



## EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK

Cellule de coordination du réseau des European Geoparks  
Haute-Provence Geopark  
BP 156 – 04005 Digne les Bains cedex France

Mail : [egncoordinators@hotmail.com](mailto:egncoordinators@hotmail.com)

## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK Regional Geopark Network Annual Report 2019

### 1. Name of Regional Geoparks Network: EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK (EGN)

### 2. Overall objectives:

Established in 2000, the European Geoparks Network (EGN) aims to protect geodiversity, to promote the geological heritage to the general public, as well as to support sustainable economic development of Global Geopark territories primarily through the development of geo-tourism. The Network has drawn together territories from across Europe that share these aims and which are now working together in an active and dynamic way to achieve them.

Originally consisting of four territories, the Network has, as of September 2019, expanded to include 75 territories in 24 European countries.

Since March 2015, in accordance with the statutes of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the European Geoparks Network decided to become the Regional Geoparks Network in Europe of the Global Geoparks Network.

### 3. Relate goals to overall GGN objectives:

Protect and promote the geological heritage for the general public in Europe.

Communicate earth heritage values to the general public.

Raise awareness in the general public of natural hazards reduction and climate change issues.

Support the development of geotourism infrastructure and activities in Europe.

Support the development of environmental education activities in Europe.

Support the sustainable local development of the Geopark territories.

Contribute to the Global Geoparks Network through the organization of conferences, seminars, exhibitions, capacity building activities.

Promote GGN activities through publications and promotional activities.

### 4. Structure and organization:

The European Geoparks Network has formed two operational structures. The Coordination Committee (CC) is responsible for the operation and management of the Network, while the Advisory Committee provides advice on the development and expansion of the Network and on safeguarding high quality standards.

The Coordination Committee is the only decision making committee of the EGN. The Coordination Committee includes two representatives from each Institutional Member (Global Geoparks in Europe), the Individual Members of GGN in Europe (Geopark Professionals) and representatives of international organizations involved with the enhancement of the geological heritage (UNESCO, IUGS, IUCN).



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The CC meets regularly, at least twice a year, each time in a different Global Geopark, to discuss the Network's progress.

The 43rd European Geoparks Meeting took place in the Swabian Alp UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany) in March 2019.

The 44th European Geoparks Meeting was held in Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) in September 2019, followed by the 15th European Geoparks Conference. The conference hosted about 500 delegates and other guests.

The Advisory Committee was elected in March 2019 and the two coordinators Kristin Rangnes and Charalampos Fassoulas was elected at the spring meeting 2018. The Advisory Committee consists of specialists in sustainable development and the enhancement and promotion of geological heritage. These specialists are either representatives of the territories that originally initiated this programme or elected members and representatives of international organizations involved with the enhancement of the geological heritage (UNESCO, IUGS, IUCN). The Advisory Committee provides advice on all issues concerning strategic matters, external relations and the nomination and integration of new territories within the Network.

The EGN Coordination Committee Members at the 41<sup>st</sup> EGN CC meeting, elected the new EGN Coordinators for the period 2018-2020:

Coordinator: Kristin Rangnes, Gea Norvegica, Norway

Vice Coordinator: Babbis Fassoulas, Psiloritis, Greece.

The EGN Advisory Committee was elected at the 43rd EGN CC Meeting in Swabian Alp UNESCO Global Geopark for the period 2019-2021:

Guy Martini – Haute Provence UNESCO Global Geopark FRANCE

Nickolas Zouros – Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark - GREECE

Andreas Schueller – Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark – GERMANY

Kristin Rangnes - Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark – NORWAY Coordinator

Charalampos Fassoulas – Psilorites UNESCO Global Geopark – GREECE Vice coordinator

Alessia Amorfini – Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark – ITALY

Chris Woodley-Stuart. North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark – UK

Sophie Justice – Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark – FRANCE

Asier Hilario Orus – Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark – SPAIN


Tony Ramsay – Forest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark – UK EGN Magazine Editorial Board

Marie Luise Frey WHS Messel Pit – GERMANY Individual Member – Special Advisor

UNESCO: Kristof Vanderberghe

IUGS: Benjamin van Wyk de Vries

IUCN: Tim Badman

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### 5. Interaction with other International organizations and projects:

In April 2001, the European Geoparks Network signed with UNESCO (Division of Earth Sciences) an official agreement of collaboration placing the Network under the auspices of this organization.

