

# Newsletter

## European Geoparks Network



19  
2021

Feb|Jun

### ■■■■■ Good practices in UNESCO Global Geoparks of Europe



#### Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Suspension bridge “516 Arouca” offer new geoexperiences

The suspension bridge “516 Arouca”, located in the Natura 2000 Network area, in the heart of Arouca UGGp is the latest geotouristic attraction. The structure provides an unrestricted and fascinating view of two of the Geopark's geosites: the Agueiras Waterfall and the Paiva Gorge. Hanging 175 metres above the Paiva River, with a span of 516 metres and a 1.2 metre wide deck, the bridge is supported by two “V” shaped concrete towers. The “516” is one of the longest pedestrian suspension bridges in the world. It is a new and exciting way to discover the geodiversity and biodiversity of the Paiva region of Arouca UGGp.

#### Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) Geopark screened three films during the first Nature and Environment Film Exhibition of Gipuzkoa

This festival is sponsored by the Environmental Department of the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council and aims to promote connecting with nature that surrounds us. “Dehesa” was shown in Deba and it is the new feature documentary by Joaquín Gutiérrez Acha, which takes us to the great unknown of the Iberian Peninsula: the Dehesa. “Los Plásticos” and “Out of Plastic” were projected in Zumaia and allow us to reflect on the widespread presence of plastic in the sea. This initiative is part of Mother Earth Day.



#### Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy): Learning environmental sustainability at school

Beigua Geopark has launched two new initiatives to involve schools with the themes of AGENDA 2030 about sustainable mobility and waste reduction. Initiated in 2014 with many enthusiastic followers, this year the Pedibus project covered a larger area. This is a “walking bus” driven by volunteers who take children to school along safe routes: like a real bus, there are several lines, intermediate stops and it is an opportunity for children to empower themselves. The Plastic Free Project has also started, with classroom meetings and visits in the Geopark area to raise awareness among students through role-playing games and educational workshops on the use of plastic and on possible environmentally friendly alternative materials.



## Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): "West – East Impressions" – Common Photo Exhibition in cooperation with UNESCO Global Geopark Mt. Lushan (China)

In these times, we are asked to develop creative options for cooperation, inside our regions as well as internationally. In this context, Bergstrasse-Odenwald has developed a photo exhibition with 20 winning photos from a photo contest for citizens with the motto "My view into the Geopark", and 20 photos from Mt. Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark. The exhibition is installed in west – east oriented halls.. The bridge between west and east builds on the longstanding friendship between the two Geoparks, which goes back to 2007. A series of 36 photos visualizes the projects and aspects of this fruitful partnership. The exhibition was opened on April 30th in both Geoparks in German/English and Chinese/English with video messages from the Geopark presidents. Visitors will be welcomed as soon as the exhibition centre is allowed to open. Meanwhile, a three minute video is available on the Geo-Naturpark Youtube Channel. Both Geoparks consider this exchange as an extraordinary opportunity for cooperation and support according to their motto "across time and space in friendship closely connected".

## Catalunya Central UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) signed an agreement to vinyl wrap two train carriages

Approximately 50% of visitors to Catalunya Central UGGp come from the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, of which 15% are from the city of Barcelona. The Geopark has recently signed an agreement with the public train company Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya to make the Geopark known to potential visitors and promote the use of public transport to access some of its most important areas of interest, such as Montserrat Mountain. The main action consists of vinyl wrapping two wagons of the trains that run along the main lines that connect Barcelona with the neighbouring counties during the year 2021.



## Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark (France): Videos to discover the Geopark

In order to offer the inhabitants, as well as tourists, documents allowing them to better understand the Geopark and to appreciate its exceptional geological heritage, a series of 3 videos has been produced to present the Causses du Quercy UGGp. The objectives of these videos are to explain what a Geopark is and to show the characteristics of the Causses du Quercy Geopark. These videos are available on the Geopark's youtube channel and are subtitled in English. To see the " D'une pierre, deux coups /Two birds with one stone" videos: [www.youtube.com/c/PNRCQ/videos](http://www.youtube.com/c/PNRCQ/videos)

## Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark (France) and its partners install a new educational hive at the "Drunken Forest" géosite

In the heart of the Chablais territory, north of Lake Geneva there is a remarkable géosite that is known as the Drunken Forest. It is here that one of the largest (422Ha) and longest documented landslides in the region has developed. In collaboration with the National Forestry Office and the local school of Vailly, the Geopark has installed an educational beehive to inform the public and school children about the geosite, how bees live and the importance of biodiversity.





## Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): Preparing for our common future!

The Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp during March 2021 delivered a series of online presentations to students from high schools in the geopark's area. By acting as amateur geologists our "little" friends gained a different perspective for some of the most important geosites. We have envisioned our common future – after the end of the pandemic- in visiting our favourite geosites and discovering the magic of geology. The students of Kalavryta Gymnasium, in answering the question "which geosite do you want to visit after the pandemic ends" gave a clear message favoring the power of water and voting the geosites Ladon's eye, Doxa and Tsivlou Lakes! Stay informed at [www.fchelmos.gr](http://www.fchelmos.gr)

## Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark (Serbia): A day out with our friends

On April 22, Djerdap UGGp will celebrate Earth Day 2021 with our dear friends from NGO "Ecological Movement of Zemun", Universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Secretariat for Environmental Protection of the City of Belgrade. Together we will visit several sites of geological and cultural heritage in the territory of Djerdap UGGp. Our guests from NGO "Ecological Movement of Zemun", who manage two natural monuments (loess profiles) in the vicinity of the Serbian capital, will share their good practices in mustering local communities and NGOs in the protection of geoheritage.



## El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): a Geopark for sustainability

El Hierro: a place where shepherds start the day walking with their sheep at dawn looking for pasture. A small island of 268 km<sup>2</sup> and about nine thousand inhabitants, living in contact with nature 365 days a year. No traffic lights and no traffic jams, no factories, no pollution, but an incredible natural environment: from rainforest to volcanic lava fields. A big crater turned into a water reservoir as part of a project that supplies the island with renewable energy. That's why El Hierro and Sustainability are always together in our minds. El Hierro is still there, working and preparing for the future.

## Educational Fieldwork in Fforest Fawr UGGp: Resilience in response to Covid-19

Since geological fieldwork, both overseas and within the UK, was prohibited due to the covid restrictions, Cardiff University School of Earth and Environmental Sciences used the Cribarth, a geosite, in the Fforest Fawr UGGp, as a site for training Year 2 and Year 3 students in geological mapping. Organising initial fieldwork reconnaissance in February and April, followed by supervised mapping involved members of staff from Cardiff University and Fforest Fawr Geopark. The superb quarry and natural exposures of faulted and folded rocks of Carboniferous age, in which older limestone formations are overlain by the distinctive Twrch Sandstone Formation, is the focus of research undertaken by Fforest Fawr Geopark in collaboration with Cardiff University. The results of this work contributed significantly to using the Cribarth for training students in geological mapping in 2021.



## Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark (Belgium): Panels for visibility

The development of the Geopark depends on its appropriation by the local communities, an ownership that unites the inhabitants around the same values. This pride and recognition are, among others, achieved through the Geopark's visibility: signage on the Brussels-Luxembourg motorway, panels placed on the main routes into the Geopark, information panels in town centres (close to the tourist offices which act as ambassadors for the project). In order to make the inhabitants aware of our desire for the sustainable development of the Geopark, an information box was distributed, inviting them to contact us for collaborative projects.



## Granada UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Astrotourism

In recent years, Astrotourism has become a highly valuable sustainable form of tourism provision. It is a fun, cultural and scientific activity, and also an example of protecting and conserving the natural environment. The Granada Geopark has one of the landscapes least altered by human activity within the European continent. Our levels of light pollution and pollution are very low, almost zero. This aspect is key for astronomical observation. In addition, the high average altitude provides excellent sky quality. For these reasons, we are working to certify the entire Granada Geopark through the Starlight Foundation, using the main principles in the "Declaration on the Defense of the Night Sky and the Right to Starlight."

## Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Discovering through play - New Geopark card game

Together with a student of media and game conception the Geopark developed a special card game. It aims to introduce the UNESCO-Geopark to children. Geotopes and buildings made of natural rock are presented on colourful cards. Event cards illustrated with Geopark characteristics influence the course of the game. The game is distributed to 4th grade pupils of primary schools. Unfortunately, the presentation of the game, that had started with a lesson on geology by Geopark staff, was interrupted by the Corona pandemic. Nevertheless, some games were already distributed among children who can now playfully discover the UNESCO-Geopark in which they live.



## Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geopark (Romania): Geopark, model of Sustainable Development in Romania

Hateg Country UGGp received the "Model of Equity Champion in Sustainable Development" award. The prize was offered by the Romanian Government. Alexandru Andrașanu, the Geopark's Director, considers that "the construction of a UNESCO Global Geopark can be compared to the preparation of a champion for the Olympics. It starts with a territory, builds a team with the locals' support, is continuously involved in projects, events, collaborations, and achievements are shared fairly. If it has outstanding results, it is selected by the International Olympic Team of Geoparks. Every four years, it must win the gold medal to remain in Geoparks' world elite".

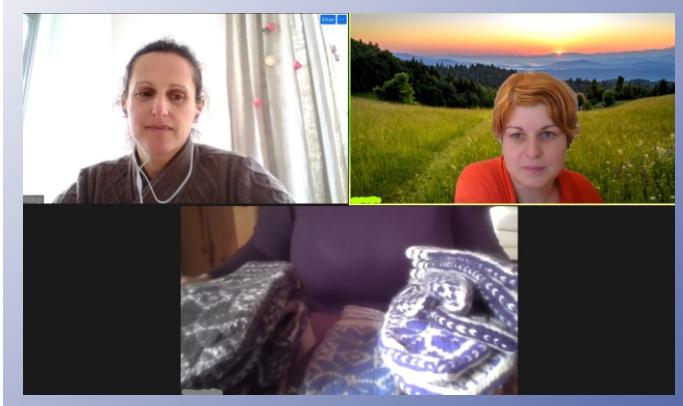
## Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark (Netherlands): Old crafts on the Hondsrug

The Hondsrug region is bursting with history. Many old crafts are still practiced on the Hondsrug, such as blacksmithing, weaving and carpentry.

With the project Ambachtmakelaar ("Craft Broker") we ensure that the old crafts in the Hondsrug remain in the spotlight. We connect craftsmen with each other and with projects that were hitherto unknown to them and we support new projects in which the craftsmen are involved.

In this way we ensure that the professional knowledge is not lost, and that more attention is paid to the products and services offered by the craftsmen. By working together and sharing knowledge, a strengthening network is created for the associated craftsmen.





## Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia): Building the quality Geoproduct Brand Idrija Selected

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Idrija UGGp continues developing quality geoproducts through the Idrija Selected trademark, which includes craft and culinary products, home-made culinary delicacies, tourist programmes and experiences, and culinary events offered by the local providers. Established in 2018, the trademark connects 34 providers and more than 90 certified geoproducts. In 2020, Idrija UGGp launched the third public call for submitting geoproducts to be certified, receiving submissions for 51 geoproducts by 18 providers. The certification process started in April with online expert counselling and will continue with the certification process by the expert commission in May 2021. More on Idrija Selected: <https://www.geopark-idrija.si/en/idrija-selected/>

