

### Cooperation IGGP and World Heritage Sites ●●●●●

#### UNESCO Global Geoparks: The International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)

In November 2015 the Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ratified, with acclamation, the creation of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) and the brand UNESCO Global Geopark. By creating this new international programme, UNESCO will be able to better address today's challenges for society related to planet Earth, its resources and geological heritage. The geosciences help us to discover the secrets of the 4.6 billion year old history of our planet and create a link between this invaluable knowledge and society. The UNESCO

Global Geoparks are an important component of the IGGP, the first UNESCO brand of its kind to be established after over 40 years, alongside with UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.



#### The Sobrarbe Geopark (Spain): Programme for research and education at Pirineos-Monte Perdido World Heritage Site

The Sobrarbe Geopark is developing a programme to promote awareness of local people about the World Heritage Sites in the Geopark. This project focuses particularly on the importance of pastoralism as an economic activity since prehistoric times, and its influence on the culture and landscapes in Sobrarbe Geopark. This is an activity funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Government of Spain, and is being developed along two main lines: (1) Archaeological research of the Pirineos-Monte Perdido WHS that will take place during the summer of 2016 and (2)

Activities for school pupils in May 2016. One of the the main objectives of this programme is to promote and revitalize an educational concept that encourages new social awareness to promote respect and recognition of the World Heritage Sites. These sites, which conserve the natural and cultural heritage of universal value, need to be protected and preserved for future generations.

### Common activities ●●●●●

#### Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany): Event program 2016 – “We are a UNESCO Global Geopark!”

The membership in the “International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme” of UNESCO will be celebrated in the Geopark in 2016 by a programme of events. Starting with an official ceremony for member communities, stakeholders and cooperation partners in April, the programme contains the Geopark Day (1<sup>st</sup> May), a mountain bike weekend (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June), a historical mining trip (16<sup>th</sup> July), a nature/culture hiking tour (16<sup>th</sup> August), the award “Geotope of the Year” (18<sup>th</sup> September) and a fruit tree planting celebration (October). The programme integrates the local communities and reflects the various aspects of the Geopark philosophy as well as the interconnection between Earth history, nature and culture in UNESCO Global Geoparks. More information: [www.geo-naturpark.de](http://www.geo-naturpark.de)





### Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark (Greece): 36th Annual Crossing of Vouraikos Gorge

Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark will co-organize the annual Crossing of Vouraikos Gorge, together with the “Kalavryta Mountaineering Association”. This well-known and highly touristic local event takes place every year on the second Sunday of May, in one of the most beautiful sites in the Peloponnese. The hikers, depart from Kalavryta rack-railway station on mount Chelmos and after an approximately 7-hour hike through Vouraikos Gorge, reach Diakofto rack-railway station at sea level. The route lies along the Vouraikos River and passes through scenic traditional villages where the hikers have the opportunity to taste and purchase local products, including honey and cheese. The event is a great success since it is estimated that

more than 2,000 people participate every year. Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark supports and promotes the ecotouristic development of the area and several actions in order to better communicate the Geoparks' principles to the local community. Stay informed at [www.fdechmos.gr](http://www.fdechmos.gr).

## Education ●●●●●

### Blind and deaf students enjoying geology in the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

Basque Coast Geopark has participated in a special programme designed to make science accessible for blind and deaf students who travelled from Madrid (5 hours by bus). Two instructors, one geoscientist and one specialist in communication, supported each student. They visited our interpretation centre where they could use small pools to generate turbidity currents. After that, they visited our coastal outcrop, touching different rocks, fossils and sedimentary structures; holding pebbles and sand in their hands, and above all, experiencing the smell of the sea and refreshing their feet in the water.



### Geopark Chablais (France): A Toolkit for the Senior Schools in the Territory

An educational toolkit is being created about the heritage and sustainable development of the Chablais. Conceived to reflect the national school curriculum, the toolkit is structured to ensure autonomous use by teachers. It combines class activities (document study, investigation, experiments) with fieldtrips and visits to Geopark partners. Numerous models, kits, rock samples and bespoke educational games will be included. One objective is to encourage collaborative or citizen science projects, between different classes and schools. This free toolkit will be given to the 15 senior schools of the Chablais; teacher training will be provided this semester to support class use from September.

