

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2022

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Hike with official guests to the start of work on the “Geo-Pad Haupesbach an Halerbaach”

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 23 staff members including 1 geoscientist; permanent staff: 19, temporary projects staff: 4

Number of visitors: In 2023 a total of 211.886 hikers were counted on the Mullerthal Trail, the 112 km long regional hiking trail that leads along most of the geosites.

Number of Geopark events:

Organisation of the 2 major annual events for the general public: “Woche des Natur- & Geoparks” (EGN-week, 22 May - 5 June) and “Mount vum Bongert” (‘Month of the Orchards’, in October). Both events included numerous sub-events in collaboration with regional partners, such as guided hikes, lectures, activities and workshops.

Celebration of International Days: Geodiversity Day, Disaster Risk Reduction Day

Organisation of 48 different courses for the general public, communicated through the annual calendar of activities

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 24

Number of Geopark press release: 8 press releases. Mellerdall personnel also gave interviews to national newspapers and radio and TV stations. Numerous articles in municipality newspapers and in the Luxembourg Nature Parks' newspaper, which are distributed to all households in the region.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- First part of a further training series for tour guides on Geopark topics (geology, archaeology, Geo-Expo, drinking water, regional products, economic history etc.)
- Approval of the INTERREG Greater Region project proposal "Sous nos pieds" aiming to valorise the geological and related industrial heritage, together with UGGps Vulkaneifel and Famenne-Ardenne (among others)
- Request for area modification (area extension by one municipality)
- Elaboration of a concept for a signposting along the roads and the visibility increase of geosites
- Realisation of numerous projects on nature conservation, sustainable economy, climate protection, drinking water protection, regional products, that are closely linked to the SDGs
- Approval of a project to preserve and enhance ecologically important wetlands such as mardelles, small depressions which are geosites of the Geopark

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in all official Geopark network meetings (GGN AC, EGN CC, ...) and publications
- Meeting with the UGGp Ore of the Alps and the aUGGps Schelde-Delta to exchange ideas and to discuss common projects
- Participation in international projects with other UGGps: GEOfood, LIFE-IP ZENAPA

Management and Financial Status

- The Natur- & Geopark is financed through contributions from its member municipalities, ministries as well as national and international projects. stable; no remarkable changes
- Following the municipal elections in Luxembourg, all municipal councils of the member municipalities were once again informed about the features and missions of UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Mëllerdall UGGp
- New representatives of the statutory advisory commission, comprising 22 delegates from social, economic, ecological, tourist and cultural organisations, as well as from the local population, were nominated and support the management's Board

- In the "Ecole du Gout" project, which is supported by the Natur- & Geopark together with the other two Luxembourg Nature Parks, a dedicated building has been inaugurated in which courses on taste sensitisation are offered

Geoconservation

- Explanations on the importance and necessity of geoheritage protection to visitors during guided walks
- Maintenance of various geosites and biotopes
- Scientific works on geosites: measurements on CO2 exhalations and geophysics
- Dr. Kevin Page, Editor of the scientific journal "Geoheritage", visited the Mëllerdall region and gave a presentation on geoheritage in the National Museum of Natural History (Luxembourg City)

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Development of a children's map for the discovery of geosites

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

- Development of an app with multiple choice questions about the Geo-Expo, the interpretation centre of the Natur- & UNESCO Global Geopark Mëllerdall

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with regional stakeholders was improved through our formal partnership program, which counted 55 partners in 2023. Partners are supported through regular information events and advertising. A partner meeting was held, which consisted of a general introduction and 4 different participatory workshops designed for each partner category.
- The NGPM has cooperation agreements, among others with the regional tourism association Mullerthal Region – Luxembourg's Little Switzerland, the LAG LEADER Mëllerdall Region and with the University of Trier
- The Natur- & Geopark is member of the national UNESCO Geopark Comitee, which includes delegates from national scientific institutions and administrations (geosciences, history/archaeology, ...) and regional stakeholder

Promotional activities

- Information on websites naturpark-mellerdall.lu and geopark-mellerdall.lu
- Publication of the annual calendar of activities with events on geological, cultural, intangible and natural heritage, which is distributed to all households in the region
- Regular activities on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube

4. CONTACTS

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