

# GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:**, Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark, CREECE European Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2019

Exhibition opening : "Memories of Gaia - UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece - Cyprus"

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 4 staffs including 1 geoscientist

**Number of visitors:** 2000

**Number of Geopark events:** 9 events held by management body and 6 with cooperative organization

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** In 2019, 2 secondary and 6 primary schools participated in educational programs of Sitia Geopark

**Number of Geopark press release:** More than 25 press releases were published and published announcements about the events of the Geopark, the educational actions, etc.

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2019

- The construction and operation of the new information center at SUGG through the Interreg Greece-Cyprus 2014-2020 «GEOTOURISM IN INSULAR GEOPARKS»
- Exhibition "Memories of Gaia - UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece - Cyprus" held at Sitia Geopark from July 15 to August 3, 2019
- The evaluation of the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark from 17 to 22 July , 2019

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

The Sitia Geopark is participating with representatives to all EGN Coordination Committee Meetings:

- 43rd Coordination Committee meeting Swabian Alp UNESCO Global Geopark, Aalen 25th – 29th March 2019
- 44th Coordination Committee Meeting Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark 24th September 2019
- 15th Conference EUROPEAN GEOPARKS 23th – 27th September 2019
- Participation in the 2nd International Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks Greece - Cyprus

### Management and Financial Status

- The Management and financial Status it was in line with the year's budget without any problem

## **Geoconservation**

- New placards interpreting information signs of the geo sites have been installed and preserving the older ones
- Recording and mapping of new geological points of interest geotrails

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Organization of the 3rd UNESCO World Championship Sitia Geopark Trail September 13 , October 2019
- Workshop for Geotourism in SUGG for tourism professionals and the unemployed 17-18-19 January 2020
- Participation in the Greek Alternative Tourism Workshop, which included B2B meetings of Polish alternative tourism agencies with corresponding agencies from Greece. Warsaw October 29 2020
- Mountain tourism workshop in the context of the International Mountain Day celebration December 11<sup>th</sup> 2019
- Photography exhibition "NATURA 2000: Life for All" July 15 to August 3, 2019

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

- We collaborate on the National Thematic Network of the Center for Environmental Education (ANO) of Anogeia entitled: Unravelling Earth's Memory through Geo-diversity, Geoparks and Anthropogenic Activities "
- Educational activities and training program in collaboration with primary and secondary schools

## **Strategic partnership**

- Cooperation with Sitia Archaeological Museum, Natural History Museum of Crete ,Historical and Religious Museum of Monastery Toplou
- University of Crete, University of Patras, Greek Mediterranean University
- Local outdoor travel agencies, Regional Travel office

## **Promotional activities**

- Participation in the ITB BERLIN 2019
- Promotional at web site [www.alternativegreece.gr](http://www.alternativegreece.gr) and the sixteenth annual edition with the title "Greece, the ideal destination 2019"
- 10 publications in Greek and international media and online social networking.
- Hosting journalists who write about alternative tourism

## **4. CONTACTS**

Manager: Evangelos Perakis [perakisv@sitia.gr](mailto:perakisv@sitia.gr)

Geologist: Christoforos Kontogiogarakis [kukis24@hotmail.com](mailto:kukis24@hotmail.com)