

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2018 / 2021

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



First day of the Revalidation mission at the scientific headquarters of the Orígens UGGp.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 11 staffs including 7 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** 234.433

**Number of Geopark events:** 51 total events. 32 events held by management body and 19 by cooperative organizations.

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 130 classes of schools from all over Catalonia.

**Number of Geopark press release:** More than 10 press releases with about 200 impacts (digital, print, radio, and TV).

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

#### Major achievements in 2021

- Revalidation mission
- 1<sup>st</sup> award in the First Film Festival of the Global Geoparks Network for the video "[Geoparc Orígens, a journey through time](#)".
- "A natural open museum in the Pyrenees: virtual reality experience for dissemination and conservation of the geological and cultural heritage (VIGEOCULT)", PLEC2021-00793, Spanish and European funding MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and NextGenerationEU/PRTR: € 681,919.40 (2021-2024).
- Report "Tools for the management and planning of the landscape and agricultural space in the Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark" to be used by local authorities' technical staff to manage and protect the Geopark's landscapes and heritage.
- New office for the Geopark direct staff. Work has been carried out and it is 100% operational.
- Launch of the Geopark flat to accommodate researchers to promote investigation.

#### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation at the virtual meetings of the GGN in February.
- Participation at the virtual meeting to welcome the 8 new UGGp. April.
- Participation at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Unesco Global Geoparks in Jeju. Participation at the General Assembly and also with a presentacion together with Courel Mountains UGGp: "Applications of geographical information system-databases to the holistic management of Orígens and Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geoparks, Spain".
- Participation at the two virtual meetings of the EGN in January and April.
- Participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> digital Forum of the EGN in Papuk UGGp in September, with the presentation "Renewable energy versus sustainable development in Spanish UGGp(s)".
- Participation in the GGN newsletter Issue 2 and 3 and in the 19 and 20 EGN Newsletter.
- Participation at the EGN Working group of Education and Sustainable Development Goal's.
- Collaboration with common projects (photos for Hondsrug UGGp, polls for Hateg UGGp, video for the IDDRR)
- Participation in "Virtual Seminar Promoting Unesco Global Geoparks in Colombia" organized by the Colombian Geological Survey, presentation "Sustainable Local Development and Geotourism in the Orígens UGGp"
- Active participation in several virtual meetings of the Spanish Geoparks Forum, different working groups and virtual meetings of the Comité Nacional Español de Geoparques, including "the Jornada Abiertas del Foro Español de Geoparques in Maestrazgo UGGp in October."

## **Management and Financial Status**

- The management body is an Association formed by 19 municipalities and 2 county councils.
- We obtain funding throughout Association memberships, the Catalan Government, the Lleida regional Government and from European local development projects.

## **Geoconservation**

- Palaeontological inventory of 34 selected sites.
- Ore mineral deposits inventory of 22 sites.
- Fauna inventory related to micro mammals in the Area of Montsec, together with students of some high schools.
- Inventory of local varieties of vegetables in the Northern area of the Geoparc. This contributes to an inventory of the whole Geopark that has now 40 varieties.
- Tutoring and accommodation for three students carrying out their final project of Geological degree and support for the master's degree in mineral resources and geological risks.
- Article published in the journal Geoconservation Research:  
Blasi IC, Pellicer XP, Poch J & Galobart À (2021). Open-air paleontological sites: a dissemination opportunity and a risk to spoliation. A case study in the Orígens Geopark, Spain. *Geoconservation Research*. 4(2): doi: 10.30486/gcr.2021.1913481.1055
- Collaboration with agents of official security forces. We facilitated the Geopark Geoconservation Atlas with the location of the most vulnerable sites and fieldtrips to provide training on the use of the Atlas.

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Cooperation with the on-line reservation system for accommodation, activities, restaurants and events at Geopark, Pallars Click, run by Pirineu Emoció (stakeholder).
- Management plan to promote cycling in the Geopark (2022-2025).
- Creation of gastronomic videos with the local chef Sergi de Meià to promote local products and boost direct and online sales.

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

- Escape room in Gerri de la Sal Museum to offer schools the possibility to better know the heritage related to the salt and its conservation.

### **Strategic partnership**

- New strategic partnership with Alba Jussà (inclusive organization), Fem Terreta (Association that works for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage), SAM and FCE (speleology organizations), Mostremp (every year organises a Rural Film Festival), Pirineu Emoció (travel agency).

### **Promotional activities**

- Promotion of the Geopark through adds on metropolitan railways of the Barcelona region.
- Social Networks Followers: 2,532 (FB), 1,930 (TW) and 2,651 (IG), 309 (Youtube), 233 (Geopark's Newsletter)
- Local publications, monthly article in local magazine, 20 e-newsletter with activities.

## **4. CONTACTS**

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