

PAPUK GEOPARK (CROATIA)



Campsite Duboka

Major achievements in 2016

- New campsite has been built near Visitor centre in Velika. Value of project “Campsite Duboka” was 375.000 Euro and money was secured from UNDP-GEF fund. It is a modern camp which besides tent spaces has several caravan spaces with accompanying infrastructure. Through this project we also secured several tents, sleeping bags, mats aimed for running school-in-nature programme.
- Erasmus+ project „Partnership for geo-education“ is successfully finished. Goal of this project was establishing educational material for field-trip geo-education and make it accessible for project's interest groups by translating it into local languages. Developing geo-educational programs for adults increase the knowledge and awareness of inhabitants and help them recognize other values of their region - promote the natural heritage (geology).
- We have finished some educational materials which are very important in our every-day use. Among the others we would like to emphasize kind of children workshop book –“Papuk 4kids” aimed to 2nd to 6th grade pupils. This book encompasses all aspects of Papuk nature and history (geodiversity, biodiversity, cultural heritage), what is nature protection and why it is important to preserve biological, cultural and geological heritage.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN meetings in Basque Coast Geopark and English Riviera Geopark(EGN meeting + conference)

- Participations in the volcanic and fossil working groups of the EGN. Preparing materials for book “Volcanic Geoparks in Europe”
- 8 European Geoparks had a meeting in Bačunski Balaton Geopark (Hungary) considering common project Danube GeoTour. On that occasion we had last clarifications and agreements before we finished application.
- We were hosted two days study trip from Nograd Novohrad Geopark.

Management structure and financial status

- No changes in the management structure of the Geopark. The funding is secured by the Croatian Government.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- In order to foster people to use electric cars and in that way makes less air pollution in the geopark area we established three public charging points for electric cars. Installed charging stations allow the owners of electric vehicles to more readily plan travel and long trips.
- We conducted regularly clearance of few geosites in the central part of the Geopark.

Strategic partnership

- Through approved project Danube GeoTour (Interreg Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme) Papuk Geopark intensified cooperation with all participated geoparks from Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Romania. Also Danube GeoTour should strengthen cooperation between geoparks regions, create common strategy for sustainable management of tourism pressures and create common innovative geoproducts.
- We started cooperation with aspiring geopark Vis Archipelago, Croatia. They started to prepare application for joining geopark family. Delegation from Vis visited Papuk Geopark and in two days finds out most important information about geopark.

Marketing and promotional activities

- On the main entrances into the geopark we installed new UNESCO Global Geopark logo. There are six “welcome” walls and we put logos on each of them.
- After several years we developed new set of souvenirs and improved offer in the souvenir shop at the Eco-point Jankovac.

Sustainable economic development

- Participation on Viroexpo 20th International fair of business, crafts and agriculture. One of the bigger fair in the region saw over 20.000 visitors.
- In cooperation with Čačinci municipality we organized Medieval fair at Park forest Jankovac. Many local producers had a chance to offer homemade products to numerous visitors

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