

GGN – Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark Annual Report 2024



1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovakian - Hungarian transnational, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2022



Slovak-Hungarian students' educational competition at Baglyaskő Geosite (Hungary), May 28, 2024

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 10 people including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: to main geosites approx. 300 000 people

Number of Geopark events: 38

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: 42

Number of Geopark press release: 16

3. GEOPARK

ACTIVITIES Major

achievements in 2024

- Two visitor centers of the geopark were selected among the 50 chosen UNESCO designated visitor centers to participate in the Venice Biennale UNESCO Sites' "[Deep Surfaces](#)" exhibition, which will take place in 2025.
- The legal procedure to establish a new, more effective management body for the transnational UGGp started.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in EGN CC meetings
- Taking part in GGN endorsed events like the [Geodiversity Day](#)
- Maintaining [sister geopark cooperation](#) with Lushan UGGp(China)
- Participating in the EGN Volcanic, Fossils and the Intangible Heritage Working Groups
- Contributing with an article to the tale book of the EGN Volcanic Areas
- Taking part in the Visegrad 4 geoparks consultations
- Taking part in the IGCP 726 GEOfood for sustainable development in UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Organizing [events for the EGN Week](#) and for the 4rd Volcano Day in Europe
- Taking part in the meetings and workshops of the transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum

Management and Financial Status

- The establishment of the EGTC (Neograd Geopark ETT) as the new governing body of the transnational UGGp was supported by all geopark stakeholders. Its main goal is to overcome the unstable financial situation and budgetary difficulties of the geopark and to formally incorporate the Bükk National Park Directorate and its resources.
- The general economic crisis and the neighborhood Russian-Ukrainian war both still contribute to financial problems, hinder the implementation of development plans and make the maintenance of infrastructure more difficult

Geoconservation

- The natural habitats of the NN UGGp were well managed, deposited rubbish by the visitors needed to be more frequently collected, felled trees caused access problems at geosites within forested areas
- Conservation and rehabilitation of excavated areas and geosites were ongoing activities in partnership with the Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD- Hungary), Cerová vrchovina Protected Landscape Area (Slovakia), the Ipoly-Forestry Zrt and other stakeholders, including NGOs.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The Geo-lodge brand to market sustainable accommodation facilities within the territory of the NN UGGp and the GEOfood programs were promoted.
- Several thematic geotourism offers were developed for off seasons (like at the Ipolytarnoc Fossils NR).
- The visitor centers organized several family events.
- At the national pilgrimage center of Szentkut some special geotrail programs were organized for the visitors.

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

- Cross-border guided tours have become more frequent from one side of the transnational NN UGGp to the other to emphasize the geopark motto: *Ancient Word without Borders*
- The Sustainable Development Goals were promoted on numerous occasions at thematic programs organized in the geopark visitor centers, and their topic was also covered in educational competitions between Slovak and Hungarian primary school students of the UGGp.
- On the occasion of the EGN Volcano Day on June 1, outdoor programs targeted geohazards.
- Artistic events have been organized at the geopark sites, such as [Music in the forest](#) and [Wall painting](#) at the Ipolytarnoc Fossils

Strategic partnership

- Co-operation with the V4 Geoparks, the Slovak and the Hungarian National Geopark Commissions and state nature conservation agencies, beside municipalities and county officials continued.
- Project partnerships between geopark stakeholders resulted in applications for bilateral and EU funds for conservation purposes, the proposals are under investigations

Promotional activities

- Participation in the events of the stakeholders and partners of the NN UGGp.
- Presentations and presence at various events held both for the general public and specialists, including tourism exhibitions
- Several press releases, social media presence and publishing printed material

4. CONTACTS

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