

# 2024 Annual Report

## UNESCO Global Geopark Ries (UGGp Ries)



### Networking

In 2024 management participated in the following networks:

European Geoparks Network (EGN):

- EGN Coordination Committee Meeting in Turkey, Kula Salihli
- EGN Conference in Reykjavik (Iceland)

Global Geoparks Network (GGN):

- International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks (GGN) on Lesbos, Greece

Forum of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Germany:

- Spring and fall meetings attended in person, video conferences throughout the year

Geoparks in Germany Consortium (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Deutschen Geoparks, AdG):

- Spring meeting attended as part of the 2024 GeoTop conference in Flims, fall meeting attended in person in Leipzig

### Geopark Ries Internal Operations

20-year milestone of the management office Geopark Ries

Twenty years ago, on March 29, 2004, the Donau-Ries District Council made the decision to establish an administrative office for a geopark—the name was still unknown at that time!

### UNESCO Revalidation

On June 11, 2024, a delegation from the National Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks in Germany, consisting of Prof. Dr. Konold, Dr. Ulrike Mattig, and Adjunct Prof. Dr. Uhl (Senckenberg Research Institute), along with Dr. Gösta Hoffmann from the German Commission for UNESCO (DUK), visited the UGGp Ries as part of the revalidation process as a National Geopark.

At the end of August, the revalidation documents were also submitted to the German Commission for UNESCO.



*Site visit by the National Committee, photo: Fabian Weiß*

## General Meeting

The sixth general meeting took place on May 14 at the civic center in Möttingen.

Numerous members gathered to learn about current developments and make upcoming decisions together. A central topic of the meeting was planning future projects to be implemented jointly. Elections were held for the board and auditors. District Administrator Stefan Rößle was confirmed as chairman, as were the two deputy chairs.

## Board Meeting

The annual board meeting took place on February 7, 2024, at the administrative office in Donauwörth. Discussions included current topics such as the budget and upcoming projects, which are aimed to further increase the Geopark's attractiveness and visitor numbers. .

## Personnel

At the beginning of the year, Margit Nogger joined the team in the area of finance and administration, completing the staff.

As of September 1, 2024, the UGGp Ries team is pleased to welcome Justus Stahl, who will be completing a Voluntary Ecological Year at the administrative offices in Donauwörth.

## Marketing / Public Relations

### Broschures

The following Geopark Ries brochures were newly issued in 2024:

- Open-to-the-public Guided Tours 2025:  
more than 50 tours by Geopark tour guides open to the public in 2025
- Bicycle map "From Crater to Crater":  
new edition and relaunch of the bike map
- Basic flyer UNESCO Global Geopark Ries:  
new edition and relaunch of the 16-page flyer
- Kids' info flyer:  
developed for children and youths to provide an overview of  
the Ries event and the Geopark.



### Children's Book: *Der Knall aus dem All* (The Big Bang from Outer Space)

The educator Miriam Schnell has made the hard-to-imagine events surrounding the asteroid impact understandable with her book *Der Knall aus dem All*.

In search of cooperating partners, the author found committed supporters in UNESCO Global Geopark Ries. After three and a half years of close collaboration, the narrative, non-fiction *Der Knall aus dem All* was published by the Nuremberg-based klein & groß Verlag, filling a gap in Ries literature.

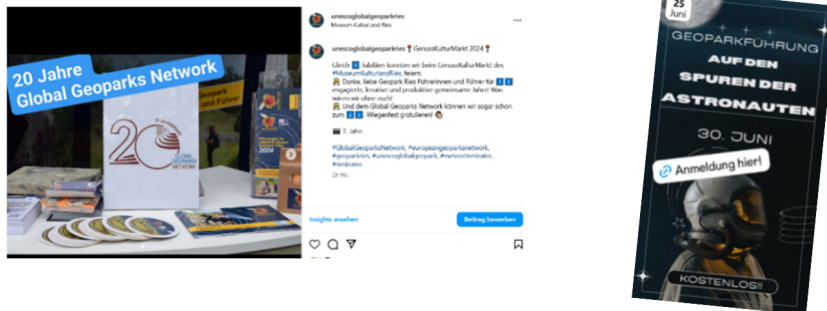
The narrative was enriched with factual information developed by publisher Bobby Kastenhuber in cooperation with the Geopark Ries. The story was vividly illustrated by renowned artist Annabelle von Sperber.