In October 2005 the European Geoparks Network signed, within the framework of the existing agreement of collaboration with UNESCO (Division of Earth Sciences), an official declaration (Madonie Declaration) according to which the EGN is recognized as the official branch of the Global Geoparks Network in Europe. With this declaration UNESCO recognizes that the European Geoparks Network is the model to follow for the creation of similar Continental Networks of Geoparks worldwide.

Since becoming the Regional Geoparks Network in Europe of the Global Geoparks Network in March 2015, the European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee at its 35th session on March 31 – April 1st, 2015 in Paris adopted the following:

1. The EGN Charter remains the basic document which serves as the framework for the operation and development of the European Geoparks Network.
2. The European Geoparks Network, following the GGN statutes, will continue to operate as the Regional Geoparks Network in Europe of the GGN.
3. The European Geoparks Network adopts the existing structure and operational rules of the EGN developed during the last 15 years.

EGN is affiliated with IUGS.

EGN has a close collaboration with the IUCN.

IUGS and IUCN together with UNESCO have a permanent seat within the governing bodies of the Network.

### 6. Chief products:

- European Geoparks Magazine No 1- 16
- EGN Website
- EGN Newsletter
- Educational materials for school classes
- Promotional material for Geoparks
- Exchange of exhibitions
- Capacity building seminars
- Geotourism conferences organization and International Tourism fairs participation
- Organization of the European Geoparks Conference, every second year
- National UNESCO Global Geopark Forum Booklets
- Common Geopark Projects

### 7. 2019 main activities

- The 43rd European Geoparks Meeting took place in Swabian Alp UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany) 26th – 28th March 2019.



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- The 44th European Geoparks Meeting took place in Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) on September 23rd – 25th, 2019 just before the 15th European Geoparks Conference.
- **EGN Week 2019:** EGN organized the **EGN week 2019** during two weeks in May - June. The European Geoparks Week 2019 is a European-wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geo-conservation and promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wider public, about geotouristic and educational activities in geoparks. **Programme and Results:** <http://www.europeangeoparks.org>
- **EGN Magazine:** EGN published the annual **European Geoparks magazine No 16/2019**, 20,000 copies printed and distributed  
Printed issues: <http://www.europengeoparks.org>
- **EGN website** has been updated <http://www.europengeoparks.org>
- **EGN Newsletter** is circulated **3 times a year**  
[http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?page\\_id=3807](http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?page_id=3807)
- **EGN participated with a Geopark stand in** the International Tourism Berlin (ITB) 2019 promoting Geoparks as ideal geotourism destinations to the international tourism market.
- **EGN Press conference** was organized at the opening day of ITB, promoting EGN, GGN, UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- EGN representatives participated in many missions during 2019 for the evaluation of the new Geopark applications and the revalidation of existing Geoparks.
- The EGN members have created working groups which meet during the CC meetings and have different activities and discussions between the meetings.
- International Day for the Disaster Reduction (13<sup>th</sup> October): 2019 theme was “Build to Last” with the goal of promoting the global target D of the Sendai Framework: “Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030”. 16 European UNESCO Global Geoparks from 7 different countries celebrated the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction as an opportunity to empower their local communities and raise a greater awareness of the Sendai Framework with a greater focus on risk-informed investment in critical infrastructure in national and local strategies

- **EUROPEAN GEOPARKS annual reports on their activities in 2019**

Annual reports 2019

[http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?page\\_id=1060](http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?page_id=1060)

### 2020 plans of activities

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The Covid-19 spread has changed and strongly influenced the geopark activities. Most important is of course the tragic losses of lives our communities are facing. Consequences as huge also for the geopark activities and plans will need to be changed – for physical meetings, common activities, for strategies, for how we work and plan for the future. The World after the pandemic will be different than before. The values we strive for in geoparks; resilience, sustainability, conservation of nature heritage, supporting local communities, education and communication – all these issues are valuable, and we will continue to keep high standards for the benefit for our communities – together.