## Joint contribution\*: GEOFOOD for sustainable development in UNESCO Global Geoparks – An award winning IGCP project

Over 36 UNESCO Global Geoparks, aspiring UGGp's and research institutions from all over the world are working on an exciting new IGCP project. GEOFood as a key to increase the awareness about geoheritage for sustainable development within a Geopark's local community is coordinated by Magma UGGp and overseen by a steering group of 10 experts. The project will explore the scientific links between geology, soils, local produce and community. It has a €50,000 budget for networking costs and project tools and received a special IGCP council award for the best project. \*Participating UGGps Naturtejo, Hateg, Vis Archipelago, Terras de Cavaleiros, Azores, Las Loras, Rocca di Cerere, Villuercas Ibores, Styrian Eisenwurzen, Katla, Rokua, Arouca, Magma, Tuscan Mining, Estrela, Sesia Val Grande, Chablais



## Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland): Alone we are strong, together we are stronger

Katla Geopark is part of the Ruritage project which emphasizes the cultural and natural heritage for sustainable growth and development. Part of the project involves constructing an action-based enhancement plan with the communities, in which several workshops with locals were used to select projects and plan their implementation. Three projects were chosen, working together on increasing awareness and resilience regarding natural disasters, investigating old travel routes within the area, and increasing cooperation by strengthening the local partner network, through combined efforts and joint geotourism offers. Partners of Katla Geopark have realized how important it is to stand together through the storm.

## Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): #ChooseLasLoras. The best for everyone is to buy local

The transition to more sustainable agricultural and livestock production systems and responsible consumption models is essential to tackle climate change. To this end, we have launched a campaign to promote local products and consumption through social networks and the press, where organic producers, artisans and small shop owners tell, in first person, some characteristics of their activity. We have also created an active map locating each of these experiences. Every Friday we launch a video and update the map with the new initiatives we receive. Meet the protagonists [https://youtu.be/Z0PPabB6\\_vs](https://youtu.be/Z0PPabB6_vs)





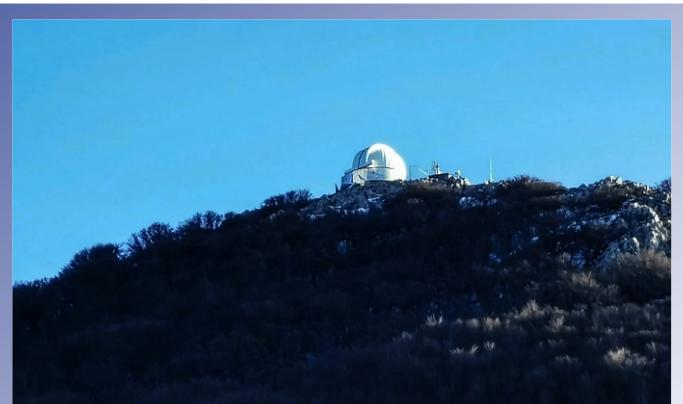
## Lauhanvuori - Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark (Finland): Geo-education for small kids

Geopark Ranger Kristiina Peltomaa introduced the Geopark to preschool children and the 1st and the 2nd graders in primary education in the municipality of Siikainen. The nature trip was part of the school's interdisciplinary learning module related to the municipality's 150th anniversary. The kids got to rumble on the ancient bedrock and learned about local species such as osprey and rare dragonflies. As a nature expert Kristiina was able to answer the kids' tough questions. The Geopark has provided schoolchildren with activities in the local nature as part of the EU-funded Sustainable Development in the Geopark project.

## Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy): THE ENEA STATION OF THE MADONIE REGIONAL PARK

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has recognized the Enea delle Madonie Observatory as a regional station for the entire central Mediterranean area, within the global network for the study of climate change, Global Atmosphere Watch. It is located at about 1,700 metres above sea level in Piano Battaglia in the heart of the Madonie Global Geopark and represents the eighth greenhouse gas monitoring point in Italy. The Observatory is part of the Pulvirus project which studies the link between air pollution and the spread of Covid-19, the physical, chemical and biological interactions between fine particles and viruses and the effects of the blockade on air pollution and greenhouse gases.