*Launch of children's book launch Der Knall aus dem All (The Big Bang from Outer Space),  
photo: Diana Sonntag*

## Social Media

In 2024, the UGGp Ries further expanded its presence on Instagram and Facebook with approximately 50 to 60 posts on each platform, as well as an equal number of Instagram Stories. Through informative and current content, interested parties were kept updated on current topics and events.



## Blogger Trip

The blogger “TASTESheriff” (organized by TV ABS) visited the UGGp Ries and reported on family activities and a family-oriented tour by a Geopark Ries tour guide.

## Press releases

In 2024, the UGGp Ries continued to promote its public relations efforts through targeted press releases. Contributions regarding current events and activities drew the attention of regional and national media to the geological uniqueness of the Ries region.

- Press releases on current events and news: 15 (as of Dec. 3, 2024)
- Press releases on Geopark guided tours for the public: 51 (as of Dec. 3, 2024)



## Nördlingen



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## Der Suevit ist das Gestein des Jahres 2024

Den Schwabenstein gibt es nur im Ries, entdecken kann man ihn beispielsweise im Geopark Lindau. Beim Festakt ist Kurioses und Erstaunliches zu hören.

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Wichtigsten aus der Vorgeschichte, sondern heute durchsichtiger als je zuvor. Diese ist, wenn auch unvollständig, vorerst durch Kees angereichert worden.

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Die meisten von den Ritz-„Jungs“ haben sich gar nicht befragt werden können, was sie denn überhaupt denken, dass das Team in diesem Jahr 2004 gewonnen werden wird. Im ersten Fall liegt es daran, dass die Spieler auf Schütz und Trill, hochkarätige Kicker des Oberliga-Niveaus, setzen. Der Kapitän von Eintracht ist Georg, der Daniel, mit der Mithras und großen von Bayern stammende Spieler. Die Spieler sind groß und die Schenkelkrieger am Anfang auch. Für das Gewinn des Jahres gibt es keine einzigen Chancen, aber keine Chance, dass das Team gewinnen wird. Das Team ist ein Team, das die Spieler in der ersten Runde gewinnen wird. Das Team ist ein Team, das die Spieler in der ersten Runde gewinnen wird. Das Team ist ein Team, das die Spieler in der ersten Runde gewinnen wird.

## 15 Jahre Geoparkführungen

Geoparkführer informieren über ihr Angebot beim Rosenmarkt in Nördlingen

**Landkreis** Der UNESCO Global Geopark Ries kann in diesem Jahr gleich drei Jubiläen feiern: Vor 20 Jahren wurden die Geschäftsstelle des Geoparks Ries sowie das Global Geoparks Network (GGN) gegründet. Gleichzeitig feiern die Geopark Ries Führerinnen und Führer 15 Jahre Geoparkführungen. Um ihr 15-jähriges Jubiläum mit der Öffentlichkeit zu feiern, werden die Geoparkführerinnen und Führer am 1. März 2019 in der Geschäftsstelle des Geoparks Ries eine Jubiläumssitzung durchführen. Die Veranstaltung ist für alle Interessierten kostenlos. Weitere Informationen unter [www.geopark-ries.de](http://www.geopark-ries.de).

rer und -führerinnen am Samstag, 15. Juni, im Rahmen des Rosenmarkts mit tollen Aktionen und vielen Infos bereit stehen. Am Stand in Nördlingen können die Besucherinnen und Besucher zusätzlich am Glücksrad tolle Preise gewinnen. Die zertifizierten Geoparkführer und -führerinnen des UNESCO Global Geoparks Ries bieten in Führungen Spannendes und Wissenswertes über die Entstehung des Ries-



