

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria, European Geopark Network)

2004 Year of inscription / 2015 Year of the last revalidation



Picture: Celebrating 20 years of nature and geology protection in the Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen (Courtyard of the castle hotel Kassegg with the festival market) Source: Julia Fressner, August 2016

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5 staffs including 1 geoscientist(s)

Number of Visitors: Visitors of the 3 major sites: Wasserloch gorge: 25.000 – GeoVillage Gams: 8.200 - Spring Water Museum Wildalpen: 5.650

Number of Geopark events: 15

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 24

Number of Geopark press release: 20

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

a) Major achievements in 2016

- 21st August 2016: Celebrating 20 years of nature and geology protection within the Styrian Eisenwurzen
- Staff changes: Irmgard Auer has left her position with June 2016 after 8 years. 1 new employee: Eva Maria Vorwagner

b) Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the 37th European Geoparks Coordination Committee Meeting at the Basque Coast, Spain. Heinz Kollmann, Oliver Gulas, March 2016
- Participation in the Austrian Geopark Forum meeting. Heinz Kollmann, Oliver Gulas, March and November 2016
- Participation at an exhibition on landscapes of Geoparks at Lavender House, UNESCO Global Geopark Bakony-Balaton, Heinz Kollmann, May 2016
- Participation in the 38th European Geoparks CC Meeting and the 7th GGN Conference at the English Riviera, Great Britain, Oliver Gulas, September 2016
- Participation in the EGN Fossil Group

c) Management and Financial status

- Eva Maria Vorwagner has joined the management group in August. Besides her investigations on the biodiversity of the area she will be active in the cooperation with the Nature and Geopark schools.
- Application and Approval for the Interreg Project “Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks” (Danube GeoTour) together with our Lead Partner Geopark Iridja, Slovenia and 8 other partners (European Geoparks, Universities), since March 2016
- The Nature- and Geopark is financed through contributions of the communities, the Province of Styria, international projects and its own income

d) Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Summer programmes of our Geopark Partners (different activities 7 days a week throughout the Geopark), July – August 2016

e) New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Implementation of a video station with learning programmes in the foyer of the local authority in the Geopark municipality St. Gallen, July 2016

f) Strategic Partnership

- Visit of a delegation of the republic of Georgia. The regional development as well as the Nature and Geopark highlights were communicated to employees of various ministries, June 2016

g) Promotional activities

- Publishing of an edited brochure of the Geopark in German as well as a new brochure in English including all kind of different information about sights, geology, nature, accommodation, surroundings and culture. February 2016
- Preparation of an article for the local magazine of the Azores Geopark, Portugal, July 2016 and an article for the Odenwald Magazine of the Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, Germany, August 2016

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