

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Catalunya Central UGGp, Spain, EGN)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2012 / 2024



Inauguration of the new Mining museum of Súria (Author: Roger Hernández, © Ajuntament de Súria).

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: nine staff, including two geoscientists.

Number of visitors: The total number of visitors is difficult to estimate accurately. For example, the Montserrat Caves have 16,312 visitors, El Toll Caves have 18,424, Cardona has 82,700 visitors, and the Museum of Geology Valentí Masachs has approximately 2,300 visitors. Montserrat has reached 2.432.440 visitors, and the visitor centre of the Geopark has 718 visitors. In total, including all the tourist sites of the Geopark, there are about 2.552.894 visitors.

Number of Geopark events: More than 500 educational activities (interpretation centres, Montserrat caves, geology museum Valentí Masachs), and for the general public, 27 EGN week activities, 16 (visitor centre) and 8 (geological trips). In total, more than 543 events were organised directly by the Geopark or its collaborators.

Number of school classes participating in Geopark educational programmes: Approximately 45,480 scholars assisted at hundreds of educational activities related to geology, environmental education, climate change, and natural resources that different educational centres organise at the Geopark.

Number of Geopark press releases: 8 press releases, 1.372 posts in different Digital Media and Social Networks (281 Facebook, 366 Twitter (X), 725 Instagram).

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Revalidation mission.
- Incorporation of a geologist as temporary technical support staff in the Geopark.
- Inauguration of the mining museum of Súria.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in the meetings of the GGN, EGN and the Spanish Networks.
- Participation in the annual Spanish Geopark's Open Meeting.
- Celebration of the EGN Week and different International Days.
- Members of the ODS and Climate Change working group at the EGN.
- Publication of an article in the Geoparks Going Green Magazine.

Management and Financial Status

- Improvement in the conditions of the annual grant of the Government of Catalonia.

Geoconservation

- Collaboration with the editors of a new scientific e-journal about the salt heritage and science for its publication.
- Creation of the geodiversity corner at the visitor centre.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Improvement of the Geopark's Web app.
- Signalisation of different sites with the new general information panel.
- Creation of the contents for the geological and heritage trail at El Pont de Vilomara.
- Creation of the geological content for the Salt Way.
- Revision and editing of the Geopark brochure.
- Creation of the Geoparks' corner at the visitor centre.
- Executive project to improve the accessibility of the visitor centre and the interpretative contents at different levels (physical, cognitive, easy lecture, etc.).

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

- Workshop and temporary exhibition about the earthquakes, to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Participation in the Spanish Society for Soil Science field trip at the Geopark.

Strategic partnership

- Internal agreement with the Bages County Council to improve the financing and operations of the Geopark.

Promotional activities

- Participated in the organisation and attended the new stand at FITUR for the representation of the Spanish Geoparks, the Geolac Network, and the GGN.
- Publications in some relevant magazines: National Geographic, Descobrir Catalunya.
- New corporate clothes for the staff.

4. CONTACTS

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