

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

## 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:** 18.000 (based on estimation of overnights in the Vikos-Aoos UGGp's territory)

**Number of Geopark events:**

7 main events from Vikos-Aoos UGGp's Management Authority.

Due special rules relating with the pandemic none event was organized by the Municipalities, Cultural Associations, etc.

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** School classes: 26, Students: 1064, Teachers: 116 (January-March 2020). Due special rules relating with the pandemic after 15 of March there were not educational programmes in the V-AUGGp.

**Number of Geopark press release:** 12

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2020

- Despite the problems due to pandemic a lot of work for the V-AUGGp has been done, including events and webinars.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

The Vikos-Aoos UGGp participated to all the digital meetings of the EGN, GGN and the Greek forum:

- 1<sup>st</sup> EGN DIGITAL FORUM, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020,
- 2nd EGN DIGITAL FORUM, 15th September 2020,
- 1st GGN DIGITAL FORUM, 17th & 18th November 2020,
- DIGITAL MEETING GEOPARKS OF GREECE – CYPRUS, 11 November 2020,
- “UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS” Online seminar for teachers. 27 November 2020,
- “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability” 12<sup>th</sup> session of the International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2020. 1-11/6/2020. 3 participants, all staff members of VAUGGp.

### Management and Financial Status

- Vikos Aaos UGGp is coordinated by a council of coordination committee especially designated for the VAUGGp, being in close relation with the official contract between VAUGGp MA and the Region A. of Epirus. All the administration of the Geopark is carrying

out by Epirus SA which, as the VAUGGp's Management Authority, hosts the Geopark office as well.

- The Management and financial Status in 2020 was in line with the year's budget.

### **Geoconservation**

- A study for a 10% extension of the Geopark's territory has been accomplished
- A study regarding new geo-sites in the VAUGGp and the nearby area has been accomplished. Twenty new geo-sites have been documented.
- A detailed interpretation of 10 geo-sites has been accomplished.
- A technical report for the protection of 12 cultural monuments (old stone bridges) from disaster events (river floods) has been accomplished.

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Organization of a whole day seminar in the field for Eco-Geo- guides has been carried out (20 participants)
- 40 panels among the 5 thematic interpretive routes have been renovated.
- 100 km of the Epirus hiking Trail inside the VAUGGp have been signed
- Two new Geo-trails have been developed, whereas another two ones have been updated
- A mobile phone app. Regarding 2 thematic routes has been applied by both tourism enterprises and visitors.

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

- The educational package for the VAUGGp has been improved, including additional themes, especially two specific designed trails for field practice.
- An ERASMUS project regarding networking between high schools from VAUGGp (Konitsa) and Saerland Rothaargebirge, Naturepark (Bad Belenburg) is under progress.
- A two day seminar regarding the disaster risk reduction has been carried out in the field in cooperation with the environmental education center of Konitsa

### **Strategic partnership**

- All the basic stakeholders of the area participate at the Coordination Committee Council of the VAUGGp.
- Three meetings regarding the forward cooperation between VAUGGp's enterprises and VAUGGp MA have been taken place.
- The geopark visitors' mob. application based on three thematic routes has been presented in the public in both VAUGGp ' municipalities.
- A project regarding cooperation among VAUGGp, and 3 additional Greek UGGps is in the preparatory phase in the frame of CLLD LEADER programme.

### **Promotional activities**

- A promotional presentation regarding the VAUGGp has been published in an international web edition for tourism destinations in Greece (Sun-Editions).
- A 15 min video promoting the landscapes and other values of the VAUGGp has been translated in English and distributed through media.
- Three video spots (3 min each) for the VAUGGp with different themes have been developed (both in Greek and english language) and distributed at the media.
- A contract with a company producing promo- material for the VA UGGp (T-shirt, mug, mousepad etc) has been signed.

**4. CONTACTS** **Manager:** Papaioannou Haritakis, h.[papaioannou@epirusa.gr](mailto:papaioannou@epirusa.gr), **Geologist:** Paschos Panayotis, paschos@igme.gr