

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

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

Number of Geopark events:

12 main events from V-AUGGp's Management Authority.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 82 Schools, with 4.322 students and 588 teachers/ professors.

Number of Geopark press release: 16

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- The 3rd International Conference for UNESCO Global Geoparks from Greece and Cyprus was organized by V-AUGGp management authority and took place in the V-AUGGp in June 2022 during the EGN week days (3-5/6). All Geoparks from Greece and Cyprus participated. Total numbers of participants were 150 (1/3 of them digital). Ministers of Environment, local governors, mayors and other key-stakeholders participated as well.
- The 1st V-AUGGp Summer School on geology has been taken place in the V-AUGGp. It was organized by the V-AUGGp managing authority in cooperation with the Geological Department of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the municipality of Konitsa in July 2022. 40 students and 10 experts have been participated.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

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

- 45th EGN coordination committee meeting held in Hondsrug UGGp on 28-29/4/2022.
- 46th EGN coordination committee meeting held in Sesia Val Grande UGGp on 27/9/2023.
- 16th EGN Conference held in Sesia Val Grande UGGp from 28/9/ till 2/10/ 2022.

And to other activities as well, eg:

- Participation to the International Geodiversity day (6/10/2022) with an expedition to the alpine lake Dragonlake, connecting it to the start day of the "Limnades" project.
- Participation to the International Mountain Day (11/12/2022) with an expedition to the alpine lake Dragonlake connecting it to the first data collection and info-distribution to the public on the frame of the "Limnades" project.

- Participation to the EGN magazine publication with articles on 19 and 20 issues.
- Participation in Joint activities as requested by GGN secretariat and UGGps. E.g. sending material to Karavanke-Karawanken UGGp for a special exhibition in the new visitor center, relative material to GGN secretariat for a publication about UNESCO Global Geoparks or the International Geodiversity Day.

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, which is the V-AUGGp's Management Authority.
- The Management and financial Status in 2022 was in line with the year's budget.

Geoconservation

- Scientific support has been offered to the Greek Ministry of Culture and Zagori municipality (one of the Geopark's municipality) during the implementation of a special study targeting to the establishment of an area (half of it located in the V-AUGGp) as "UNESCO Cultural Landscape"..
- A contract has been signed with an expert on geography to create an on-line data-base with the main geological features of the V-AUGGp, including all geosites.
- A contract has been signed with an expert on geology for collecting data and interpret the geological values of the V-AUGGp.
- An oral presentation regarding the 1st V-AUGGp Summer School on geology was presented at the 16th conference of the Greek Ecological Society (Patras, October 17-19, 2022).

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- 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.
- A system of eco-counter devices has been distributed across the most popular hiking trails (including geosites, view-points and other visitors' hot-spots) in order to know the degree of preference by the visitors per month.
- The photo-book regarding the interpretation of landscapes, geosites and geological formations of the V-AUGGp has been distributed to stakeholders of the V-AUGGp.
- A report regarding the reconstruction and promotion of an old trail towards an ancient fortification on a distinct geological formation within the V-AUGGp has been implemented.
- A hiking trail towards the above-mentioned castle has been reconstructed with the support of Kultureweit UNESCO volunteers from Germany.

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

- The recent educational package for the V-AUGGp is in use (mainly) by the Environmental

Education Center in Konitsa (in the V-AUGGp).

- An ERASMUS project regarding networking between high schools from V-AUGGp (Konitsa, Greece) and Sauerland Rothaargebirge, Naturpark (Bad Berleburg, Germany) is under progress. Exchanges including educational visits in V-AUGGp and naturpark have been done.
- A project, supported by a team of new scientists (Limnades) regarding the monitoring of hydrological and meteorological data inside and around an alpine lake (Dragonlake) in the V-AUGGp is in progress.

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 is active and well done.
- A project regarding promotion through cooperation among Greek UGGPs (including V-AUGGp) has been started in the frame of CLLD LEADER programme.
- A cooperation with the Kulturweit organization regarding UNESCO volunteers from Germany is in progress and 3 groups of (2 person each) have been participated supporting activities in V-AUGGp throw-out 2023.

Promotional activities

- V-AUGGp staff members support the creation of a documentary (for a special production in popular national TV channel) about the values of the V-AUGGp and gave interviews on several issues (geology, nature, people and culture).
- V-AUGGp staff member (geologist) gave an interview about the geopark's geology to an international production of a German-French TV channel).
- Several promotional activities related to the major activities in 2022.

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