

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription 2010 / Year of the last revalidation 2014



Rokua Geopark delegation visiting the Qinling Zhongnanshan Geopark in China

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staff including 2 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: Approximately 200 000 annual visitors to the Geopark region

Number of Geopark events: Numerous events during the year 2016, including speeches, educational events, guided hikes etc.

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: Rokua Geopark has recognized 6 local schools as Geopark schools. These schools are actively using the Geoparks themes and locations in their education.

Number of Geopark press release: During the year 2016 the Geopark was in the press more than 20 times.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES (bulletize)

Major achievements in 2016

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Rokua Geopark has participated actively into the meetings of the EGN and GGN. Two participants participated to the EGN meeting in Basque Coast Geopark and to the EGN and GGN meetings in English Riviera Geopark.
- Jari Nenonen and Vesa Krökki belong to the UNESCO roster of Geopark evaluators. Both made a Geopark evaluation mission in 2016.

Management and Financial status

- The management of Rokua Geopark is based on the agreement between the founding partners and to the financial agreement that is evaluated every four years. The current financial agreement securing the Geoparks finances is for years 2015-2018.

Geoconservation

- The renovations of the Lemmenpolku trail continued in 2016 with building more protective and guiding structures to the trail.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Rokua Geopark and the businesses operating in its area are developing more touristic programs and products in the Attractive Oulu Region 2018 Project.

Strategic Partnership

- Rokua Geopark has signed five cooperation (or sistership) agreements with other Unesco Geoparks. Of these four are in China, and one in Germany.

Promotional activities

- Rokua Geopark participates to Attractive Oulu Region 2018 ERDF –project. The aim of the project is to attract more international visitors to Oulu region and to the Geopark. The tasks of the project involve marketing and sales activities as well as product development.
- Rokua Geopark operates a project called: Kyläpaikat Kartalle. The aim of the project is to include the localities inside the Geopark better to the Geopark activities and to highlight the touristic possibilities inside the Geopark.

4. Contacts:

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