

Grevena-Kozani UGGp Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Grevena Kozani UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2021



Figure 1 End-of-school-year Geopicnic, Folklore Museum tour, traditional games and geopark presentation, Village of Kyparissi. Collaboration with Pindos Dance and Cultural Association.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 7 staffs including 4 geoscientists

Number of visitors:

Number of Geopark events: The UGGp organized 6 events, and participated in 16 events by other organizations, including 3 national and international Geoparks Network events.

1	01/23	International Press-Fam Tour: Portitsa Gorge, Village of Spilaio, Poulkos Manor Historic Home, Siatista, Dio Fili Winery Tour, Gravadika Restaurant, Siatista. Collaboration with Tourism Agency of West Macedonia
2	03/23	EGN CC Meeting, Hateg UGGp
3	03/23	Presentation and Q&A session, information seminar organized by the Greek Mountaineering Association, Kozani
4	04/23	International Earth Day: presentation and outdoor activities with primary-junior high students of Grevena, Grevena Municipal Park. Partnership with Environmental Education Center of Grevena.
5	05/23	School visit, 1 st Junior High School of Thessaloniki. Museum visits, Paleontological Museum of Milia, Trampatzeio Historic Schoolhouse, Siatista
6	05/23	Visit Vikos-Aoos UGGp Management team to Grevena-Kozani UGGp,

7	05/23	US Winemakers Club Tour, Diamantis Vineyards, Poulkos Manor, Gravadika Restaurant, Siatista
8	05/23	Annual Conference of Hellenic-Cypriot Geoparks, Sitia
9	06/23	EGN Week: visit to 2 nd kindergarten of Grevena. Presentation and activities, <i>The World on a Plate</i>
10	06/23	End-of-school-year Geopicnic, museum tour, activities and geopark presentation, Village of Kyparissi. Collaboration with Pindos Dance and Cultural Association
11	06/23	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Paleontology Dept Annual Field Trip, Milea Paleontological Museum and Trampatzeio Historic Schoolhouse, Siatista
12	06/23	Symposium, Traditional Stone Architecture of Voios Township (hosted by Environmental Education Center of Velventos) Trampatzeio Historic Schoolhouse, Siatista
13	07/23	Symposium, Monitoring the SDGs in the EU Regions: Regions2023 Pilot Project, Kozani
14	08/23	Presentation at Tretimos Trail Running Event, City Hall, Deskati
15	09/23	Divine Liturgy, Greek Orthodox Environment Day, Valia Kalda National Wilderness Preserve
16	09/23	16 th GGN Conference, M'Goun UGGp
17	09/23	Exhibit and Presentation, Aiani Local Products Festival
18	09/23	Group hiking, geopark presentation with Humans First Youth Collective, Mt. Vourinos-Mesio Nero Valley
19	10/23	2 nd International Geodiversity Day: Evening Presentations, Lionel Café, Grevena, and 1-day Field Trip with the public
20	11/23	Exhibit, Special Session and Food Tasting at Philoxenia International Tourism Expo, Helexpo Center Thessaloniki (>25,000 visitors)
21	11/23	Booths with local products, Annual Christmas Market, City Hall, Thessaloniki. Organized by the Municipality of Thessaloniki
22	11/23	University of Patras Geology Dept Annual Field Trip
23	12/23	International Mountain Day: excursion to Mt. Vasilitsa

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 2 primary school classes, 2 university classes

Number of Geopark press release: 6+, 2 articles in magazines/newsletters

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major Achievements in 2023

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- EGN CC Meeting, Hateg UGGp
- Annual Conference of Hellenic-Cypriot Geoparks, Sitia
- 16th GGN Conference, M'Goun UGGp
- Symposium, Monitoring the SDGs in the EU Regions: Regions2023 Pilot Project, Kozani

Student Theses

- Pappas, F. (2023). Geotourism: How Geoparks Constitute a New Source of Economic Development of Their Territories. Unpublished Bachelor's Thesis, Metropolitan College/Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.
--*The UGGp provided information and personnel were interviewed as part of the research for this thesis.*
- Tsiarsioti, L. (2023). Petrological and Mineralogical Study of Rodingites in the Orliakas Region of the Pindus Ophiolite Complex and Investigation of

Petrogenetic Processes. Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Patras School of Natural Sciences.

--The UGGp provided background material and feedback for this thesis.

Management and Financial Status

- Green light for Integrated Territorial Investment Plan for the UGGp, open call for proposals for touristic development of the geopark. Proposals can address conservation and promotion of geosites and locales, improving quality of life for residents, supporting local producers and businesses, improving touristic infrastructure and facilities, and enhancing the management and operations of the geopark.
- Economic stimulus grant from NECCA to all Hellenic Geoparks. Our UGGp is to receive 120,000 euros for interpretive and directional signs, pamphlets, promotional materials, professional photographic and video materials, an app, educational materials and rock display-prep equipment.