<https://gawsis.meteoswiss.ch/GAWSIS/#/search/station/stationReportDetails/0-380-0-MDN>



## Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway): Panels for Geopark locations

During march 2021, Magma Geopark installed the info panels for our Geopark localities 34,43 and 44: Hidraheia Kjørsfjellet, Gården Li, UrstadGruve. The more than 40 Geopark info panels, distributed among 5 municipalities, describe the Geopark's Network, the Magma Geopark's geological and cultural heritage and they provide specific detailed information about each location or geosite where they are placed. The panels inform about the unique flora and fauna living in the area, describe the unique cultural landscape characterized by stone walls and well-used sheep tracks used since ancient time. Another panel, along the trail, provides additional information about the latest rock falls, rock types and their mineralogy. GEOfood, local honey and granola made by the Fisdel farm are for sale inside the wooden house just in front of the parking lot at the entrance to the farm. As a UNESCO Global Geopark we inform about local nature, geology and promote sustainable businesses. Thanks to the Norwegian Environmental Department for special support!

## Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany) goes clean! GeoMobile!

Clean and green: the Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark Head Office can hardly wait to inaugurate its electrically driven GeoMobile! In its spacious interior, well-filled tool boxes are waiting to be used in field trips, for geological experiments or subject-specific projects such as the well known sand projects. In the future, the GeoMobile will serve to expand educational projects as a permanent offer, even in the sparsely populated rural Lusatian area and across the borders in both Germany and Poland.

The minibus is part of an Interreg project between German and Polish partners. The Nissan e-NV200 completed the vehicle fleet of the Head Office together with an electrically driven VW e-up and two charging stations, erected by the Head Office. The use of the stations is free of charge for guests and inhabitants!





## North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark (UK): Introducing the Geotours App

'Geotours' is a new app to help visitors explore the European Atlantic Geotourism Route, produced as part of the Interreg Atlantic Geoparks Project. This project involved 11 Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Staff at the North Pennines AONB and Geopark have been producing and uploading a collection of trails featuring text, images, audio and quizzes over the winter ready for the return of visitors. We look forward to sharing it, to support responsible tourism and help our visitors discover more about this very special place.

## Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark (Denmark): Seaweed enterprises takes off

The waters surrounding Odsherred (Denmark) contain all the different seaweeds that are found in Denmark.

It therefore seems strange that it is only now, that a father and son company has started sustainably harvesting the many types of macroalgae. Only within two years, the company – Danish Seaweed – is already the key supplier of seaweed for many high-end restaurants in Denmark. At the same time, a new national centre focusing on seaweed, is being developed in Odsherred. Trying to gather all the data that exist on seaweed, the centre hopes to become a major disseminator of knowledge about seaweed – and thereby contribute to the development of a new and very important business area.



## Origens UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Renewable energy versus sustainable development in Spanish UGGps

Within the framework of the energy and climate policy of the European Union, some Spanish Geoparks are now under pressure from the construction of wind and photovoltaic farms with macroprojects involving up to 10,000 hectares of solar panels or 1,700 MW wind farms per Geopark. These projects are putting at risk our valuable territories and the sustainable local development due to the denaturalisation of landscapes. Therefore, the Spanish Forum set up a working group to tackle this issue and find a balance between fulfilling the goals of global climate neutrality and preserving Geoparks' landscapes and their sustainable rural development.

## Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria): "Gesäuse Partner"

Healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary for the survival of humans and other organisms. The UNESCO Global Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen provides many activities in the field of sustainability. The best example is a large project in terms of regional development. Partner companies located in this region from various sectors and industries have come together to support the values of the UNESCO Global Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen and the Gesäuse National Park. This partner network is called "Gesäuse Partner" combining tourism and nature conservation. This network has now become a large community concerned with sustainability. Various initiatives are set up to support, protect and promote the nature and environment of the Styrian Eisenwurzen. Regionality is therefore very important in the UNESCO Global Geopark. For the future, further projects in the field of climate protection are planned in order to be able to give sustainability a little help in this regard.



