

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: VIKOS-AOOS UNESCO Global Geopark, GREECE
European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2016

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: 80.000 (based on estimation of overnights in the V-A UGGp's territory)

Number of Geopark events:

10 main events from Vikos- Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark Management Authority.

Several events from the Municipalities and Cultural Associations in the Vikos- Aaos UGGp.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

School classes: 39, Students: 1512, Teachers: 147

Number of Geopark press release: 6

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Sign of an official contract between VAUGGp MA (Epirus SA) and the Region Authority of Epirus, ensuring an amount of 200.000 form a period 2019-2023 for the VAUGGp.
- An educational package especially developed for the VAUGGp by the Environmental & Geographical Education Lab. of the University of Ioannina has been developed.
- A memorandum for cooperation between VAUGGp and University of Prague has been signed.
- A mem. for coop. between VAUGGp and Chelmos-Vouraikos UGGp has been signed.
- A project regarding cooperation among VAUGGp, 3 additional Greek UGGps and possibly 2 UGGps from abroad is in the preparatory phase in the frame of CLLD LEADER programme.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation to both 42nd & 43rd CC meetings of the EGN in 2019 in Swabian Albes & Sierra Norte de Sevilla UGGps respectively. Participation to the 15th EGN conference in Sevilla.
- Participation to a revalidation mission to a GGN member territory (Pollino UGGp, Italy, summer 2019).
- Participation to the 2nd International Conference of Greek and Cypriot UGGps (May 2019).
- Publication of an article to EGN magazine (Vol. 16).

Management and Financial Status

- For 2019: Income: 115.054,70, Expenditure: 115.054,70.

Geoconservation

- A study for the possible extension of the Geopark is under progress.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- An update of the existing Geo-trails has been done.
- All the 60 panels among the 5 thematic interpretive routes have been renovated or are under renovation.
- A new mobile phone application regarding 3 Thematic routes has been developed.
- New Geopark's maps have been published both in hard copy and for smartphone use.
- Parts of the Epirus hiking Trail have been signed inside the VAUGGp.

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

- A new educational package for the VAUGGp (has just been developed from a team of specific scientists).
- A proposal regarding networking between high schools from VAUGGp and Saerland Rothaargebirge, Naturepark, in the frame of ERASMUS programme is under progress.

Strategic partnership

- All the basic stakeholders of the area participate at the Coordination Committee Council of the VAUGGp.
- There is a high effort to support local products production and promote them to new markets. The cooperation between VAGGp and Sauerland Rothaargebirge Naturepark focuses -among others- on this.
- There is a plan to sign this year a cooperation agreement with the local enterprises. The cooperation of a certain number of VAUGGp's enterprises with the VAUGGp MA and the Hoteliers' Association of Ioannina regarding the development of a geopark visitors' application based on three thematic routes will be the first step on this.

Promotional activities

- A promotional presentation regarding the VAUGGp has been published in an international web edition for tourism destinations in Greece (Sun-Editions).
- A detailed presentation of the Geopark has been included in the most popular outdoor traveler's magazine in Greece (Elliniko Panorama).
- A hunting treasure game in the VAUGGp has been implemented in cooperation with the JS of Interreg programme Greece-Albania and the Hoteliers' Association of Ioannina.
- VAUGGp has been presented by the Region A. of Epirus in several Tourism Exhibitions, e.g.: International Exhibition on alternative tourism f.re.e. Munich and International Exhibition on alternative tourism TOURNATUR, Disseldorf..
- A 15 min video promoting the landscapes and other values of the VAUGGp has been produced and distributed through media.

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