The plans for 2020 are kept in this annual report for the record, but we are aware of the need for updating and postponing

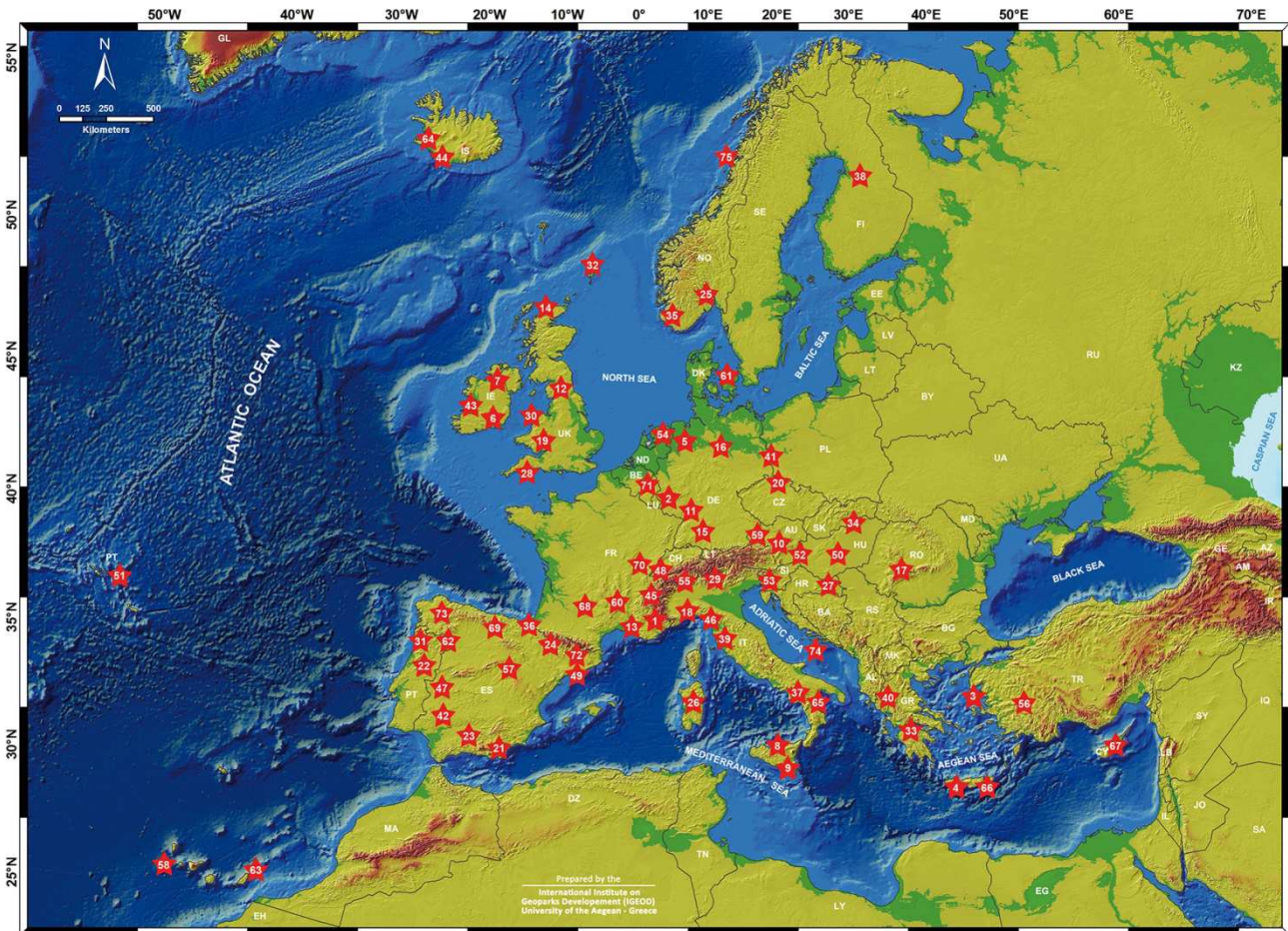
- EGN has planned to organize two **European Geoparks Meetings** among its members in March 2020 in Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark in Croatia. The September 2020 EGN meeting will be organized by EGN but hosted by Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark in the Republic of Korea. The meeting will be followed by the 9<sup>th</sup> International conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. In both meetings the development of the Network, its activities as well as the status of the current members will be discussed.
- EGN will participate in ITB Berlin in March with a common representation.
- EGN will celebrate its 20 years anniversary during 2020 with various national and regional events. The social media will be an important platform for this event.
- EGN will organize the **EGN week 2020** in 74 European Geoparks. The European Geoparks Week 2020 will be a **European-wide** festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geo-conservation and promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wide public, focusing this year on promoting Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.
- EGN is now preparing the publication of the annual **European Geoparks Magazine No 17/2020** which will be printed and distributed in 20.000 copies.



