

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy, (European Geoparks Network)

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



The Apuan Alps Geopark Team at the 17th European Geoparks Conference in Iceland

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 23 staffs including 3 geoscientists

Number of visitors: the 2024 data count about 30.000 visitors considering the number of individuals visiting the tourist caves and our museums or visitor centres (entry to the Geoparks is not governed by ticket sales and entrances are so numerous that it is impossible to determine their exact number). According to the Italian National Institute of Statistics, the approximate number of daily visitors within the municipalities belonging to the Geopark is 420.000.

Number of Geopark events: 16 events held by Apuan Alps UGGp management body and 28 events held by partners

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: the total number school classes is 44, for a total of about 900-950 students

Number of Geopark press release: 34 press releases

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Development of a new thematic trail with panels and signs in the Corvaia Fortress in Seravezza
- “Health comes by walking...” a new initiative by the Italian League for the Fight against Cancer organized with the Apuan Alps UGGp and the Italian Alpine Club Section of Massa to raise awareness of prevention against oncological diseases through walking
- “Nelle Terre del Marmo. Maestri e Geografia nella Scultura del Cinquecento” new volume of the Geopark’s scientific journal “Acta Apuana.”, containing essays on the use, diffusion and consecration of Apuan marble in the artistic production of Mannerism
- 9th “Maria Ansaldi” Conference at the Geopark Farm on "the unexpected charm of the Apuan landscapes"
- Apuan Autumn, a celebration of the season in Bosa di Careggine

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation at the EGN AC and CC meeting in Kula – Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark, Turkey
- Participation at the EGN AC and CC meeting in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland
- Participation at the 17th EGN Conference in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland, with thematic presentations on geology and tourism enhancement
- EGN magazine, issue 21, “The way to “limited” and “precious” marble. A Sustainable prospective for quarrying in the Apuan Alps Geopark”
- Participation in EGN Geohazards Working group
- Participation in EGN Communication Working group

Management and Financial Status

- The management structure is made up of several offices and services for a total of 23 people and the operating budget for 2024 totaled € 2.162.590,77 (remained stable from prior year)
- New financial status leads to an easier management of the dynamics of spending with costs and assets optimisation

Geoconservation

- Integrated Park Master Plan is awaiting approval by the Tuscany Region
- The management Plan of the Natura 2000 network sites has taken effect

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Grants to support sustainable tourism and activities managed by Geopark's stakeholders with a rich programme of hikes and activities
- Successful evaluation mission for the renewal of the Tourism Strategy and ECTS Action Plan for the years 2024-2028
- New memoranda of understanding with three local associations of Geopark Guides to offer hikes and educational experiences in all of the Geopark territory, lasting until 2025

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

- The Geopark for Schools. Grants for promoting environmental education
- Summer camps for children ages 8-12 years
- IDDRR 2024: Geopark Guide Training on earthquakes and seismic hazard and training course on rescue operations in hostile terrain in the event of river flooding

Strategic partnership

- Agreement between the Geopark and the amateur running group 'Parco Alpi Apuane' for the implementation of promotional and educational activities in the field of sport
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Massa section of the Italian Alpine Club (CAI) for the organisation and promotion of the high-altitude cultural festival 'Musica sulle Apuane'
- Agreement between the Geopark, Legambiente Onlus and others for participation in the project 'Restoration of Grasslands and Forests in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines' funded under the 'Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme' – 'APE TOE' Project
- Agreement between the Geopark and 'L'Apuano Appeso' for activities promoting sport climbing in mountain areas
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Tuscan Speleological Federation for the promotion of activities concerning the karst environment of the Apuan Alps and related speleological exploration

Promotional activities

- 2025 Calendar dedicated to the "Via Vandelli", a ducal road of the 18th century connecting Modena to Massa
- Wild food foraging at Bosa Geopark Farm during the EGN week
- "Rediscovering the Canale della Radice Mining Site" guided educational tour to mark the 16th National Mining Day, in collaboration with the CNR - National Institute of Geosciences and Georesources

- “Going slow: sustainable mobility”: a workshop on the forms of sustainable mobility in the protected areas of Tuscany organized in collaboration with Tuscany Region

4. CONTACTS

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