An diesem Stand präsentieren sich die Geoparkführer. Foto: Jale

kraters, über seine Natur und die Landschaft sowie über die bewegte Besiedlungsgeschichte der Region. Egal ob zu Fuß, per Rad, Auto oder Bus, in großen oder kleinen Gruppen, für Jung und nicht mehr so jung: Das ganze Jahr über laden offene Führungen zu festen Terminen ein, sich ihnen anzuschließen und den UNESCO Global Geopark Ries und seine Geheimnisse zu erkunden. Für Gruppen

pen und Schulklassen sind Führungen individuell buchbar - viele sogar an (fast) jedem Tag des Jahres. Die Buchung ist über die Website [www.geopark-ries.de/fuehrungen](http://www.geopark-ries.de/fuehrungen), über die Geopark Ries Geschäftsstelle, über die Tourist Informationen in der Region oder direkt bei den jeweiligen Geoparkführern möglich. Weitere Infos sowie kostenlose Broschüren gibt es unter [www.geopark-ries.de](http://www.geopark-ries.de).

## Advertisements and Advertorials

Public relations efforts were complemented by a total of 25 advertisements and advertorials in print and online media. Of these, twelve contributions had an editorial character, allowing for more detailed presentation of the topics. This component of public relations also contributes to increasing the visibility and awareness of the UGGp Ries both within and outside its region, reaching a broad audience.

## Viel Grund zum Feiern beim UNESCO Global Geopark Ries

Gewinnspiel zur Ernennung des Schwabensteins zum Gestein des Jahres

Zun gewaltiger Anstieg, der vor 15 Millionen Jahren nahe des heutigen Nördlingen auf der Erde einschlug, verursachte eine gigantische Druckwelle, die gewaltige Mengen an Gesteinsmaterial in die Atmosphäre schleuderte. Diese Beute findet man in und um den Krater das dadurch entstandene Einschlagsgebiet



**GEOPARK RIES**

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einzigartiger Weise die Entstehung von Einschlagkratern und deren Gestein thematisiert.

**Jetzt mitmachen!**



Ziele sind die ehemaligen Saa-

Scannes und gewinnst!



**Schon gewusst...**  
... dass die Geschäftsstelle des Geopark Ries e. V. ihr 20-jähriges Jubiläum feiert?

...dass die Geopark Ries Führerinnen und Führer seit 15 Jahren in die Geheimnisse der Rieskrater entführen?

...dass auch das globale Netzwerk der UNESCO Geopark (Global Geoparks Network) auf 20 aktive Jahre zurückblicken kann?

...dass die Namen „Süvrichen“ und „Rieslischer“ der Gopparis-Maskottchen vom Gaisiner Süvri und dem in Süvri entdeckten Mineral Riesl kommen?

☛ Weitere Informationen sowie kostenlose Broschüren unter [www.gopparis-ries.de](http://www.gopparis-ries.de) oder bei Gopparis Ries e. V., Postfiliale 2, 96039 Dornauweith  
Telefon: 09366/74-6630  
Mail: [info@gopparis-ries.de](mailto:info@gopparis-ries.de)

## Erdgeschichte zum Anfassen

Ein weitläufiges Wanderwegenetz erstreckt sich über den **UNESCO Global Geopark Ries** und macht seine Attraktion, den Meteoritenkrater, erlebbar.

