

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany / Poland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011 / 2023

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 6 staffs including 2 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: around 120.000

Number of Geopark events:
Events by management body: 13 / in cooperation with partners: 6

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 35

Number of Geopark press release: 25 from UGGp, further reports about partners + regional media (TV, radio, newspapers (around 40)



Figure 1: 83rd Conference of the Working Group of North German Geologists, Bad Muskau

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

The most significant event in 2024 was the 83rd conference of the Working Group of North German Geologists (ARGE NDG) from May 21 to 24. The conference was organized in cooperation with the Brandenburg State Office for Mining, Geology, and Raw Materials (LBGR) and, for the first time in its long tradition, was held across state borders between Germany and Poland. Approximately 130 people from both countries participated. The event included an extensive program of lectures, conference proceedings, and an additional excursion day.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Article in EGN Magazine Issue 21 (Making a difference): New Geopark exhibition "With dirt to prosperity" - Raw materials and industrial history in the Muskau Arch, Execution of two revalidation missions in Greece, participation in EGN CC Spring meeting, Kula Salihli, Turkey and reorganisation / re-establishment of the Transnational UGGps Forum with N. Sauer as a co-chair, participation in the 17th EGN Conference in Reykjanes, Iceland, and initiation of an official workshop there on Transnational Geoparks and Geopark initiatives

Management and Financial Status

Stable and adequate funding from members and support from the federal states in Germany, continuation of negotiation on institutionalisation, successful acquisition of additional funds through, among other things, Interreg projects for additional task.

Geoconservation

After a long process, the work to record all geotopes in the geopark in a new geosite register has finally been completed. Annual clean-up campaign with geopark guides in the lake areas of the Muskau Arch. Annual restoration measures for our artificially created outcrop to demonstrate the folded sedimentary layers.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

Installation of the travelling exhibition 'Saxony lifts its treasures' – translations into Polish in close cooperation with the State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology in Saxony

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

Thematic and content-related reorientation of cooperation with the Nochten Erratic Boulder Park, focusing on possible future priorities such as geoscientific interpretation, climate change, etc. Conducting a workshop for Geopark guides on the topic of ESD. Workshops and organisation of international encounters between pupils from the UNESCO schools in Żagan (PL) and Zittau (GER).

Strategic partnership

Deepening strategic cooperation within the Visegrad Group (PL-SK-CZ-HU). Intensification of working meetings with the Polish Cultural Heritage Institute (NID) and Prince Pückler Park Bad Muskau Foundation (both administrator of the World Heritage Muskau Park) to coordinate marketing strategies and prepare a trilateral agreement. Continuation of cooperation with the German Geological Society by hosting a meeting of the Working Group on Mining Consequences. Initiation of cooperation with the University of Wrocław and the Freiberg University of Mining and Technology.

Promotional activities

Publication for general/professional audience:

- Eppinger, U. and M. Kupetz (2024). Führung durch die Ziegelei. EDGG-Heft 270 - Lausitz im Wandel: Vom Braunkohlenbergbau zum Hotspot der Biodiversität – Erkenntnisse aus drei Jahrzehnten Biomanagement
- Kupetz, M., Eppinger, U., Löwen, K. and Fleischmann, A. (2024). Klein Kölzig – ein historischer Industriestandort im Braunkohlebergbau im Muskauer Faltenbogen. Brandenburg. Denkmalpflege, 2024, Heft 1
- Löwen, K., Sauer, N., Stein, F., Lehmann, C. and Lublow, F. (2024). UNCOVER – Multimediale Inszenierung von Industriekultur im Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa. SDGG, Heft 99, 83–88.

- GeoparkMini, edition 20 (annual brochure for children)
- Information brochure ('fact sheet') for tour guides with key facts about the UNESCO sites and intangible heritage of Lusatia

4. CONTACTS

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