Geoconservation

- Highlight of two Geowonder sites which are the most emblematic of the geopark, the Mesio Nero Valley on Mt. Vourinos, and Portitsa Gorge, to be recognized by the Greek state as Natural Monuments. Each site was carefully documented in terms of its geology, geoheritage, cultural heritage and touristic potential. On the basis of these reports, N.E.C.C.A. funded a promotions package (see above).

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Guided tour for a Winemakers' Club from Oregon, USA. The group visited the vineyards and facilities of Diamantis Winery with the owner and learned about local wine traditions and their connection to the geology. The group also toured Poulkos Manor, and sampled local delicacies at Gravadika Restaurant, Siatista.
- Guided hike and geopark presentation for the Humans First Youth Collective, Mt. Vourinos-Mesio Nero Valley.
- Presentation and Q&A session, information seminar organized by the Greek Mountaineering Association, Kozani

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

- Visiting a local kindergarten to present *The World on a Plate*, an interactive program about soils, food production and conservation. Visual, oral and hands-on methods of communication were used, and were appropriate for a pre-literate audience. The students learned about the importance of soil, and gained perspectives on soil conservation. They participated in a "soil-making" activity, which emphasized that soil cannot be manufactured and is thus a non-renewable resource. Metacognitive feedback methods ensured comprehension and retention of key points.
- Hosting two classes from local public schools for Earth Day, partnership with Environmental Education Center, Grevena. Geopark presentation in their offices, activities in Municipal Park of Grevena. 4th-grade and 8th-grade class had age-appropriate presentations about geology, Earth Day the geopark, followed by activities in the park. The 4th graders began by discussing their existing knowledge or ideas about the nature of the Earth, its composition and structure, and how it includes both living and non-living components. They then investigated the trees in the park, listing all the components of trees, and then examined various fossils and discussed their formation and relationships to living species. They then received air-drying clay and got to make their own

“fossils” using the trees to make moulds or impressions in the clay. The activity included metacognitive exercises and a wrap-up discussion to ensure good retention and critical thinking.

The 8th graders began with a thought and observation exercise designed by our staff, called Planet Petra, followed by a discussion about the composition and structure of Earth, more advanced than the 4th graders and including an introduction to plate tectonics with the fingernail-growth analogy and discussion. The students were given plasti-tac and could simulate ductile vs. brittle deformation of rock, by slowly or quickly pulling the plasti-tac. This was tied into a discussion about earthquakes and seismic hazards. They were then instructed to line up and simulate different seismic waves by moving in sequence to make a human “earthquake”. The students, by bumping, waving, lunging, bending and touching their toes, modelled the various seismic movements and timed them. The session concluded with a wrap-up discussion and the students got to draw Planet Petra and one of its inhabitants, to tie into their earlier discussion.

Strategic partnerships

- First intern, via Atlas Internship Hub. 1st-year geology student at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki focusing on geotourism. She assessed the touristic development potential of the village of Milea, home of the Paleontological Museum, and assisted on several mapping expeditions including 3D mapping of local caves.
- Joined Freiwilligendienst Kulturweit Program and hosted first 2 volunteers for a six-month period. They had their own office in the Regional Authority of Grevena, and primarily assisted in our promotional activities including designing printed materials such as posters and leaflets, social media posting, tourism expos, local festivals and media advertising campaigns.

Promotional activities

- Informational booth for UGGp and GEOfood display with local products at Philoxenia International Tourism Expo in Thessaloniki, attended that year by over 25,000 people. Special session about the geopark, with presentations about geoheritage, geotourism and gastronomy tourism, plus a buffet of local delicacies.
- Presentation by delegate from Regional Authority of West Macedonia, World Travel Market 2023, London: *Food Traditions and Resilience in UNESCO Global Geopark Grevena-Kozani*.
- Press-fam trip organized by the Tourism Agency of West Macedonia. International journalists and bloggers visited Portitsa Gorge, Poulkos Manor, Dio Fili Winery, and Gravadika Restaurant.
- Informational booth and presentation at annual Aiani Local Products Festival.
- Live broadcasting in National TV channel (ERT3) in program “Perimetros” from “Bouharia” geotope
- Live broadcasting in a web tv channel with title “Natural History Museums and Geoparks”
- Displays and samples of local products, cooking demonstrations, annual Christmas Market in foyer of City Hall, Thessaloniki. Attended by several hundred people.

4. CONTACTS

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