

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: MADONIE UNESCO Global Geopark, ITALY (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2001/2023



Photo 1 Erasmus vr@Geoparks project" Final conference in Palermo. Photo2 Inauguration of the path dedicated to Brother Biagio Conte

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 1 staff coordinator + 5 administratives

Number of visitors: park information points, museum around:76.788

Number of Geopark events:about 35

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: about300

Number of Geopark press release: about 35 events on social media, municipal

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

March: Final conference of the "Erasmus vr@Geoparks project" in Palermo at Palazzo Comitini; Celebration of the European Parks Day promoted by the European Parks Federation (EUROPARC) with the participation of students, mayors and local administrators;

April:Final conference and replica event of the LIFE4FIR project, in Polizzi Generosa with the participation of local administrators and schools;

May-June: Art, culture, history, landscape and environment are the protagonists of the 18th edition of Egn Wek 2023, thanks to the precious collaboration of local associations and municipalities of Madonie;

July: a new edition of the "Break The Limit" event took place in the Madonie Park, tourism beyond barriers;

September: Cefalù Film Festival, an important artistic and cultural initiative that promotes the area;

October: XVII edition of "Castelbuono Funghi Fest", to promote the value of the culture of food and wine;

Conference "The history of the ice cream" as part of the SHERBETH International Festival of Artisanal Ice Cream;

"La Domenica Favorite" event held in Piano Battaglia in the Madonie Park aimed to promote tourism in areas of high naturalistic value;

November: Presentation in Petralia Sottana of the book "Myths and Legends of the Geology of Sicily" by Prof Valerio Agnesi;

Festival of autumn flavours, promoted by the Proloco and Youth Council of Isnello aimed to promote the food and wine traditions of the Madonie area;

Participation in the "Cheese Festival 2023" organized by the Proloco of Collesano and included in the calendar of the most important events in Sicily;

December: Inauguration of the path dedicated to Brother Biagio Conte, the President of the Sicily Region, the Councilor for Territory and Environment and numerous civil, military and religious authorities were present;

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

March: Madonie Geopark Unesco 47° meeting EGN CC (Coordination Committee) presso Hateg County UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) in Romania;

September:10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2023 and Regional CC Meeting in Morocco;

November: EGN-EUROPEAN GEOPARK NETWORK digital meeting;

Management and Financial Status

The main financial entrance is from Sicily which shall transfer amounts allocated to the budget to pay all expenses related to institutional activities, to the geopark activity management and to the staff. The annual balance is approved by the Park Board, and it is subjected to the region control. Other sums came from private associations;

Geoconservation

May Participation in the National Conference "Protected Areas & Conservation" held in Caserta;

July The sperm bank and cryobank for the protection of *Abies nebrodensis* was set up in the premises of the MAN museum in Polizzi Generosa;

October Participation in the conference on the protection of *Abies nebrodensis* in Abruzzo promoted by the Municipality of Rosello in collaboration with the Italian Society of Forest Restoration (SIRF), Federparchi, Abruzzo Region, degree course in Mountain Sciences of the University of Tuscia (VT) and Catholic University of Lilles;

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

Project "Let's color our future" promoted by the Comprehensive Institute "Castellana Sicula-Polizzi Generosa"; valorization of the educational function of the Park School;

Erasmus project "REPAIR THEWORLD" the Park Authority is a partner of the project intended for teachers/educators to help them acquire knowledge, ecological skills and awareness of climate change, to transfer them to students Participating countries: Italy, Turkey, Poland and Spain).

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

October :International Day of Geodiversity" - The Madonie Park celebrated this event with the promotion and diffusion of the video created by GGN on the importance of conserving the geological heritage;As part of the Didacta event in Catania, the Madonie Park celebrated the International "Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters" with a themed seminar;

Strategic partnership

memorandum of understanding between the Madonie Park Authority and the Regional Order of Geologists of Sicily aimed at collaboration and the development of project ideas and joint activities in the geological, environmental, cultural and tourist fruition fields;

Agreement between the Madonie Park Authority and the ASd Sci Club Pizzo Antenna for the valorisation, promotion and use of the mountain territory of the Madonie Park;

Agreement aimed at a collaborative relationship between the Madonie Park Authority and the Sottosale Association for the organization of the "VI edition of the Salgemma Sculpture Biennial" in Petralia Soprana;

Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between the Madonie Park Authority and the "Pura Vita" Association aimed at promoting the health of forests and people, through the research and practice of Forest Therapy;

Collaboration agreement between the Madonie Park Authority and the municipality of Petralia Sottana for the implementation of the "Mountain Therapy" project;

Agreement between the Madonie Park Authority and the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences of the University of Palermo for the implementation of research, study and training activities for the development of sustainable and innovative technical itineraries in the field of floriculture;

Memorandum of Understanding between the Madonie Park Authority and the Department of Ecological and Biological Sciences (DEB) of the University of Tuscia in Viterbo, to start a collaborative activity aimed at scientific research, environmental training and the valorisation of the areas of the Madonie Park;

Promotional activities

March - Participation of the organization in ExpoCook 2023 Mediterranean Fair in Palermo
DIDACTA 2023 fair (Florence) for the knowledge and dissemination of the protected area through the application of innovative teaching;

April The Madonie Park participated in the 38th edition of the Salon Destinations Nature Paris;
Participation in Catania at the ECOMED Fair "Tourist itineraries and virtual reality";

May - Participation in the SLOW FOOD agri-food fair Mercato del Gusto in Stuttgart;

August - Production of the documentary "Verso l'Alto" which tells the story of two friends intent on making a trekking/pilgrimage route towards the sanctuary of the Madonna dell'Alto;

October participation in the DIDACTA fair Sicilian edition (Catania).

4. CONTACTS

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