### North Pennines Geopark (United Kingdom): Programme for education and geotourism

The North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark, in Northern England, has made a submission to the UK's Heritage Lottery Fund to support a far-reaching programme of geotourism and education work between 2017 and 2021. The programme, worth over 1.1million euros, includes new downloadable trails, touch-screen interpretation, guided walks and rides, local community activity around photography and creative writing, apprenticeships, business support and work with local schools. It will also bring children to the North Pennines from across Europe for an International Geocamp, giving them great experiences and supporting the local economy. The outcome of the application will be known later this year.





## Environmental Education at Vulkaneifel Geopark: The Vulkaneifel Academy

One of the main concerns of the Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark is to enhance the local population's understanding of the geological and natural environment. For this purpose, the Vulkaneifel Academy offers a series of public lectures, which started in the autumn of 2015. Until April 2016, well-respected experts present current (geo)scientific topics to an interested audience in a total of nine evening lectures and excursions. The presentations offer a wide range of themes concerning the Vulkaneifel territory. More information and exact dates of the Vulkaneifel Academy can be found on [www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de).

## Tourism

### ITB Berlin: UNESCO Global Geoparks at the world's most important Tourism Fair

The UNESCO Global Geoparks will participate once again in ITB Berlin between 9th and 13th March 2016, the world's leading tourism trade show. ITB Berlin is attended annually by more than 200,000 participants, most of whom are tourism professionals. An exclusive 36m<sup>2</sup> booth, well located in the Adventure Travel and Responsible Tourism Hall 4.1.b, will be hosted by the Geoparks Bergstrasse-Odenwald, Bohemian Paradise, Chelmos-Vouraikos, Gea-Norvegica, Harz-Braunschweig Ostfalen, Lesvos, Naturtejo, Villuercas and Vulkaneifel and the UNESCO WHS Messel Pit. These organizations are responsible for promoting Global Geoparks to the tourism trade in 2016. Participating in the tourism fair provides a great opportunity to generate business and to promote the new UNESCO designated geo-destinations and the world's geological heritage to tour operators, the media and the general public.



### The Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

promoted in 2015 the workshop "Volcanoes, Geodiversity and Geotourism: A Trilogy of Azores Geopark". The workshop is designed for tourist animation companies, in partnership with the "AREAT – Azores Association of Tourist Activities Companies". In February 2016 the Azores Geopark will promote the second workshop that, like the first event, will focus mainly on the geodiversity of the Azores, the Azorean geological heritage and the challenges and opportunities provided by geotourism for the archipelago. This second workshop is the result of the positive feedback from the approximately 30 participants who attended the first workshop, the interest of new associates and members of the AREAT and the desire to improve and develop tourism in the Azores.

### Geopark Molina and Alto (Spain): New Molina and Alto Tajo Geopark Touristic Guide

The Molina and Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark has published the Geopark Touristic Guide. This publication includes the main geotourism resources based on the approach adopted by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. Therefore it combines, the main places of geological interest, as well as other resources related to the flora, fauna, architecture and intangible heritage and is structured in a practical way. The places of interest are organized by type and location within the Geopark. The guide, with 300 pages and many photographs, is published in a user-friendly format in a print run of six thousand copies.





## Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark (Portugal): New seasonal touristic offers

The Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark (TCGG) started 2016 with a new geotouristic approach to present the seasonal highlights of the territory and bring them closer to the visitors by developing touristic programmes for each month of the year. In January, for example, visitors can appreciate the regional sausages, and in July the weather invites visitors to take a trip by jeep to the geosites and the charismatic landscapes of the territory. The programme for each month can be accessed at the website of the TCGG and its Facebook page, as well as in the tourist office, hotels and restaurants in the Geopark. (Topic - Tourism)

## New projects and facilities ●●●●●

### Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy): a perfect outdoor stage for trail running

The extraordinary geodiversity and landscapes in Beigua Geopark has been chosen to host very exciting trail running competitions. So, as in 2015, the “Gran Trail Rensen” race (in May) and the “Vertical Rama” race (in October) were organized with great success and included participants from Italy and abroad. On 21st February 2016, the Beigua Geopark Mountains host the “Three For Team” trail running race, a special event for participants who have to run along the steep paths through the heart of the Geopark’s territory, with gorgeous sites of geological and geomorphological interest. A good opportunity to promote geoparks as perfect destinations for outdoor sports.

