

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY: VIKOS AOS UNESCO Global Geopark (GREECE, EGN)

Year of inscription: **2010** / Year of the last revalidation: **2016**



## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 2, geoscientist: 1

Number of Visitors: More than 30.000 visitors annually have visited the Geopark (8.434 entrances at the Information Centers of both Geopark and National Park).

Number of Geopark events: 11 (Geopark) and 40 (cooperative organizations).

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 3.446 students from the Region of Epirus attained environmental educational programmes organized by the Northern Pindos National Park & the Vikos-Aoos Geopark and 3.830 students from schools all over Greece followed educational programmes organized by the Environmental Educational Centre in Konitsa.

Number of Geopark press release:15.

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016:

- Sign of a memorandum for further cooperation between the President of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO and the Governor of the Region of Epirus (June) for further cooperation on Vikos Aios Geopark and other aspects, including interview and open discussion with the local MEDIA (see photos).
- Organisation of an open one day event presenting to the public and to the local MEDIA the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and the role of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO as well as the Hellenic Geoparks Forum and

all the Greek Geoparks (see photos).

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

- Participation in the 37th European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting in the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, March 2016,
- Participation in the 38th European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting and the International Conference in the English Riviera Geopark, 25-30 September 2016.

Management and Financial status: Managing Authority: Epirus S.A. in cooperation with a stakeholders' Committee. Annual budget: 38.000 euros (local government: 20%, municipalities: 10%, managing authority: 70%, plus sponsors and European projects).

Geoconservation: The Geopark's territory is protected by the National Law.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):

- Co- organizer of the North face Zagori Marathon Race (in the Geopark) with the participation of 2.000 athletes and about 4.000 people.
- Numerous events and festivals organized by the Geopark's municipalities or by the local cultural associations in the Geopark's villages.

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction: The Environmental Educational Centre in Konitsa is currently working in the designing of a new Educational program as regards geoconservation and climate change.

Strategic Partnership:

- Numerous meetings with the local stakeholders for the strengthening of the relations and the better implementation of the Geopark's activities
- Elaboration of a proposal for further cooperation between Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus (Vikos Aaos UGG, Helmos- Vouraikos UGG, Troodos UGG), already applied to the Balkan Med cross border cooperation projects.

Promotional activities:

- Organization of an open event presenting UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, Vikos Aaos Geopark main values and the activity of speleology.
- Production of the Geopark's map, promoting geology and especially the Geotopes (10.000 copies in English, 5.000 copies in Greek),

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