

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: VIKOS-AOOS UNESCO Global Geopark, GREECE
European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2021

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: 32.000 (based on estimation of overnights in the V-AUGGp's territory)

Number of Geopark events:

10 main events from V-AUGGp's Management Authority. Due to covid-19 restrictions none event was organized by the Municipalities, Cultural Associations, etc.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: Due to covid-19 restrictions none educational programme implemented in the V-AUGGp.

Number of Geopark press release: 12

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- The official recognition of the UGGps by the Ministry of Environment by announcing -in the territory of V-AUGGp- the future collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and all the Greek UGGps

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

The V-AUGGp participated to all the digital meetings & events of the EGN, GGN and the Greek forum:

- 9th (digital) International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, December 12-16, 2021, Jeju island UGGp, Republic of Korea.
- 1st Global Geoparks Network Film Festival.
- Digital event for the International Mother Earth Day, GGN, April 22, 2021
- 2nd GGN Digital Forum, February 23-24, 2021.
- 3rd EGN Digital Forum, January 26, 2021.
- 4th EGN Digital Forum, April 13, 2021.
- 5th EGN Digital Forum –Papuk Special Edition, September 1-2, 2021.
- Participation of V-AUGGp to 2 UGGps evaluation missions in Europe (Ries, Germany and Mellerdal, Luxemburg).
- "UNESCO World Geoparks - Actions for Climate Change". Digital event for the celebration of the International Earth Day, organized by the Greek National Committee for UNESCO, the Greek Forum of Geoparks and the UNESCO headquarter for Geoparks of the University of

the Aegean in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, April 21, 2021.

- "UNESCO Global Geoparks" Event for teachers of the Greek network of connected schools of UNESCO for the new UNESCO program "UNESCO Global Geoparks", organized by the Ministry of Education, January 15, 2021.

Management and Financial Status

- V-AUGGp is coordinated by a committee especially designated in close relation with the official contract between V-AUGGp MA and the Region of Epirus. All the administration of the Geopark is carrying out by Epirus SA is the V-AUGGp's Management Authority.
- The Management and financial Status in 2021 was in line with the year's budget.

Geoconservation

- The study for a 10% extension of the Geopark's territory has been presented to the local authorities.
- Scientific support has been offered to the Ministry of Culture during the implementation of a special study targeting to the establishment of an area (half of its surface located in the V-AUGGp) as "UNESCO Cultural Landscape".
- A technical report for the protection of 8 cultural monuments (old stone bridges) from disaster events (river floods) has been accomplished.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- 40 km of the Epirus hiking Trail inside the V-AUGGp have been signed,
- Two Geo-trails have been updated,
- A project regarding the establishment of a mountain running race special planned for the V-AUGGp is in the preparatory phase in the frame of CLLD LEADER programme (4 LAGs participated).
- A photo-book regarding the interpretation of landscapes, geosites and geological formations of the V-AUGGp has been published.
- A report regarding the reconstruction and promotion of an old trail including an old stone bridge and 4 chapels has been implemented.
- The construction of two information centers in the V-AUGGp in collaboration with the municipalities (Konitsa and Zagori) has been decided.
- A proposal for the total repairing of an old school in order to be used as the basic information center for the V-AUGGp has been applied for financing (Vitsa village)
- A contract between V-AUGGp and the Natural Environmental & Climate Change Agency (Ministry of Environment) regarding financing support of actions in the V-AUGGp is close to to be signed.

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

- The educational package for the V-AUGGp has been tested digitally by school classes outside of the V-AUGGp.
- An ERASMUS project regarding networking between high schools from V-AUGGp (Konitsa, Greece) and Sauerland Rothaargebirge, Naturepark (Bad Berleburg, Germany) is under progress. First exchange of school teachers has been done.
- A project regarding the presentation of the cultural monuments of the V-AUGGp (especially the old stone bridges) to disabled people has been developed and tested in the field.

Strategic partnership

- All the basic stakeholders of the area participate at the Coordination Committee Council of the V-AUGGp.
- A cooperation agreement between V-AUGGp, all others Greek UGGPs, the Ministry of Environment and the Natural Environmental & Climate Change Agency has been signed.
- A project regarding promotion through cooperation among Greek UGGPs (including V-AUGGp) is in progress (Cooperation agreement has been signed) in the frame of CLLD LEADER programme.

Promotional activities

- The Deputy Minister of Environment and the Deputy Minister of Tourism visited the V-AUGGp during the Global Environment Day (5/6/2021) and announced several actions for the environment protection and sustainable tourism in rural areas, including the closer collaboration with the UGGPs and the financial support of them. Both ministers visited the V-AUGGp Information Center and discussed with staff and volunteers.
- A promotional presentation regarding the V-AUGGp has been published in an international web edition for tourism destinations in Greece (Sun-Editions).
- Promo- material for the V-AUGGp (T-shirt, mug, mousepad etc) has been produced and distributed to the public.

4. CONTACTS **Manager:** Papaioannou Haritakis, h.papaioannou@epirusa.gr, **Geologist:** Paschos Panayotis, paschos@igme.gr