

GGN – National Network / National Fora Committees

Annual Report 2024

INTRODUCTION

UNESCO Global Geoparks in Norway is in the process of creating our national Norwegian Global Geoparks Network, inside the framework proposed by GGN. The foundation meeting will be on the 8th of December 2025 and the proposal will be sent to GGN Executive Board for their endorsement. The members in this network will be the five Norwegian Geoparks.

The structure of the existing committee will probably function in the future as an advisory- and resources body. We need to explore further the role of this committee; the main issue is regarding the situation with the workstream for Norwegian applications and reports regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks: the responsibility for sending the official documents to UNESCO secretariat in Paris. This was done many years ago, as our Geological Survey of Norway was given the responsible for evaluation of the geological heritage with regard to the international scientific value and the Norwegian UNESCO Commission stated that they lacked capacity and resources to take this responsibility. We hope to discuss this issue with the existing Norwegian UNESCO commission, which we will meet on the 9th of December 2025.

1. IDENTITY / GGN NATIONAL NETWORK

National Fora/Committee: Norwegian Committee for Geoparks and Geoheritage, Norway, terje.solbakk@ngu.no. The website is not a separate one but is part of the site for Geological Survey of Norway

Year of inscription: 2016

2. MEMBERS

Chair: Kristin Rangnes, Gea Norvegica Geopark (UGGp) kristin.rangnes@geanor.no

Members:

Terje Solbakk, Geological Survey of Norway (secretary), terje.solbakk@ngu.no

Ulf Tjåland, Magma UGGp ulf@magmageopark.com

Brynjar Stautland, Sunnhordland UGGp brynjar@geoparksunnhordland.no

Bergliot Storruste, Trollfjell UGGp bergliot.storruste@trollfjellgeopark.no

Espen Bråstein, Fjordkysten UGGp. espen@fjordkystparken.no (as observer in 2024)

Ann Mari Husås, Geological Society of Norway, ann.husaas@ngu.no

Gaute Sønstebo, Ministry of environment, gaute.sonstebo@miljodir.no

Deta Gasser, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, deta.gasser@hvl.no

Hans Arne Nakrem, Natural Museum, University of Oslo, h.a.nakrem@nhm.uio.no

Lars Erikstad, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, lars.erikstad@nina.no

Lena Holdaas, Innovation Norway, lena.holdaas@innovasjon Norge.no

Tom Heldal, Geological Survey of Norway, advisor, tom.heldal@ngu.no

Observers from Norwegian UNESCO commission and the national UNESCO secretariat.

3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Active application in your country: NO ACTIVE APPLICATIONS AT THE MOMENT

Territories that you are advising: No new territories are receiving advisors at the moment. A few new territories have contacted us over the last years but none of them have shown any progress. We are ready to support as soon as they contact us with a proposal but the committee has no official responses for now.

4. ACTIVITIES

- Annual meetings in the Committee, two meetings in 2024.
- Producing the annual report (in Norwegian)
- Regular meetings between the geoparks, from 2025 we have formally established a monthly “coffee break forum” but this will be part of our next annual report
- Participation in different meetings
- The geoparks have initiated an annual meeting/seminar for all the UNESCO sites and programs in Norway, the first was hosted by Gea Norvegica UGGp and in 2024 we were invited to the Ministry of Education by the Norwegian UNESCO secretariat and the Commission. This meeting will also be in 2025.
- Supporting the application from Fjordkysten Geopark for UNESCO status, advising and discussing.
- Advising geoparks ready for revalidation (Gea Norvegica)
- Participation in conferences and meetings, giving presentations on our geoparks (The biannual conference by Geological Society of Norway (NGF) in Bergen and for the Oslo division of NGF at the University of Oslo).