

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Styrian Eisenwurzeln UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria, European Geopark Network)

2004 Year of inscription / 2015 Year of the last revalidation



**Picture:** The participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> project partner meeting of the project Interreg Danube GeoTour. 11 partners (including 8 mainly Eastern European Geoparks) participated in the meeting, organized in the Geopark municipality Wildalpen.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5 staffs including 1 geoscientist(s)

Number of Visitors: Visitors of the 3 major sites: Wasserloch gorge: 25.000 – GeoVillage Gams: 6.000  
- Spring Water Museum Wildalpen: 7.000

Number of Geopark events: 16

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 45

Number of Geopark press release: 60

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### a) Major achievements in 2017

- Ongoing activities for the Interreg Project “Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks” (Danube GeoTour) together with our Lead Partner Geopark Idrija, Slovenia and 9 other partners (European Geoparks, Universities), since March 2016 – Organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Project partner meeting in Austria in September 2017.

### b) Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the 39th European Geoparks Coordination Committee Meeting at the Burren and Cliffs of Moher, Ireland. Oliver Gulas, March 2017
- Participation in the Austrian Geopark Forum meeting. Heinz Kollmann, Oliver Gulas, June and November 2017
- Participation in the 40th<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks CC Meeting and EGN Conference at the Azores Geopark, Portugal, Oliver Gulas and Heinz Kollmann, September 2017
- Participation in the EGN Fossil Group and Tourism Group

#### c) **Management and Financial status**

- The Nature- and Geopark is financed through contributions of the communities, the Province of Styria, international projects and its own income
- Implementation of a new corporate design including logos, information boards, homepage, merchandise and brochures. January 2017

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

- Summer programmes of our Geopark Partners (different activities 7 days a week throughout the Geopark), July – August 2017

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

- New training documents for guides in the main Geopark sight GeoVillage Gams including workshops, November 2017
- New management and touristic concepts for the GeoVillage Gams, Improvement of marketing and public relations, renovation of the Noth gorge bridge, planning of new projects to gain funding for further steps, March – September 2017
- Geopark days for kids in February and August 2017

#### f) **Strategic Partnership**

- Introducing a new Interreg Central Europe project with Geoparks from Italy, Slovenia, Germany, Slovakia and Croatia. Attendance of a workshop in Prague, Czech Republic December 2017
- Spreading the idea of Andi Andezit (the mascot of the Hateg UGG, Romania), sharing pictures and information, July 2017
- Excursion of the international Cretaceous symposium at the GeoVillage Gams. July 2017

#### g) **Promotional activities**

- Presentation of a new book: “Die Eisenwurzeln als Buchlandschaft”, A book from the secondary Nature and Geopark school Weißenbach including stories about the area written by students, June 2017
- Publication of the book “UNESCO Global Geopark in Austria” in German and English with the other 3 Austrian Geoparks
- Ongoing social media activities on facebook.com
- Starting the creation of a new Geopark webpage, December 2017

**4. Contacts:** Heinz Kollmann, [heinz.kollmann@NHM-Wien.ac.at](mailto:heinz.kollmann@NHM-Wien.ac.at)  
Oliver Gulas MSc, [oliver.gulas@eisenwurzeln.com](mailto:oliver.gulas@eisenwurzeln.com)