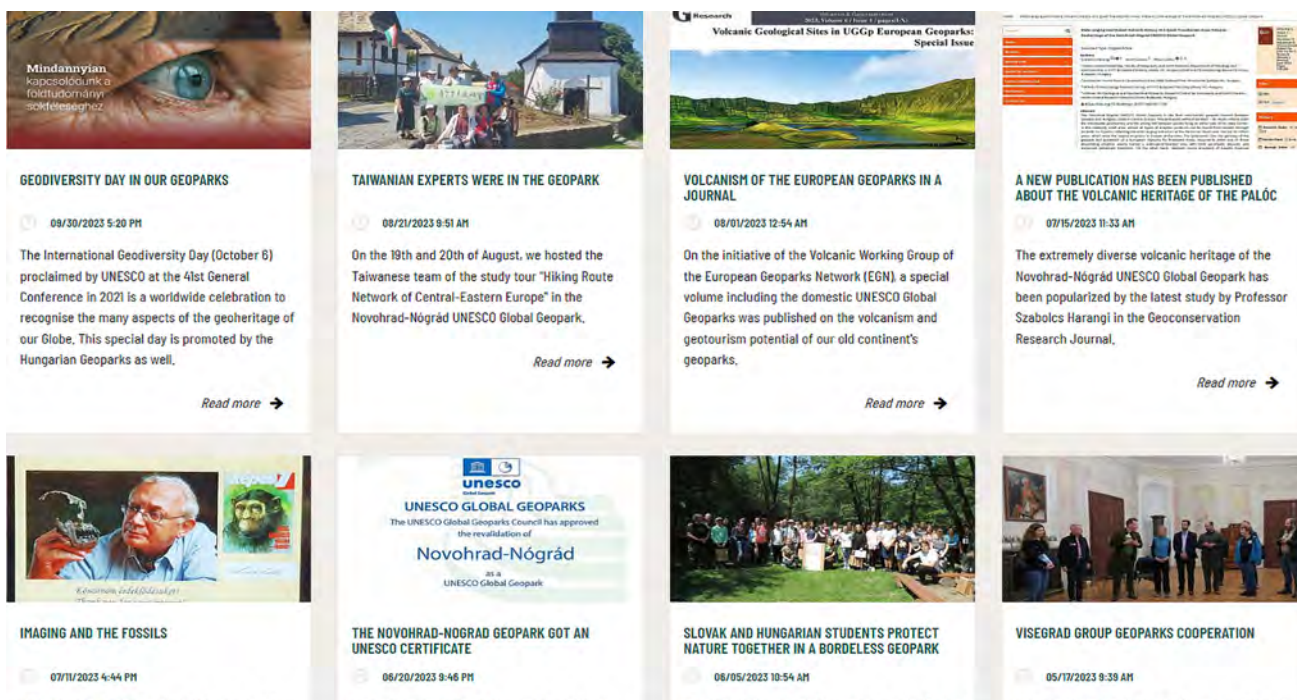


GGN – Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovakian - Hungarian transnational, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2022



Some News from 2023 of the NN UGGp's website - <https://www.nogradgeopark.eu/en/news-2>

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 14 people including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: to main geosites approx. 260 000 people

Number of Geopark events: 40

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: 34

Number of Geopark press release: 20



3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- UNESCO green card after the last revalidation of the NN UGGp
- The new comprehensive development project plan (Enjoy Park - targeting shared development of geosites and linked visitor facilities on county level) was accomplished.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in EGN CC meetings and GGN conference
- Taking part in GGN endorsed events like the Geodiversity Day
- Participating in the EGN Volcanic, Fossils and the Intangible Heritage Working Groups
- Contributing with an article to the book of the EGN Volcanic Areas
- Contributing with an article to the 20th EGN Magazine and Geoconservation Research Journal
- Taking part in the Erasmus + visits from other UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Finishing projects of the GEOTOP and RiWild programs, Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
- Taking part in the IGCP 726 GEOfood for sustainable development in UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Representation in the UGGp Youth Forum
- Organizing events for the EGN Week and for the 3rd Volcano Day in Europe

- Taking part in the transnational-crossborder UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum's work and online meetings.

Management and Financial Status

- Restructuring management towards an EGTC is still going on to overcome instabil financial status and budget difficulties, to be able to incorporate the Bükk National Park Directorate.
- The general economic crisis and the close Russian-Ukrainian war both contribute to financial problems, hinder the implementation of development plans and make the maintenance of infrastructure more difficult

Geoconservation

- The natural habitats of the NN UGGp were well managed, falling trees, which have become more common, cause problems at geosites within forested areas
- Conservation and rehabilitation of excavated areas and geosites were ongoing activities in partnership with the Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD- Hungary), Cerová vrchovina Protected Landscape Area (Slovakia) and other stakeholders, including NGOs.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The Geo-lodge brand to market sustainable accommodation facilities within the territory of the NN UGGp and the GEOfood programs were promoted. Several thematic geotourism offers were developed for off seasons (like at the Ipolytarnoc Fossils NR). The visitor centers organized several family events. At the national pilgrimage center of Szentkut some special geotrail programs were organized for the visitors.

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

- The transnational NN UGGp, is bordered (both Slovakia and Hungary) by the war battered Ukraine. The geopark and its stakeholders, NGOs and municipalities collected medical, food and other aids for Ukraine, provided some special geoheritage programs to the refugees.
- SDGs were promoted several occasions at thematic programs held at the Geopark visitor centers
- During the EGN Volcano Day on June 1 outdoor programs targeted the geohazards.

Strategic partnership

- Co-operation with the V4 Geoparks, the Slovak and the Hungarian National Geopark Commissions and state nature conservation agencies, beside municipalities and county officials were increased.
- Further help was given to the aspirant Bükk-region Geopark, linked to common projects.
- Project partnerships with stakeholders helped gaining some EU funds for conservation purposes

Promotional activities

- Participation in the events of the stakeholders and partners of the NN UGGp.
- Presentations during various country events for the general public and specialists.
- Several press releases, social media presence and publishing printed material

4. CONTACTS

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GGN / EGN representatives: Balazs Gyorgy and Imre Szarvas, substitute Julia Nagy (office@nngeopark.eu)