

# GGN/EGN – Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark Annual Report 2019

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2010 / 2018



## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 18 staffs including 2 geoscientists

**Number of visitors:** to main geosites approx. 250 000 people

**Number of Geopark events:** 72

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 62

**Number of Geopark press release:** 34

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2019

- Geopark exhibition opened at the Geo-Wonders House at Salgobanya
- Extending the Geopark Ambassador cross-border ERASMUS Programme project.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in GGN and EGN CC meetings and giving presentations on those occasions
- Participating in the works of the EGN Volcanic Geoparks and the Fossils Working Groups
- Taking part in the Erasmus + Geotur project with other UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Organizing events for the EGN Week and for the first Volcano Day in Europe
- Taking part in the transborder UNESCO Global Geoparks' first meeting

### Management and Financial Status

- Previous changes in management and restructuring stabilized the financial situation
- Co-operation among stakeholders got stronger, to incorporate state agencies in the management the creation of an umbrella organization, an EGTC was drafted

## **Geoconservation**

- Conservation and rehabilitation of excavated areas and geosites was an ongoing activity in partnership with the Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD) and other stakeholders
- A conservation hall sheltering a huge petrified tree was reroofed

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Guided geosite tours crossing the state border and geopark family days became common.
- Organized events take into consideration to lessen environmental impact, audio guide system was further extended to some geosites with offline QR code contents to ease infrastructure pressure on the environment
- Different natural, cultural and historical Geopark assets were linked to offer multi-day touristic offers

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

- Geosite guided tours and trainings were held to trained staff of the BNPD
- Monthly traditional events, local markets and trade fairs were organized
- week-long summer bicycle tours were organized for elementary schools to visit important geosites and stay overnight within the Geopark
- New interactive exhibition opened at Ipolytarnóc Fossils interpreting the links between controlled hunting and nature conservation
- Special thematic programs were organized in winter weekends
- During the Volcano Day at Ipolytarnóc Fossils and the EU development open day common geohazard role plays were organized for Slovak and Hungarian students

## **Strategic partnership**

- Co-operation with the Slovak National Geopark Commission, the Hungarian National Geopark Commission and state nature conservation agencies, beside municipalities
- Expertise was given to the BNPD for the preparation of an aspirant geopark
- Project partnerships with stakeholders helped gaining funds for conservation purposes

## **Promotional activities**

- Participation in the events of the BNPD, the OOCR N-P, the SAŽP and local NGOs.
- Presentations of NNG UGG during various events for the general public and specialists.
- Participation at trade fairs and other events in major settlements outside the geopark
- Several press releases, social media presence and publishing printed material

## **4. CONTACTS**

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