**R**ÖCKELING VON 17 WEIDENHÄNERN, die sich am Sonntag auf der Lüneburger Heide versammelten, um das Aufbruchschloß zu besichtigen. Das Schloß liegt im Ortsteil von Lüneburg, das sich heute als ein Ort der Natur und der Kultur präsentiert. Der Ortsteil ist ein Teil der Lüneburger Heide, die seit 1990 als Nationalpark ausgewiesen ist. Der Ortsteil ist ein Teil der Lüneburger Heide, die seit 1990 als Nationalpark ausgewiesen ist.

auf den Umgang mit den Themen  
derartig effektiv. Die sogenannte  
Lösung der Begleit-Eigen ist es in  
einer gewissen Hinsicht genau  
einer Gesamtstruktur des Bewusstseins  
verleiht die Betreffende Bewusst-  
seinsstruktur, die in einem Spannung  
von der Kater herkommt. Auf  
insgesamt 20 Kilometer hinaus ist  
insbesondere deutlich auf die meisten  
in Landschaft, sondern einfach  
in der politischen Entscheidungs  
mit anderen Menschen  
auf die menschliche Reaktion auf die



## Advertorials



## Advertisements

### UNESCO Global Geopark Ries in Radion and Television

augsburg.tv (a.tv)

In May, the regional broadcaster a.tv produced a segment about Suevite – the Rock of the Year 2024 – with Geopark Ries geoscientist Fabian Weiß. The segment was aired in the “Heimatzeit” format.



*Broadcast by a.tv with Fabian Weiß, photo: Screenshot*

In early August, a team from a.tv visited the Geopark Ries to film a four-part short series about the UGGp Ries. The series covered topics such as the formation and history of the Ries, flora and fauna, recreational activities and tourism, as well as aspects related to the

Geopark's UNESCO designation. Filming took place in the Adventure Geotopes Amerdingen and Lindle, as well as at the crater rim in Wemding.



*Filming for the short series with a.tv, photo: Anna Mareis*

Bayerischer Rundfunk (Bavarian Public Broadcasting)

The naming of Suevite as “Rock of the Year” was the occasion for a segment on the evening news program “Abendschau” (TV). The Bayerischer Rundfunk radio also covered the “Rock of the Year” award.

### **Trade Shows and Events**

The UNESCO Global Geopark Ries, together with the Ferienland DONAURIES, was represented at the following trade fairs with a joint stand:

- CMT Stuttgart
- Freizeit Nürnberg (Leisure Time Nuremberg)
- f.re.e München





*Joint stand of the Ferienland DONAURIEN and the Geopark Ries, photo: Geopark Ries e. V.*

At ITB Berlin, the UGGp Ries 2024 was represented with its own table in the area of the large Bavarian stand. The Bavarian Minister of Tourism, Michaela Kaniber, visited us there.



*Left to right: Günther Zwerger (UGGp Ries consultant), Heike Burkhardt (Managing Director, Geopark Ries e. V.), Michaela Kaniber (Bavarian Minister for Nutrition, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism), photo: Gert Krautbauer for BayTM*

## GeoSaxonia

The Geopark Ries participated once again in the Geoscience Conference of the DGGV. At GeoSaxonia in Dresden, the German national geoparks presented themselves to the public with a poster exhibition, appropriate informational materials, and typical rocks from the geoparks, as they had done at GeoBerlin 2023. The Geopark Ries staffed the associated booth on September 24, 2024, and, during the evening poster session, presented a poster addressing the issue of geosite protection in Germany. The poster focused on solutions being implemented by the Geopark Ries.

## Presentation by the UGGp Ries in the Lahn Marmor Museum in Villmar

On September 29, 2024, Geopark Ries geoscientist Fabian Weiß represented the UGGp Ries as part of a lecture series related to the poster exhibit of the Geoparks in Germany. The lecture took place in the Lahn Marmor (Marble) Museum in Villmar in the Geopark Westerwald Lahn Taunus.



*Lecture in LMM in Villmar, photo: Bernd Volz*

## Hearing in the German Bundestag

As a former managing director and current advisor to the Geopark Ries e. V., Günther Zwerger was invited on behalf of the German UNESCO Global Geoparks to a public hearing of the Tourism Committee of the German Bundestag. For the first time, this provided German geoparks the opportunity to discuss the potential of nature-based tourism (e.g., cycling tourism, water tourism, geoparks) for the development of rural and structurally weaker regions and to increase the visibility of geoparks.





