

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

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 / 2019



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 staffs including 4 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Due to Corona, there were more visits in the UGGp in both Poland and Germany.

Number of Geopark events: Due to the Corona pandemic situation, numerous planned events could not be carried out. Different regulations in Poland and Germany, a closed border for several weeks and a half-opened border almost throughout the year complicated the situation. Carried out were: Children's Walk (40 guests), Seven-Bridges-Run (200), Museum's Night (200), Opening Ceremony (60) of the new Head Office and Visitors Centre "Historical Brickworks Klein Kölzig", a cultural event on the "Devil's Stone" Geosite (180), a fair with regional products (1.000).

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: See above. In summary the Geopark staff could realise nine (9) workshops with youth and school classes (ar. 80 participants).

Number of Geopark press release: Corresponding to the restrictions, there were less press releases to the UGGp usual activities, but more articles about the new visitor centre (appr. 15 articles).

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- move of the Geopark's Head Office into the Historical Brickworks Klein Kölzig, erected in 1892/1894. The first floor of this building with appr. 600m² not only houses the office, but also a lecture room for events (85 person), a learning workshop and place for exhibitions (240m²). A first exhibition with works of two German & one Polish artists opened in 10/2020 (Art.Room.Geopark – The Begin).

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- publication of one article in the EGN Magazine, cooperation with two Czech Geoparks (UGGp Bohemian Paradise, National GP Ralsko) and support for the aspiring transnational UGGp Schelde Delta (BE-NL), participation in the EGN / GGN meetings and workshops and revalidation process –
- preparation of the 4th International Geopark Camp for Youth 2020, postponed due to Corona to 2021, extension of the scientific work prior to the Camp (participants from GR, RO, PL and GER)

Management and Financial Status

In August the final documents for the future EGTC were adopted. The German association running the Geopark's Head Office started with the complex preparation for the business transition. In 12/2020, the informal confirmation from the German and the Polish ministries followed with a number of conditions that must still be met. The annual budget in 2020 and 2021 is independent and secured.

Geoconservation

- renewing and reopening of the Devils Stone Geosite and rest area as result of a supporting project of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (GER) and the German UNESCO Commission (“Rebuilding the social, cultural and regional interactions between GER und PL after the Covid 19 crisis”)
- beginning the modernization of bicycle routes, extension of the geotouristic path of the “Old mine Babina” and the renewing of the visitors tower close to the Old mine Felixsee
- signing of several twinning arrangements between the Geopark and patrons to take over the responsibility of care about geosites and landscape elements

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- preparation of a common application of the UNESCO sites of Lusatia Network to support the structural change of the Lusatian Lignite Mining Region and to place topics of the Agenda 2030
- preparation of the holistic renewal of the area surrounding the brickery for a day's stay for families

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

- start with the preparations of the methodical and didactic ESD concept, work on the aspiring cooperation with the Museum of Nature History Berlin (MfN)

Strategic partnership

- acquisition a new member of the future EGTC (municipality Gablenz with the known Kromlau Park
- common project of the German UGGps “Virtual and interactive journey through the earth history”

Promotional activities

- promotional activities to establish the Brickery as new Head Office

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Dipl.-Geogr. Nancy Sauer, n.sauer@muskauer-faltenbogen.de

Geologist: Dr.rer.nat. Kersten Löwen, k.loewen@muskauer-faltenbogen.de