

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

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



Citta Slow Fest in Bad Essen

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 8 including 1 geoscientist

Number of Visitors: About 3 Mio.

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

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 5

Number of Geopark press release: About 100

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017

- New bilingual TERRA.tipps have been printed.
- Two workshops on geothermal energy have been successfully conducted
- Relaunch of the long range “Hünen” hiking trail, featuring megalithic graves
- New bilingual TERRA.tipps have been printed a flyers
- Work on a innovative soil atlas started in cooperation with the local university.
- A questionnaire among visitors conducted for the third time after 2007 and 2012 in close cooperation with the Osnabrück University. Results in early 2018.
- First mushroom weekend organized by TERRA.vita

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation at GGN presentation stand at ITB in Berlin
- Participation in the 39th European Geoparks Network CC Meeting
- Participation in the International UNESCO Geoparks Conference at the Azores (P)
- Evaluation mission to Cao Bang aspiring Geopark in Vietnam and Djerdap National park, Serbia
- Representation UNESCO Geoparks in the German National Geopark Committee during meetings and field trips, helping to evaluate 2 German UNESCO Geopark candidates
- TERRA.vita serving as speaker for the German UNESCO Geopark Forum, organising meetings and representation for example at MAB NatCom
- Participation in workshops by the NatCom on Geoparks on issues like renewable energies in Geoparks and education on sustainable development. It is expected that results might be used by the Global Geopark network.

Management structure and financial status

- In general stable situation and no major changes.
- Two fulltime regional managers for Natura 2000 areas in TERRA.vita have been employed in March for a six years period. 80% of the costs are covered by European and state money, 20 % by a community and the county.

Strategic partnership

- Strengthening of Partnership between Global Geopark De Hondsrug in NL and TERRA.vita: We successfully applied for a so called “Network” funding from

EUREGIO, contracted a consultant and finished a common action program as a basis for a INTERREG Va application.

- Signing of partnerships with four outdoor education centres
- In cooperation with the rural adult education association (LEB) a new curriculum for certified tourguides has been worked out. Education to start in 2018.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Continuous information of members of parliament and stakeholders on developments concerning the new UNESCO designation.
- 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 Directmarketing) by the local University of Applied Sciences, to develop new ways to promote regional products

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