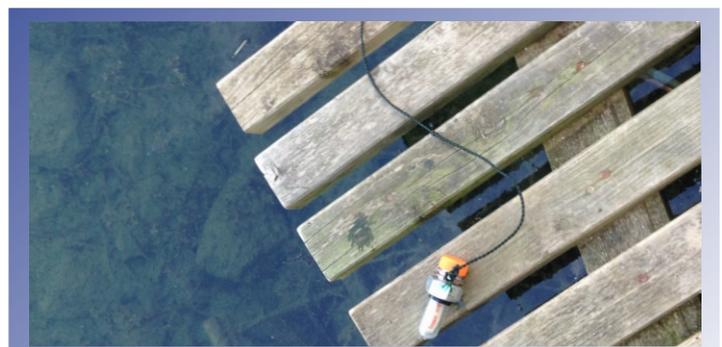


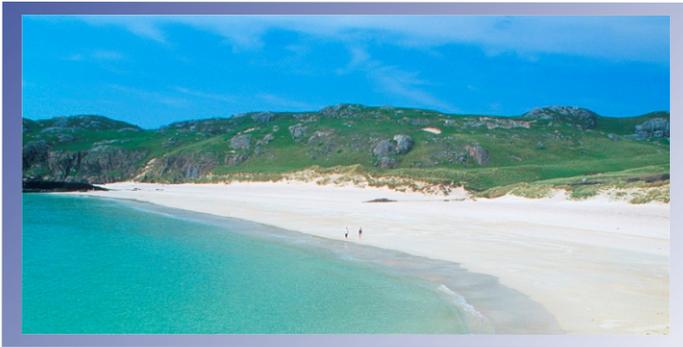
### Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen (Austria) - New employee

Due to new projects and requirements, the Eisenwurzen now has the opportunity to employ Mr Oliver Gulas, MSci. Mr. Gulas, 26 years old, is already familiar with the Nature and Geopark as he grew up in one of the municipalities of the Geopark. He studied at the Karl-Franzens University in Graz for five years and completed his Masters degree “Mountain and Climate Geography” at the end of July 2015. Mr. Gulas is looking forward to his new tasks at the Nature and Geopark within the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

### Idrija Geopark (Slovenia): A Geocaching treasure hunt with EarthCaches

Geocaching is a modern GPS-supported way of looking for treasures hidden all over the world. It is an outdoor adventure game offering fun, recreation and learning. Since 2012 Idrija Geopark has worked on this with the association Mladinsko društvo Idrija 2020. We offer 56 locations with around 1600 signatures in the logbooks. Regular Geocaching provides the treasure as a box or logbook. But there is also EarthCache which teaches us about our planet. The treasure in this case is a lesson in nature. Our local cooperation with Geopark partners is being upgraded by designing 10 Geopark Idrija EarthCaches to be published on geocaching.com.





### North West Highlands Geopark (United Kingdom): New exhibition at Rock Stop

This Easter the North West Highlands Geopark will unveil its new exhibition at The Rock Stop, Scotland's first UNESCO Global Geopark visitor centre. It will explain what Geoparks do on a global and a local scale and tell the story of the amazing landscape of the NW Highlands. There are exhibits which help visitors of all ages understand how rocks and mountains are created then eroded away. There's also a chance to take a close look at the sand found on the beautiful beaches of the North West Highlands and learn how it was made.