*Günther Zwerger (Geopark Ries e. V.) in the Bundestag, photo: Christoph Schmid*

## Geopark Ries Schools

In the calendar year 2024, three more schools joined the network of Geopark Ries Schools: primary and middle school Deiningen, primary school Reimlingen and Montessori school Oettingen. As a result, there are currently nine schools awarded the distinction of being a “Geopark Ries School.”



*Certificate award to the Deiningen Primary and Middle School, photo: Eva Steinacker*

The Alemannenschule (primary school) Kirchheim am Ries has now been a Geopark Ries School for three years, and thus the periodic revalidation of the collaboration was due. An extension of the cooperation for another three years has been agreed upon.

The UNESCO Global Geopark Ries offers annual projects to the Geopark Ries Schools that address the themes of the Geopark Ries. In the 2023/24 school year, the joint project was

entitled “Dialects in the Ries.” The aim of the project was the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage represented by Ries dialects. The promotion of media literacy among the participants was also a focus.

The students examined the dialects of the Ries region and became familiar with dialect poets; texts were “translated” and original texts were written. The highlight of the project was the recording of selected and developed texts in the professional recording studio DONAUTON in Forheim.



*Recording school students in the sound studio DONAUTON in Forheim, photo: Anna Mareis*

## **Training Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

The collaboration and exchange with all German UNESCO Global Geoparks was continued in 2024 through regular virtual meetings of the ESD Working Group of the Forum, held once a month.

## **Infrastructure**

### **Repair of the viewing platform in the Adventure Geotope Lindle**

A geotechnical analysis served as the basis for the tender and planning for the relocation of the Adventure Geotope Lindle viewing platform, which was in danger of sliding over the edge of the former quarry. In April, a planning office was commissioned to take over the planning of the construction project. This was followed by a market survey and finally by the award of the contract for relocating the platform. The future platform site was finally cleared in calendar week 42; earthworks and the actual relocation of the platform followed.



*The platform was raised and moved back, photo: Fabian Weiß*

### Opening of the GeoRadweg (GeoBikeTrail) Altmühltal

The new GeoBikeTrail Altmühltal runs from Nördlingen to the Danube breakthrough at Kelheim, passing through several districts, the UNESCO Global Geopark Ries and the Altmühltal Nature Park. The new route, which connects a variety of geological attractions, was officially opened on September 20, 2024, with a celebration in Eichstätt. In the area of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Ries, various attractions—not just geological ones—were developed and equipped with info panels. A local walking tour of Deiningen, featuring QR code-guided audio files about local structures made of Suevite, was also realized and integrated.

Two trail options, 201 and 182 kilometers long, lead from Nördlingen in the UNESCO Global Geopark Ries to Kelheim. These can be combined into a longer loop. For those who prefer day trips, there are four suggested circular routes along the GeoBikeTrail, each ranging from 54 to 87 kilometers in length and designed to be easily accessible by train.



*Opening celebrated with project partners, photo: Fabian Weiß*



## Valorization in the Municipal Area of Kaisheim

In 2024, info panels were installed at two new geotopes (Gunzenheimer Gump and Stockiberg) as well as at the Heidebrünnl Chapel. All three panels are located in the municipality of Kaisheim and were created in close cooperation with the municipality and the Friends of the Heidebrünnl association. The panels and signage to the geotopes were installed in November by the local public-works department.

The geosites Gunzenheimer Gump and Stockiberg are Upper-Jurassic megablocks, embedded in the ejecta *Bunten Trümmermasse*. Limestone was extracted at the Gump, causing water to accumulate on the impermeable clay layers below. Both geosites are valuable natural areas that provide habitats for rare animal and plant species such as the “white helleborine”.



