

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Sunnhordland UNESCO Global Geopark, NORWAY, European Geoparks Network)

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



“How to measure the Value of Nature”? Sunnhordland Geoparks contribution to the National 1000-year Anniversary for Christian Laws implemented in Norway in 1024 at Moster (inside the geopark). Our geologist Anouk-Letizia Firle as moderator for the panel of leading Norwegian experts in law, geology, biodiversity and social researchers.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 2 staffs including 1 geoscientist

Number of visitors: Appr. 11 000 altogether to the three visitor centres, + 897 tickets sold at our guided tours in the Stordø pyrite mines during summer.

Number of Geopark events: 17

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 8

Number of Geopark press release: 4

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Annual seminar for our Partners, incl County Mayor and repr. for The Norwegian UNESCO Commission, prof. Tore Furevik.
- One day-seminar on boat traditions in the geopark from stone age til today, in cooperation with our visitor centre Folgefonn centre.
- “Value speech” on the value of nature, as part of the programme for the Norwegian 1000-year Anniversary for Christian Laws implementet in Norway in 1024 (inside our geopark).
- Participated in UNESCO gathering in Departement of Education.
- GEOSITE-workshop in Ireland, Joyce Country aUGGp, developing our GEOSITE-project including geoparks in Italy, Ireland, Romania and us.
- New project financed by NORA, for research on emission free boat engines for UNESCO-sites.
- New project on establishing a AI-guide for our geopark, financed by Westland County.
- Participating in a new project for Vestland County after the model of Scotland UNESCO Trail.
- Organized and ran the 6 week summer guiding at the pyrite mines of Litlabø, as the third year on row (3 guides). 897 visitors.
- New panels for the pyrite mines mounted along the main roads through Sunnhordland, after our applications to National road authorities.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Both staffs participated in the EGN meetings in Kula (Turkey), and the manager at Reykjanes (Iceland).

Management and Financial Status

Support from all administrative levels: Municipalities, County and Government. Financial status good.

A constructive Board of 7 (one mayor, 1 MP, 1 emeritus in geology, 1 professor in geography, 1 manager of visit company, 1 manager of visitor centre, 1 repr for Vestland County).

Geoconservation

- Updated geological descriptions on panels.
- Started process on improving the geological interpretation presented on our timeline in the main visitor centre.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Running the guided tours at the pyrite mines, 6 weeks. Also educating the guides.
- Starting the production of a AI guide for the geopark, based on a database of our own papers and documents (not the open web). The guide "Marmora" also guides the visitors to our chosen certified sustainable tourism partners.

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

- The GEOsite project is focusing on earth science education and in some degree sustainable development.

Strategic partnership

We have partnerships with three visitor centres, the Visit Sunnhordland and 16 entrepreneurs in tourism and local food. We also have partnerships with three UGGps and two universities in a three year Erasmus+ project GEOsite. The UGGp-partners are Toscana Metallifere UGGp, Joyce Country and Western Lakes UGGp, and Buzau Land UGGp.

Promotional activities

- Facebook, instagram, leaflets, information brochure and website, all in three languages. Panels for appr. 100.000,- euros are placed in the whole geopark-region. Participating in the national 2024-Anniversary gave us positive attention.

4. CONTACTS

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