### Geopark Odsherred (Denmark): Ridge |Path Trail - the essence of Geopark Odsherred

The Ridge Path Trail opens in Odsherred on Palm Sunday 2016! Cooperation between the municipality, local stakeholders, and Geopark Odsherred, and funding from the EU and Realdania, now allows unprecedented public access to the open landscape, through the construction of a hiking trail, designed to run along the ridges of the three major end moraines, known as the Odsherred Arches. The first part of the trail will extend over a distance of approximately 7.5 km, introducing visitors to the intrinsic nature and culture of Odsherred, by exhibiting a beautiful Ice Age landscape, which encapsulates human activity over thousands of years.



## ●●●●● Geoparks and Science



### The structural Geology of the Cribarth Geosite: A collaborative project between Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark and Cardiff University(United Kingdom)

The geology of the Cribarth is dominated by the NE-SW oriented Swansea Valley Disturbance (SVD) and its associated zone of faulted and folded Carboniferous rocks. New research reveals that the Cribarth is affected by three deformational phases in which a tertiary set of NW-SE trending folds, associated with SW -NE shortening, is superimposed on a primary and secondary set of NE - SW trending folds, produced by NE -SW shortening. The folds are overprinted by normal, strike slip and oblique-slip faults. Dextral strike-slip movements, recorded from older NE - SW and

younger NW - SE trending faults, are remnants of two later but different stress regimes that post-date compression associated with folding. The new information gleaned from this project is a significant addition to understanding the history and nature of changing stress patterns in south Wales and contributes to the use of the Cribarth area as an educational resource within Fforest Fawr Geopark.

## Meet our European Geoparks ●●●●●

### Novohrad - Nógrád Geopark (Hungary/Slovenia): Photographers for popularization

The Medves Mountains are the central area of the Novohrad-Nograd Geopark. This region is rich in (mostly volcanic) geosites in a beautiful landscape. We would like to popularize the Geopark and have an idea: one of the best opportunities for us, if everyone who uses the social network can see hundreds of photos of our landscapes. More than 300 photographers will take more than 20,000 photos during our event, between June 3-5, 2016. More than 30 volunteers will help us to organize the third "Photographer's Marathon". We are pleased to accommodate anyone who likes the beautiful places, who likes photography and who likes to discover new and amazing sights and landscapes.

More information: [www.fotosmaraton.hu](http://www.fotosmaraton.hu), [info@fotosmaraton.hu](mailto:info@fotosmaraton.hu) and [www.nogradgeopark.eu](http://www.nogradgeopark.eu)



## «Route of the Geosites» closer to the visitors (Arouca Geopark, Portugal)

The “Route of the Geosites” is the most recent concept for promoting the geosites in the Arouca Geopark for visitors. The creation of this Route, through an intensive and meticulous process, involved the integration of 31 of the 41 of the well documented inventoried geosites within the Arouca Geopark. The selected geosites are separated into three distinct itineraries that represent the main geographical areas of the Geopark: Freita Mountain (11 geosites), the “Mining Area” (8 geosites) and the Paiva Valley (12 geosites). The geosites along this Route are provided with geological interpretative centres, observation platforms and interpretative panels. The Route can be completed using a guide, which includes an explanation of the geological history and geosites of the Arouca Geopark. By following this route visitors are also invited to visit other natural and cultural sites, to taste the local gastronomy, to experience local traditions and to interact with the Geopark’s local communities.



## The Forest under the Road travelling exhibition (Lesvos Geopark, Greece)

The exhibition, which is currently hosted in the Eugenides Foundation, in Athens presents for the first time to the public the preliminary results and characteristic findings from the fossiliferous sites revealed during excavations for the construction of the new Kalloni - Sigri road on Lesvos Island. A part of the new Kalloni - Sigri road crosses the protected area of the Petrified Forest from Sigri to Antissa, resulting in the discovery of many impressive petrified tree trunks. The exhibition was hosted in the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest in Sigri during the period May-November

## Agenda/Calendar

**7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks: September 27th - 30th 2016, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. Information: [www.geoparks2016.com](http://www.geoparks2016.com), [www.ggn2016.com](http://www.ggn2016.com)**