

# GGN- Geopark Annual Report 2024

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg, European Geoparks Network)

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

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Inauguration of the “Geo-Pad Haupesbach an Halerbaach” by the Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 26 staffs including 1 geoscientist; permanent: 20, temporary projects: 6

**Number of visitors:** In 2024 228.740 hikers were counted on the Mullerthal Trail, the 112 km long regional hiking trail that leads along most of the geosites.

**Number of Geopark events:**

Organisation of the 2 major annual events for the general public: “Mëllerdall Days” (EGN-week, 19 - 26 May) and “Mount vum Bongert” (‘Month of the Orchards’, in October). Both events included numerous sub-events in collaboration with regional partners, such as guided hikes, activities and

workshops.

Celebration of International Days: Geodiversity Day

Organisation of 32 different courses for the general public, communicated through the annual calendar of activities

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 20**

**Number of Geopark press release:** 6 press releases. Möllerdall personnel have also given interviews to national newspapers and radio and TV stations. Numerous articles in community newspapers and in the Luxembourg Nature Parks' newspaper, which are distributed to all households.

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2024**

- Completion of a further training series for tour guides on topics relating to the Nature & Geopark (Natur- & UNESCO Global Geopark Möllerdall, geology, archaeology, Geo-Expo, drinking water, nature protection and landscape, economic history, regional products, orchard meadows)
- Inauguration of the Geo-Pad "Haupeschaach an Halerbaach" by the Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning
- Addition of the term GEOTOP ("geosite") to the existing hiking trail signage
- INTERREG Greater Region project "Sous nos pieds": Survey of documents in the National Archives on sites that link the regional geological heritage with the industrial heritage
- Realisation of numerous projects on nature conservation, sustainable economy, climate protection, drinking water protection, regional products

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participation in all official Geopark network meetings (GGN AC, EGN CC, ...) and publications
- Meeting with the UGGps Scheldt-Delta, De Hondsrug and Famenne-Ardenne to exchange ideas and to discuss common projects and signing of a co-operation agreement between the BeNeLux geoparks
- Participation in international projects with Vulkaneifel UGGp and Famenne-Ardenne UGGp (ZENAPA, Sous nos pieds); Visit from Bergstraße-Odenwald UGGp
- Presentation and offer of regional products from the Möllerdall at the UNESCO HQ in Paris on the occasion of the annual 'Open Session of the International Geoscience Programme Council and the presentation of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks'

#### **Management and Financial Status**

- The Natur- & Geopark is financed through contributions from its member municipalities, ministries as well as national and international projects. stable; no remarkable changes

- Information events for municipal councillors and municipal staff about the services and structure of Natur- & UNESCO Global Geopark Mëllerdall

### **Geoconservation**

- Explanations on the importance and necessity of geoheritage protection to visitors during guided walks
- Maintenance of various geosites and biotopes
- Scientific works on geosites: measurements on CO<sub>2</sub> exhalations and geophysics

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- To improve the visibility of the region's geosites, the marking GEOTOP was added to the existing hiking trail signage.

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

- Information and exchange meetings with regional primary schools and other educational institutions to present the Geopark and discuss cooperation.
- Offering and implementing additional certification for regional tourist guides.
- Opening of the Geo-Pad as an extracurricular learning space.

### **Strategic partnership**

- Cooperation with regional stakeholders was improved through our formal partnership program, which counts 64 partners in 2024. Partners are supported through regular information events and advertising.
- Mëllerdall has cooperation agreements, among others with the regional tourism association Mullerthal Region – Luxembourg's Little Switzerland, the LAG LEADER Mëllerdall Region and with the University of Trier.
- The Natur- & Geopark is member of the national UNESCO Geopark Comité, which includes delegates from national scientific institutions and administrations (geosciences, history/archaeology, ...) and regional stakeholder

### **Promotional activities**

- Information on websites naturpark-mellerdall.lu and geopark-mellerdall.lu
- Publication of the annual calendar of activities with events on geological, cultural, intangible and natural heritage, which is distributed to all households in the region
- Regular activities on Instagram, Facebook, Youtube

## **4. CONTACTS**

**Manager:** [claudette.petit@naturpark-mellerdall.lu](mailto:claudette.petit@naturpark-mellerdall.lu)

**Geologist:** [birgit.kausch@naturpark-mellerdall.lu](mailto:birgit.kausch@naturpark-mellerdall.lu)