*Geotope Stockiberg near Kaisheim, photo: Fabian Weiß*

## Kids' Info-Point Reimlingen

As a Geopark Ries School, the primary school in Reimlingen was pleased to announce the establishment of the second Kids' Info-Point in the UGGp Ries. Four child-friendly panels featuring the Geopark mascots Suevie and Riesie were installed in the schoolyard and are freely accessible.

## Info panel in Aumühle Quarry

In celebration of Suevite being named “Rock of the Year” and in cooperation with the company Märker, a small community info panel was installed at the Suevite quarry Aumühle.



*Suevite info panel in the quarry Aumühle, photo: Fabian Weiß*

## Geopark Ries Visitor Center

In July, the Donau-Ries District Council decided that up to six visitor centers are to be established in the UGGp Ries over the next few years. The initial structural and content planning is scheduled for 2025, with construction of the visitor centers planned between 2026 and 2032. Both the District and the Free State of Bavaria aim to support the project in the cities and municipalities of the Geopark with funding.

## Funded Projects

In 2024, funding for projects in Baden-Württemberg was paid out twice.

The 2023/2024 funding was used for the relaunch of our info panels in line with UNESCO status in areas of Baden-Württemberg verwendet (Shepherd's Way, Swedes' Way).

Following the transition from project funding to institutional funding, the grant money was disbursed in October. This amount was used for print products (public tours, basic flyer, bike map From Crater to Crater).

## Awards

### Ceremony Naming Suevit "Rock of the Year"

On April 26, 2024, the official ceremony naming Suevite (also called Schwabenstein, "Swabian stone") as "the Rock of the Year 2024" took place in the RiesKraterMuseum in Nördlingen. Catering for the event was organized and funded by the Geopark office and



presented as a flying buffet by the Culinary Geopark Ries partners. In the afternoon, a naming ceremony was held in the Aumühle quarry of the Märker Zement company.

The accompanying brochure, published annually by the stone-extraction industry for the Rock of the Year, was reprinted during the year. The “Rock of the Year” designation is awarded by the Professional Association of German Geoscientists). Other partners involved in planning and executing the event included the RiesKraterMuseum Nördlingen, Bavarian Geological Service of the State Office for Environment, Bavarian Industrial Association for Building Materials, Stones and Earths e.V., Märker Zement GmbH, Schwenk Zement GmbH & Co. KG, Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden.

To promote the theme of Suevite throughout the year, the Geopark Ries conducted an advertising campaign that included a raffle for free participation in Geopark guided tours. The UGGp Ries organized twelve guided tours throughout the year for the public at various locations and exposures related to Suevite. Media response to the award was significant.



*Official naming of the Rock of the Year 2024 – Suevite, photo: Fabian Weiß*

Nomination of the Shepherd's Way in selection of Germany's most beautiful hiking trails

In 2024, the Geopark Ries Shepherd's Way was nominated by a panel of experts to be included in the public voting for Germany's most beautiful hiking trail by Wandermagazin (Hiking Magazine) in the day tour category. The campaign to promote voting was vigorously supported by the Geopark office, its members, and tourist-information centers.

With a 4th place in the "day tours" category, the Shepherd's Way stands out as the highest ranked day tour in southern Germany.



*Voting card*

## Geopark Ries Tour Guides

### Geopark Ries Tour Guides Celebrate 15-year Anniversary

In 2024 the Geopark Ries tour guides celebrated their 15th anniversary. To share this milestone with the public, the Geopark tour guides set up and staffed booths at several specialty markets throughout the year:

- GenussKulturMarkt (EnjoymentCulture Market) of the Museum KulturLand Ries,
- Fuchsienmarkt (Fuchsia Market) Wemding,
- Rosenmarkt (Rose Market) Nördlingen and
- Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) Nördlingen.

With the exciting activities, games and extensive information about Suevite, Rock of the Year 2024, visitors were able to engage with the fascinating geology of the Ries Crater.



