

# GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

## 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)



Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)

**12. 04. 2019:** *In the frame of two international projects, i. e. INTERREG NaKult and H2020 Ruritage, Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark opened new spaces in former school in the Municipality of Sittersdorf (Austria). New spaces serve as Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken Rural Heritage Hub and its administrative center.*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 05 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** Information center World of geology (4000), Information center "Podzemlje Pece" - Tourist mine and museum (20000), Obir Carst Caves - Geosite (25000), Petzen/Peca (120000), Guided hiking tours (4500)

**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 2019**

- Establishment of the EGTC Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken (27.11.2019)

**Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participation of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken representatives at the 43<sup>rd</sup> EGN CC

Meeting (March 2019, Germany), at the 44<sup>st</sup> EGN CC Meeting (September 2019, Spain) and active participation at the 15<sup>th</sup> European Geopark Conference (September 2019, Spain); participation of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken representatives at national Geopark forum meetings (SLO and AT); contributions for the EGN Newspaper; 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**

- Management: Working group (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft*), established by 14 municipalities (5 from SLO and 9 from AT) and 2 associated partners; since 27<sup>th</sup> 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 ...

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

- On-going INTERREG projects of the Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken (EUfutuR, NaKult, Danube, NatureGame) and H2020 project (Ruritage) are dealing with the sustainable development of the Geopark Karavanke area.

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

- 1-day training in emergency management for Geopark guides
- 2-weeks training in the geo-interpretation for Geopark guides

### **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 ...

### **Promotional activities**

- Several presentations at various national and international tourism fairs (Natour Alpe Adria - Ljubljana; ITB Berlin; Freizeit Messe Klagenfurt), lectures, presentations and exhibitions at different local, regional and national events (festivals, international days, ...), several promotions on TV, Radio, in newspapers, ...

## **4. CONTACTS**

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