

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2018

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

UNESCO Global Geopark TERRA.vita, Germany, regional Network: European Geoparks network (EGN)

Year of inscription: 2001 / Year of the last revalidation: 2015



New TERRA.vita pavilion in Bad Iburg, serving as permanent entrance gate for the new canopy trail in the future

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 12 including 2 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: About 3 Mio.

Number of Geopark events: 80, 44 by TERRA.vita

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programs: 5

Number of Geopark press release: About 100

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

#### **Major achievements in 2018**

- New bilingual TERRA.tipps have been printed and others reprinted
- Relaunch of the long range “Hünen” hiking trail, featuring megalithic graves
- A new soil atlas for TERRA.vita has been printed, distributed to schools and sold at local bookstores
- A questionnaire among visitors conducted for the third time after 2007 and 2012 in close cooperation with the Osnabrück University. Positive results show raising visitors numbers and a better acknowledgement and appreciation of TERRA.vita
- A new and permanent pavilion has been erected and will serve as an entrance gate for a new and spectacular canopy trail (see picture above)
- TERRA.vita participated successfully in the Nature park competition of the state of North Rhine Westphalia and gained a 70% grant for a 130,000 € project to improve the area around the visitors mine of Kleinenbremen
- Opening of the new mining trail Kirchdornberg in Bielefeld in cooperation with the city of Bielefeld, the local hiking association, the University of Bielefeld and political parties
- Approval of an application for the relaunch of an Ice Age trail in Bippen by the Bingo foundation, covering 70.000 €

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

- Participation in the 41. and 42. European Geoparks Network CC Meetings
- Active Participation in the International UNECO Geoparks Conference at Adamello Brenta, Italy
- TERRA.vita is serving as a catalyst in the working group “Cooperation between the EU and EGN”
- Evaluation mission to Portugal (Geopark project Estrela) by Timo Kluttig and China (Sanqingshan) by Hartmut Escher
- Hartmut Escher joined a consulting mission organized by the German NatCom to Kenia, helping to establish the first Kenian UNESCO Geopark in the Great Rift Valley

- Meeting with Member of European Parliament Jens Gieseke, informing about the Geopark Networks and asking for possibilities to present the EGN in Brussels or Strasbourg
- TERRA.vita represents the German UNESCO Global Geoparks in the German National Geopark Committee (NatCom) and serves as speaker for the German UNESCO Geopark Forum, organising meetings etc.
- Participation in workshops by the NatCom on Geoparks on issues like education on sustainable development and selling of geological material

### **Management structure and financial status**

- Fabian Müller has been employed as half time geologist for two years, to work on the geosite cadastre
- A second geologist, Dr. Tobias Fischer has been employed full time to replace half time geologist Timo Kluttig. Dr. Fischer will also serve as the second official representative of TERRA.vita
- TERRA.vita played a major role addressing politicians in the state of Lower Saxony, to gain financial support for the states Nature- and Geoparks. In 2019 TERRA.vita will receive 100.000 € in cash for the Naturepark from the ministry of the environment and an additional 150.000 € from the ministry of economics. More work has to be done to secure a permanent funding structure

### **Strategic partnership**

- The partnership between the two UNESCO Global Geoparks De Hondsrug in NL and TERRA.vita made a major progress. Our INTERREG Va application for a 1.65 Mio. € project was approved in November. The project will include and finish with a spring CC meeting of the EGN in 2022, to present the major achievements
- Signing of partnerships with four other outdoor education centres
- In cooperation with the rural adult education association (LEB) 14 new tour guides got their certificates after a half year educational process

### **Promotional activities**

- The regional newspaper Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung had a one page interview with the managing director on UNESCO Global Geopark revalidation and evaluation procedures
- TERRA.vita participated again in the competition on “Germanies Natural Wonders” by the Heinz Sielmann Foundation and this time won the first place
- Participation in several local and national exhibitions

### **Sustainable economic development**

- Broadened participation in regular meetings to promote regional products
- Participation at the first regional land market in Bad Essen
- Partner in the research project IDOOL (Innovative direct marketing) by the local University of Applied Sciences, to develop new ways to promote regional products

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