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ANNEX

**EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**  
**Map and members list**



**EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**MEMBER LIST - September 2019**

1. Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence Geopark – FRANCE
2. Vulkaneifel Geopark – GERMANY
3. Lesvos Island Geopark – GREECE
4. Psiloritis Geopark – GREECE
5. TERRA.vita Geopark – GERMANY
6. Copper Coast Geopark – IRELAND
7. Marble Arch Caves Geopark – IRELAND & UK



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8. Madonie Geopark – ITALY
9. Rocca di Cerere Geopark – ITALY
10. Styrian Eisenwurz Geopark – AUSTRIA
11. Bergstraße-Odenwald Geopark – GERMANY
12. North Pennines AONB Geopark – UK
13. Luberon Geopark – FRANCE
14. North West Highlands Geopark – SCOTLAND - UK
15. Swabian Albs Geopark – GERMANY
16. Geopark Harz – Braunschweiger Land – GERMANY
17. Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark – ROMANIA
18. Beigua Geopark – ITALY
19. Fforest Fawr Geopark – Wales - UK
20. Bohemian Paradise Geopark – CZECHIA
21. Cabo de Gata – Nijar Geopark – ANDALUCIA, SPAIN
22. Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional Geopark – PORTUGAL
23. Sierras Subbéticas Nature Park – ANDALUCIA, SPAIN
24. Sobrarbe - Pirineos Geopark – ARAGON, SPAIN
25. Gea Norvegica Geopark – NORWAY
26. Geological Mining Park of Sardinia – ITALY
27. Papuk Geopark – CROATIA
28. English Riviera Geopark – UK
29. Adamello - Brenta Geopark – ITALY
30. GeoMôn Geopark – WALES - UK
31. Arouca Geopark – PORTUGAL
32. Shetland Geopark – SCOTLAND - UK
33. Chelmos – Vouraikos Geopark – GREECE
34. Novohrad – Nograd Geopark – HUNGARY & SLOVAKIA
35. Magma Geopark – NORWAY
36. Basque Coast Geopark – SPAIN
37. Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni Geopark – ITALY
38. Rokua Geopark – FINLAND
39. Tuscan Mining Park Geopark – ITALY
40. Vikos – Aaos Geopark – GREECE
41. Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa – GERMANY & POLAND
42. Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark – SPAIN
43. Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark – IRELAND
44. Katla Geopark – ICELAND
45. Massif des Bauges Geopark – FRANCE
46. Apuan Alps Geopark – ITALY



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47. Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark – SPAIN
48. Chablais Geopark – FRANCE
49. Central Catalonia Geopark – SPAIN
50. Bakony-Balaton Geopark – HUNGARY
51. Azores Geopark – PORTUGAL
52. Karavanke/Karawanken Geopark – SLOVENIA & AUSTRIA
53. Idrija Geopark – SLOVENIA
54. De Hondsrug Geopark – NETHERLANDS
55. Sesia Val Grande Geopark – ITALY
56. Kula-Salihli Geopark – TURKEY
57. Molina and Alto Tajo Geopark – SPAIN
58. El Hierro Geopark – SPAIN
59. Ore of the Alps Geopark – AUSTRIA
60. Monts d’Ardèche Geopark – FRANCE
61. Odsherred Geopark – DENMARK
62. Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark – PORTUGAL
63. Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands Geopark – SPAIN
64. Reykjanes Geopark – ICELAND
65. Pollino Geopark – ITALY
66. Sitia Geopark – GREECE
67. Troodos Geopark – CYPRUS
68. Causses du Quercy Geopark – FRANCE
69. Las Loras Geopark – SPAIN
70. Beaujolais Geopark – FRANCE
71. Famenne-Ardenne Geopark – BELGIUM
72. Conca de Tremp Montsec – SPAIN
73. Vis Archipelago – CROATIA
74. Courel Mountains – SPAIN
75. Trollfjell Geopark - NORWAY