



Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name / country / regional Network:

Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark /Slovakian - Hungarian crossborder /EGN

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2014



Representative Photo: Volcano Day at Ipolytarnóc with Slovak and Hungarian students

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 15

Number of Visitors on the main geosites: approx. 200.000

Number of Geopark events: 72

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 58

Number of Geopark press release: 23

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017

- Stabilizing the regional position of the Geopark through new agreements between different stakeholders and major settlements.
- Active role in the planning process for the creation of the national geoparks network in Hungary and leading role in the Slovak Geoparks Network.
- Realisation of common cross-border project financed from ERASMUS Programme - Geopark Ambassadors.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in regional EGN conferences and CC meetings in Ireland and Portugal.
- Writing an article to the EGN Magazine Issue 14.
- Participating in the work of the EGN Volcanic Geoparks Working Group and contributing an article to the ebook of the Fossils Working Group.
- Presentation of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark on the UNESCO Conference Benefits Beyond Inscription: Leveraging the UNESCO Brand for Sustainable Tourism Development held in Bardejov Spa, Slovakia.

- Organising special events during the European Geoparks Week in Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark - under patronage of the Slovak Commission of UNESCO.

Management and Financial status

- Changes in staff and management and restructuring helped on stabilizing the financial situation of the geopark
- Planning on the extension of geopark management by legally incorporating nature protection organizations from both countries started.

Geoconservation

- Conservation and rehabilitation of excavated areas and geosites was an ongoing activity in partnership with the Bükk National Park Directorate.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Guided tours to the Geopark sites starting from the Headquarters became common weekend programmes.
- New installations and panels were posted in some of the study trails, audio guide system was introduced at Ipolytarnoc, with offline QR code contents, to lessen infrastructure pressure on the environment.

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

- “Hunting Quest” – special program in frame of Autism World Day; Competitions on the Bird Day and Tree Day; The European Geoparks Week in Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark; “Explore the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark” – quiz, fun, competition for kids; “We are playing in geopark” – teenagers prepare games for the kindergarten kids; “Souvenir for Geopark” – art-competition for local primary and secondary schools; “Family days” – 1 day programmes for families; Photo exhibitions and photo trips, lectures on Geopark topics in the Visitors Centres, Geopark Summer - Educational Camp for kids aged 7-15; Knowledge courses for volunteers to become Geopark Ambassadors;

Strategic Partnership

- Co-operation with the Slovak National Geopark Commission and Hungarian National Geopark Commission.
- Application for funds of the INTERREG V-A Programme by common projects together with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and the Bükk National Park Directorate.
- Revalidating and renewing signed cooperation agreements, MUs with different stakeholders of the Geopark.

Promotional activities

- Participation at Trade fairs and other events, like Earth Science weekend programme in Bratislava (SK) , Budapest and other major settlements.
- “Volcano Day” in Nature Reserve Ipolytarnóc Fossils – various lectures for kids and volcano model presentations (531 visitors) during the EGN Week.
- Presentations of NNG UGG during various events for the general public and specialist groups alike.
- Several press releases, social media presence and publishing multilingual leaflets and brochures on the Geopark.
- Providing informations on educational trails for touristic map makers.

4. Contacts:

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