

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria-Slovenia, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2013 / 2021



2nd December 2022: Opening of the Geo.DOM - new Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke visitor center on the Petzen-Peca Mountain, with Mr. Nikolaos Zouros and their guest exhibition “Petrified Forest of Lesvos”

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 06 staffs including 03 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Information center Podzemlje Pece, Mežica: 17000; Obir Dripstone Caves: 25000; Petzen-Peca: 90000; Guided hiking tours: 3000; Olimpline: 3500; Management center St. Philippen: 1000; Center of sustainability Koprivna: 1000

Number of Geopark events: 100

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 80

Number of Geopark press release: 50

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- Establishment of a Tourist board TVB Geopark Karawanken in the beginning of year 2022.
- Opening of the Geo.DOM - new Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke visitor center on the Petzen-Peca Mountain, with Mr. Nikolaos Zouros and their guest exhibition “Petrified Forest of Lesvos”; signing Geopark Partnership Agreement with Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark.

- Successful start of INTERREG Alpine Space project with the acronym I-SWAMP and national project Movemont – The moving mountains.
- Successful finish of INTERREG SI-AT projects with the acronyms: NaKult, NatureGame, KaraWAT, as well HORIZON 2020 project with the acronym RURITAGE.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation of the Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke in common projects (H2020 Ruritage, Movemont – The moving mountains); participation of the Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke representatives at national Geopark Forum meetings (SLO and AT); active participation of the Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke representatives at 16th European Geoparks Conference in Italy and EGN Spring Meeting in De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark; Participation at Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2022; Implementation of EGN Week 2022; Contributions for EGN Magazine, EGN Newsletter and GGN publication Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks; workshop to identify the importance of water resources and associated Geopark activities in the Global Geoparks network – 17th February 2022.

Management and Financial Status

- Crossborder Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark is managed by the organisation EVTZ (EGTC) Geopark Karawanken, m.b.H; Financial status: multi-source financing, stable financial status.

Geoconservation

- Strategy for the sustainable management of water resources in the crossborder area of the Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark has been prepared; informing and awareness of local people and visitors about the importance of the geoconservation on guided tours, in infocentres, brochures, articles, ...

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Successfully finished INTERREG projects of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken (NaKult, NatureGame, KaraWAT) and H2020 project (Ruritage) were dealing with the sustainable development of the crossborder Geopark Karavanke area; implementation a set of weekly programs under the title “Nature experience Geopark Karawanken” from May till October 2022 with different outdoor experiences, several guided hikes, guided visits, underground adventures, establishment of long distance hiking trail “Karawanken-Karavanke Trail”, where exceptionally rich geological, natural and cultural heritage of the area can be discovered ...

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

- Organisation of several education Geopark camps for children with different topics, on the both side of the border; organisation of final event of Geopark school topic (2021/2022) for

teachers and educators with the title: Mountains - the world high above us; organization of introductory seminar of Geopark school topic (2022/2023) for teachers and educators with the title: Non-native species - friends or enemies?; avalanche training course for certified Geopark Guides.

Strategic partnership

- Podzemlje Pece, d.o.o., Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen, RRA Koroška, IRSNC - Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation - Regional unit Maribor, Petzen-Bergbahnen GmbH, "Tourismus Region Klopeiner See - Südkärnten", F.S. Immobilienverwaltungs GmbH, A-max, Pirkdorfer See, Geological survey of Slovenia ...

Promotional activities

- Several promotional activities at local, regional and national level, participation at local, regional, national events, fairs, radio and TV interviews, contributions for local and regional newspaper, ...

4. CONTACTS

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