

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: **Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovenia-Austria, European Geopark Network (EGN)**

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: **2017**

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)



At the 28. International Natour Alpe-Adria fair, which was held between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 at Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre, Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark received the **JAKOB 2017 award**. JAKOB is an international award for quality and excellence in tourism in the Alps-Adriatic region. Every year, an international expert committee selects the best candidate, who makes an important contribution to the mosaic of innovative activities in the tourism industry of the Alps-Adriatic region. In 2017 the main topic was related to „*Innovative touristic programmes for active vacation in natural environments*“. The International expert committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Janez Bogataj, a Slovenian ethnologist, selected Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark from 44 candidates from various European countries (photo by: Urosh Grabner).

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 04 staffs, including 03 geoscientists

**Number of Visitors:** Infocenter *World of geology* in Bad Eisenkappel (5,000), Infocenter *Podzemlje Pece* Mežica (17,000), Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen (30,000), Petzen/Peca (80,000).

**Number of Geopark events:** 60

**Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 80

**Number of Geopark press release:** 50

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

**Major achievements in 2017:** Ongoing INTERREG EUfutuR and INTERREG Danube GeoTour projects, successful revalidation process in June 2017, ...

**Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:** Participation of Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken representatives at 39<sup>th</sup> EGN CC Meeting (Ireland, Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGG - March 2017), at 40<sup>th</sup> EGN CC Meeting (Portugal, Azores UGG) and at 14<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference (Portugal, Azores UGG - September 2017).

**Management and Financial status:** 14 municipalities (9 AT, 5 SLO) and 2 associated partners; financial status: income = 360.000,00 €, outcome = 377.000,00 €

**Geoconservation:** Informing and awareness of local people and visitors about importance of geoconservation on guided tours, hiking and in brochures, ...

**Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):** Guided tours for schools, children, adults in infocentres, guided hiking tours, workshops on various topics, guided snow-shoe tours.

**New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:** Implementation of 1<sup>st</sup> Geopark Camp for children.

**Strategic Partnership:** Podzemlje Pece, d.o.o., Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen, RRA Koroška, IRSNC - Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation - Regional unit Maribor, Association "Društvo Kulturni dom Pliberk/Bleiburg, Petzen-Bergbahnen GmbH, "Tourismus Region Südkärnten", ...

**Promotional activities:** Several presentations at various international and national fairs (Natour Alpe Adria in Ljubljana (SLO), ITB Berlin, ...), lectures and presentations at different national and regional events (festivals, international days, ...)

### 4. Contacts:

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