

## GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

### 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

MUSKAU ARCH GEOPARK, Germany - Poland, UNESCO Global Geopark (2011, EGN), 2011 / 2015



*Youth of the International Geopark Camp “Craft meets Geology” during a field trip into the open cast mine “Nochten” near Weißwasser/O.L.*

### 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3, *including 2 geoscientists*

Number of Visitors: *around 40.000 (the final annual statistic is expected by end of February 2017)*

Number of Geopark events: 52

*- organized by the man. body: season opening (trad. event for communities, tourism associations and service providers, press) / spring walks (hiking tours on diff. issues) / guided bike tours (“season start” + “end of season”) / kids hiking tour / workshop nature value” for entrepreneurs / Intern. Geopark Camp (8 days), holiday games for children*

*- organized by coop. organisations: discovery, moon light and children tours by the “forest railway Muskau” / season opening + open house days with diff. subjects in the crafts and the glass museum / “heat up” + guided tours, special offers for bikers or a fashion show in the old brick factory Klein Kölzig / special offers like “day of stones” in the Erratic Boulder Park Nochten / fishing contests + divers trips in post-mining lakes / “snow flurry” – and “dragon golf”- events in the Ice age village*

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 34

Number of Geopark press release: *around 60*

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

#### **Major achievements in 2016**

*- participation in the „Day of voivodship Lubuskie“ in the heart of the UNESCO Geopark in collaboration with World Heritage Site Muskau Park, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016, ar. 5.000 guests*

*- won the award of the 6. edition of the Polish National Geographic Traveler competition*

- II. International Geopark Camp „Geology meets craft” with youth from three (UNESCO) Geoparks from Poland, Hungary, Germany (30 part.), 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2016

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation**

- participation in the EGN meetings in Basque Coast Geopark (Spain) and in English Riviera Geopark (GB), with one German and one polish representative (CC members), one oral presentation, and two chairmans in meetings, March 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2016
- presentation and participation as a member of the panel session on the intern. conference „Innovative Methods of the Nature Heritage Interpretation and Efficient Management for GeoTourism“, organized by GP Ralsko, Czech, 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

#### **Management and Financial status**

- conclusion of a project agreement with a regional development company establishing a european grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) for a common future cross-border Geopark structure (Germany – Poland) within the next 2 years

#### **Geoconservation**

- expanding cooperation with the World Heritage Site Muskau Park by implementation of common mapping to extent the existing network of geo sites, natural and cultural sites for future plannings in the cross-border region, first part February – September 2016

#### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- support of expansion of local tourist entrepreneurs and craftsmen by promotion in marketing issues and trainings to increase the quality of tourist offers of service providers (structural expansion, preparation of a new camp site, opening of a pottery)
- beginning of development and creation of a tourist offer for divers by exploration and establishing of collaborations with new Geopark partners, autumn 2016

#### **New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

- new project dealing with the topic „sand” as stone of the year 2016: school projects, field trips, presentations, ongoing project with ~ 300 youth and adult part. (until now)

#### **Strategic Partnership**

- consolidation of local partnerships with the Polish state landscape park government and the German Nature Conservation Association NABU by implementation of training courses for geo guides, topics birds and birds protection, endangered plants

#### **Promotional activities**

- presentation in 3 polish tourist fairs (Szczecin, Gorzów, Wrocław) and 2 german tourist

fairs (ITB Berlin within a common UNESCO Global Geopark stand, Dresden)

- presentation in a number of markets, regional fairs and partner events

- updating and reissue of a range of print materials

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