

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: MADONIE UNESCO Global Geopark, ITALY, (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription/Year of the last revalidation: 2001/2019



Photo 1 Final meeting of the Erasmus Vr @ Geoparks project



Photo 2 Life Natura project visits *Abies nebrodensis*

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5;

Staffs including: 1 staff coordinator + 4 personal (administrative activities)

Number of visitors: park information points, around: 35.606

Number of Geopark events: about 15

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: about 410

Number of Geopark press release: countless press releases made through the press, social media, web, institutional channels of the Municipalities

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

May-June: Art, culture, history, landscape and environment are the protagonists of the 16th edition of Egn Wek 2021, thanks to the precious collaboration of local associations and municipalities of Madonie.

June: FAI Spring Days, 6 June presentation of the Life Natura project and visit to the sentiero *Abies nebrodensis*, the largest festival dedicated to the enhancement of the Italian cultural and landscape heritage.

July: Participation of the Park Authority in the event called "Met Madonie and Tourism", which took place in Isnello, a "fair" of experiential tourism.

The Park Authority joined the Pefc certification system Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes.

September: In Petralia Sottana to celebrate the geological heritage and the twentieth anniversary of the entry into the EGN network, the "Post Italian Post Special Philatelic Cancellation" event was held. To this end, postcards were created that reproduce the urban geological paths of Sclafani Bagni, Caltavuturo and Isnello;

October: Inauguration of the griffon aviary at the Municipality of Isnello with the patronage of the Presidency of the Sicilian region.

The Madonie Park participated in the conference called "Environment and rural development strategy of villages and environmental sustainability held in Bagheria as part of the Bio in Sicily 2021 event.

The Park Authority as leader of the project called VR@Geoparks organized an itinerant training course with meetings, workshops and excursions in which partners from Turkey, Hungary, Croatia, Poland and Calabria participated.

November: Winter season 2021/2022: Sports activities related to skiing by the ASD ski club Park the Madonie.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation- online participation

January : 3 rd Digital Forum European Geoparks Network

September: 5 September EGN digital meeting Geo Hazards WG with a contribute by the President of the Park with a relation regarding the fires that have hit the Madonie Geopark;

December: IX International Conference on Unesco Global Geoparks, organized by Jeju Island Unesco Global Geopark, Republic of Korea

Management and Financial Status

The main financial entrance is from Sicily which shall transfer amounts allocated to the budget to pay all expenses related to institutional activities, to the geo-park activity management and to the staff.

The annual balance is approved by the Park Board, and it is subjected by the regional organisms of control.

Geoconservation

Project concerning the creation of multilingual multimedia supports and wooden shed in collaboration with CAI Regione Sicilia Onlus;

Project concerning the study and digitization of the geological paths of the Madonie Geopark Unesco carried out by I.T. "Filippo Parlatore" of Palermo.

MEETING in Polizzi Generosa with partners participating in the LIFE4FIR project aimed at the protection and safeguarding of *Abies Nebrodensis*

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

Project "Let's color our future" promoted by the Comprehensive Institute "Castellana Sicula-Polizzi Generosa"; valorization of the educational function of the Park School; development and knowledge of the territory throughout collaboration-integration processes, school-territory.

Project: VR @ Geoparks; the Park Authority is the lead of a strategic partnership of 24 months in the school education environment; innovative resources' creation to assist teachers by the inclusion of geo-parks as education points in the most effective way possible. (Participating countries: Italy, Hungary, Turkey, Portugal, Poland and Croatia).

Medimont Parks Project "At the origins of the Mediterranean Landscape, Geoparks and Biodiversity along the Italian CAI Path" proposed by the Italian Alpine Club aims at the knowledge, study of biodiversity and eco-compatible use of the Mediterranean Mountains.

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

October: As part of the ninth edition of the "Week of Planet Earth" initiative, the Municipality of Petralia Sottana organized a cultural day dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Park's entry into the international network of geoparks with excursions, workshops, conferences related to theme of environmental protection and conservation.

International day dedicated to the reduction of natural disasters with thematic intervention on the risk of fires, as part of a conference organized by the CAI and which was also attended by the Geopark del Pollino;

November: Workshop in Castelbuono entitled "Why safeguard biodiversity".

December: The Madonie Park celebrated the World Mountain Day organized and promoted by the FAO organization of the United Nation;

Strategic partnership

Agreement aimed at regulating the collaboration relationship between Rete Clima and the Madonie Park Authority for the implementation of the Project for the "Promotion of good forest management practices".

Memorandum of Understanding / Memorandum between the Madonie Park Authority and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague for the organization of the summer school "Ecology and Conservation of Mediterranean Ecosystems.

Agreement between the Madonie Park Authority and the TAN PANORMI cultural association for the setting up of an exhibition of Sicilian carts and activities to promote and enhance the Sicilian cultural heritage.

Memorandum of understanding aimed at regulating the collaboration relationship with the A.I.Me.F for the project called "Forest Bathing Center".

Promotional activities

June: Creation of a promotional video by Sicilia Parks to promote the natural and historical heritage of the Madonie Park, the main Geosites and the 15 municipalities of the protected area.

October: participation of the Park Authority in the BTE, the ex-hotel tourism exchange organized by Confersecenti Sicily with the support of the Sicilian region.

October/November: As part of the Life4fir project, guided tours of the *Abies nebrodensis* path were organized with school groups, associations and various institutions.

November: the Park Authority to promote the gastronomic excellence of the area took part in an event in Paris organized in collaboration with the Italian Consulate and the Italian Academy of Cuisine Délégation de Paris-Montparnasse.

Creation of gadgets and promotional material of the institution with the use of the new GGN logo

CONTACTS

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