

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2013 / 2017 (Green card)



29. 01. 2020: *Press-conference with the presentation of new Geopark management structure - EGTC Geopark Karawanken/Karavanke (29/1/2020)*

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 07 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s); **Number of visitors:** Information center World of geology (0), Information center "Podzemlje Pece" - Tourist mine and museum (20000), Obir Carst Caves - Geosite (20000), Petzen/Peca (90000), Guided hiking tours (2500), Geoparkinfopoint Lavamünd (1000), Olimpline (3000), Management center and GeoparkCamp Center St. Philippen (1000), Center of sustainability Koprivna (500); **Number of Geopark events:** 70; **Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 80; **Number of Geopark press release:** 50

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- Press-conference with the presentation of new Geopark management structure - EGTC Geopark Karawanken/Karavanke; official opening of the Olimpline - one of the longest zipline in Europe; new interpretative content to the existing Geopark infocenter Podzemlje Pece in Mežica; renovated St. Rosalia cave, St. Hemma mountain, in Globasnitz

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken representatives at EGN CC Meetings - online; participation of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken representatives at national Geopark forum meetings - online (SLO and AT); contributions for the EGN Newspaper, EGN Magazine and GGN Newsletter; cooperation in the frame of the Alpe-Adria Geoparks

Network; participation of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken in common projects (INTERREG Danube GeoTour, H2020 Ruritage)

Management and Financial Status

- Since 27th of November 2019 Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken is registered as EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation); Financial status: multi-source financing, stable financial status.

Geoconservation

- Informing and awareness of local people and visitors about the importance of the geoconservation on guided tours, in infocentres, hiking in brochures, articles ...
- In the frame of the World Cleanup Day on 19th September 2020 we cleaned up some areas in different municipalities of the crossborder Karavanke/Karawanken UGG.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- On-going INTERREG projects of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken (NaKult, Danube, NatureGame, KaraWat) and H2020 project (Ruritage) are dealing with the sustainable development of the Geopark Karavanke area.
- Implementation a set of weekly programs under the title “Nature experience Geopark Karawanken” from May till October 2020 with different outdoor experiences, several guided hikes, guided visits, bike tours, underground adventures, etc.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- 2-days long training course for Geopark guides about detail presentation of geological, natural and cultural heritage of the area and astronomy (18. and 19. September 2020)

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 Klopeiner See - Südkärnten”, Naturfreunde Österreich Ortsgruppe Petzen, F.S. Immobilienverwaltungs GmbH, A-Max ...

Promotional activities

- Presentation at national tourism fair (Natour Alpe Adria - Ljubljana), lectures, presentations at different local, regional and national events, several promotions on TV, Radio, in newspapers, ...

4. CONTACTS

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