in 2021**



Despite the pandemic some important traditional geopark events were held and celebrated. A new complex, sustainable geopark development plan was created.

- The forest is playing music event at Eresztvény;
- Basalt endurance hike;
- 11th Geopark Summer Camp;
- FOTONATURA amateur photo contest;
- Planning of the Geopark tourism development (Enjoy park) project was finished and has been submitted to governmental approval;

### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participation in GGN and EGN CC online meetings
- Taking part in the Erasmus + Geotur project with other UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Taking part in the IGCP 726 GEOfood project.
- Successful project application in the GEOTOP programme Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
- Organizing events for the EGN Week and the Volcano Day;
- Working and keeping contact in the transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks' Forum;
- Providing scientific article about fossil tracks of the UGGp in the Geoconservation Research Journal

## **Management and Financial Status**

- Due to the covid-19 pandemic restrictions the face-to face meetings of the transnational management were less frequent than before the outbreak of the pandemic. The financial status of the geopark did not get better, restructuring emergency measures were introduced, with personal changes in the leadership on the Hungarian side.
- Co-operation among stakeholders was also less frequent, meetings were forced mainly to digital platforms.

## **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.
- The RiWild Interreg project started at the Ipolytarnoc Fossils targeting the renovation and reroofing of the 2. Conservation Hall of the geological trail. Part of the program includes the 3D scanning of the ichnofossils of the geosite and later provide their database as an open source.

## **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 to attract public interests. To generate more income and in order to keep the staff working at the visitor centres the tourism season was extended and special winter programs were introduced.
- On May 1, geotourism activities on the Slovak side of the geopark were allowed to start due to the Covid measures. That's when castles and museums opened. It was possible to travel to Hungary freely, even to the territory of Slovakia only by vaccination or test.

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

- Geosite guided tours and online trainings were held to the staff of the stakeholders;
- 26 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;
- During the Volcano Day at Ipolytarnóc Fossils an outdoor program targeted the geohazards;
- Students of the Technical University of Košice, the University of Miskolc and the Károly Eszterházy University took part in a study tour organized by the geopark;
- The Geopark summer camp with new educational programs was organised;

## **Strategic partnership**

- Co-operation with the Slovak and the Hungarian National Geopark Commissions and state nature conservation agencies, beside municipalities and the Nograd county continued;
- Expertise and endorsement was given to the aspirant Bükk-region Geopark's application;
- 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**

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