*Geopark tour guides in their booth at the GenussKulturMarkt, photo: Tina Jahn*

### Guided Tours of the Geopark

Again in 2024, numerous open and booked guided tours took place. Once again in 2024, numerous and various open and booked tours of the Geopark Ries were organized and well attended. The total of 229 Geopark tours exceeded that in all previous years. The largest increase was in specially booked tours; the total of 156 booked tours was the highest since the start of the tour program in 2009. The number of open-to-the-public tours (73) was only three tours fewer than in the previous year, which has been the front runner so far.

### Guided Tours on the Topic “Suevite named Rock of the Year 2024”

To commemorate Suevite being named “Rock of the Year 2024”, raffles were held to award the free participation in twelve guided tours on the topic. The UGGp Ries organized the guided tours for the public throughout the summer months at various locations and outcrops related to Suevite.

### Tour Guide Continuing Training

Under the leadership of Gisela Pösges, continuing training “On the Trail of the Apollo Astronauts in the Nördlinger Ries” took place in the form of a day-long excursion to several relevant sites. The training qualified the Geopark Ries tour guides to carry out the new standard tour “Astronauts in the Ries.”

## **Culinary Geopark Ries**

### **New Partner**

The regional and marketing initiative “Culinary Geopark Ries” welcomed a new member this year with the addition of the Landgasthof Adler in Utzmemmingen. The Geopark Ries is pleased to include another regional restaurant in its network.

## **Scientific Exchange**

### **ESA/NASA Astronaut Training in the UGGp Ries**

For the eighth time, the Geopark Ries was selected as a training area for the space missions of ESA, NASA and JAXA astronauts. In order to acquire the appropriate geological skills and knowledge in preparation for future space missions, astronauts once again completed geological training in this Ries Crater this September. Those participating in this year’s training included Noroshige Kanai (JAXA, Japan), Arnaud Prost (ESA, France) and Rosemary Coogan (ESA, Northern Ireland).

In the UGGp Ries, the astronauts were accompanied by Gisela Pösges (Geopark Ries e. V.), among others.

Since impact craters are one of the most common geological structures on planetary bodies like the Moon or Mars, the Nördlinger Ries is an ideal training area. The UNESCO Global Geopark Ries was the second station of the so-called PANGAEA program (Planetary Analogue Geological and Astrobiological Exercise for Astronauts).

### **Professional Excursions**

The UGGp Ries is an annual destination for various professional excursions. These are typically organized by universities and institutes or their professors. This year, for example, among many others, the Free University of Berlin with Prof. Kai Wünnemann and the University of Münster with Prof. Harald Hiesinger visited with their students.

On November 30, the (European Geography Association) conducted a geological Ries excursion in the UGGp Ries. The event was organized by the EGEA groups from the University of Augsburg, the University of Würzburg and the University of Bamberg for their new members. The students explored the Crater and the city of Nördlingen with great interest and visible enthusiasm in beautiful winter weather. The student group was led by the Gisela Pösges, geologist of the UGGp Ries.





*EGEA excursion in the UGGp-Ries, photo: Gisela Pösges*

### **International Contacts**

The UGGp Ries continued to establish additional international contacts in 2024:

- Following the Letter of Intent signed in 2023, the UGGp Ries continued contact in early 2024 with the Geopark Ngorongoro Lengai in Tanzania. The District Administrator of Donau-Ries, as chairman of the Geopark, strongly supports this idea due to the synergies with the “1000 Schools for Our World” association.
- Discussions were held with Geopark GeaNorvegica in Norway regarding a potential joint project with the Ngorongoro Geopark in Tanzania.
- The Geopark Ries and the Geopark Swabian Alb collaborated through presentations and exchanges during the international on-site visit to the Geopark Swabian Alb.
- At the EGN Conference in Iceland, a Letter of Intent for possible cooperation was signed with the newly admitted UNESCO network member, the Geopark Kraatterijärvi in Finland, which also has a meteorite crater. Further contact is planned for 2025.
- In addition, the Geopark Ries is in contact with the Geopark Geomon in Wales for potential joint projects.