

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2004 / 2019



The picture is showing the conference of the Austrian Geoparks in October 2019 with colleagues from UGGp Karawanken/Karavanke and Ore of the Alps and the UNESCO Secretary of Austria , © NUP Eisenwurzen

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

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

Number of visitors: Visitors of the 3 major sites: Wasserloch gorge: 30.000 – GeoVillage Gams: 8.000 - Spring Water Museum Wildalpen: 6.250

Number of Geopark events: 23

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 40

Number of Geopark press release: 60

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- UNESCO Global Geoparks revalidation mission in July 2019
- Organizing the conference of the Austrian Geoparks in October 2019 with the UNESCO office and secretary of Austria
- Successful finalization of the European Union funded Interreg Danube GeoTour project with 7 other European Geoparks in Eastern Europe

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation at the 43rd European Geoparks Coordination Committee Meeting at Swabian Albs UGGp, Germany. Oliver Gulas and Heinz Kollmann, March 2019
- Participation at the 15th European Geoparks Conference, Sierra Norte de Sevilla, Spain, Oliver Gulas, September 2019
- Participation in the EGN Fossil Group and Intangible Heritage Group
- Oliver Gulas: Catalyst of the EGN/GGN Funding group
- Various contributions to EGN and GGN Newsletters and the EGN magazine

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

Geoconservation

- New info brochures for awareness building on Geological heritage in English and German
- GeoRafting guides training and education including training material

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Tasks and work packages within 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
- New concepts for visitor management along the river Salza (whitewater sports), GeoVillage Gams and the whole Geopark

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

- New concepts for the development of the Wasserloch gorge, starting with August 2019

Strategic partnership

- New member of the European Soils Association
- New member of the so called “Eisenwurzen long-term science board”
- Oliver Gulas is the new chairman of the Austrian Geoparks since October 2019

Promotional activities

- Promoting GeoRafting and the Geopark at the ITB in Berlin, March 2019
- Promoting GeoRafting and the Geopark at the Styrian spring fair in Vienna, April 2019

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Eva Maria Vorwagner, em.vorwagner@eisenwurzen.com

Geologist: Oliver Gulas MSc, o.gulas@eisenwurzen.com