

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany / Poland, European Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2011 / 2023



*Group photo of the UNESCO sites - representatives during the kick-off event for the UNESCO5 project (UNESCO in Lusatia)*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 7 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** Statistics for 2023 is not yet available, estimated number of visitors 150,000.

**Number of Geopark events:**

- Events by management body: 8
- Events in cooperation with partners: 5

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 25

**Number of Geopark press release:** 15

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2023

Start and kick-off event for the UNESCO5 project at the Old Brickworks. Four UNESCO sites from three programmes and Domowina, the organisation responsible for the intangible cultural heritage of Lusatia's Slavic minority, the Sorbs, are working together on the project. The first major permanent exhibition for the Geopark was opened at the Old Brickworks, the headquarter of EGTC Ltd. in Klein Kölzig. Plans were drawn up for the tourist upgrading of the area around the Old Brickworks and 100% funding was obtained. The revalidation mission has taken place.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- article in the EGN Magazine issue 20: First Youth Panel in the Muskau Arch UGGp

- article in GGN magazine Geoparks Going Green on the UNESCO5 project
- Consolidation of cooperation in the Polish network and participation in the development of the National Polish Geopark Programme
- Participation in the CC Spring Meeting (Hateg, RO) and CC Autumn Meeting (digital)
- realisation of two revalidation missions in Spain (Granada, Cabo de Gata-Nijar)

### **Management and Financial Status**

The financing was secured by annual membership fees, which provide the basic financial resources. The EGTC also receives annual grants from the federal states of Saxony and Brandenburg. The annual budget in 2023 was 476.900 EUR + 2 small funding projects with 10 TEUR each.

### **Geoconservation**

- signing of cooperation agreements with the geological services of Poland and the federal states in Brandenburg and Saxony and first meeting including site inspection

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- installation of geopark regulations (panels) at frequently visited geopark locations

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

- organisation of a school competition for Earth Day involving 19 schools and 500 students from Poland and Germany
- development of an all-day educational program on the topic of sand

### **Strategic partnership**

The EGTC Ltd began negotiations with potential future new members, two regional authorities in the Free State of Saxony, in order to further expand and broaden the support structure. Cooperation agreements were concluded with the geological services of Saxony, Brandenburg and Poland.

### **Promotional activities**

- Publication for general/professional audience:
  - Kupetz, M., Fleischmann, A., Löwen, K. and Eppinger, U. (2023): The raw material and location-bound raw material production and industrial development in the Muskau Arch in the permanent exhibition "With dirt to prosperity. Brandenburg. Geowiss. Beitr. 30, 99–111.
  - Kupetz, M., Löwen, K. and KOCCMO Design Agentur Leipzig (2023): Exhibition catalog „Mit Dreck zu Wohlstand“ im UNESCO-Global Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen/Łuk Mużakowa in der Alten Ziegelei Klein Kötzig. – Gemeinde Neiße-Malxetal, 82 S.

## **4. CONTACTS**

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