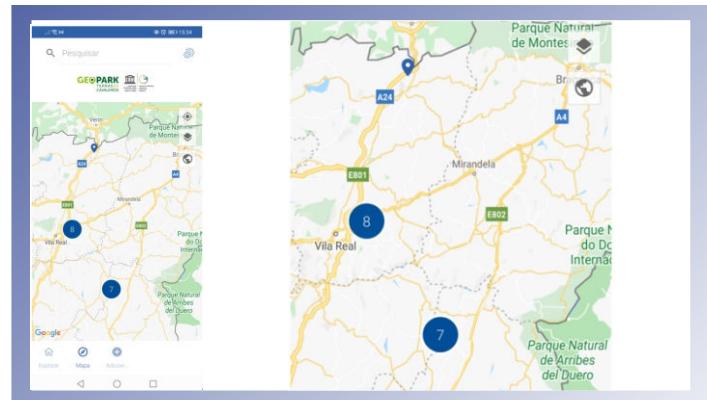


## Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): SDG campaign as contribution to the European Geopark Week

In May/June 2021, the Swabian Alb UGGp will realize a two-week SDG campaign, which will be rolled out on the Geopark website, on Instagram, Facebook and the Geopark Newsletter. This cross-media campaign is developed in cooperation with the 28 Geopark Information Centres. These are museums, show caves, nature conservation centres and educational institutions. Each Information Centre will promote one SDG and give one real-life example from their daily practice. These range from the environmentally friendly operation of the facilities, quality educational programmes to sustainable mobility concepts. The goal of the campaign is to make people aware of SDGs and to anchor the Geopark in the public perception as a hub for sustainability issues.

## Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Geopark APP

The TERRAS DE CAVALEIROS UNESCO Global Geopark is developing an App available for smartphones and tablets, in iOS, Windows and Android systems. This App, about the Geopark Territory, will allow the user/visitor to organize his/her itinerary and obtain real-time touristic information. This application, also allows, surfing online or offline, without roaming expenses. The user can download the information he/she needs for travel and access whenever and wherever it is required. All the information is georeferenced, allowing the tourist to choose the closest location. The information is available in four languages. This way, the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, intends to reduce the costs of the production of flyers and maps, thus contributing for the reduction of paper consumption.



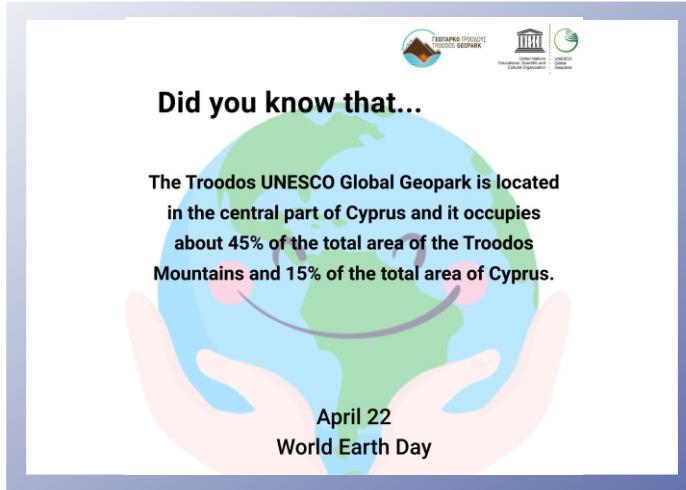
## TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Special exhibition on water in the Museum of Industrial Culture

For the residents and visitors of the UNESCO Global Geopark TERRA.vita, a three-year drought made the impact of water scarcity visible, with increased forest dieback and soil erosion. To coincide with the World Water Day on March 22, 2021, the Museum of Industrial Culture in Osnabrück opened the special exhibition "On Water / Above Water" ("Über Wasser") to draw attention to the topics of water as habitats, water use, pollution and scarcity, as well as the global consequences of local action. The centre-piece of the exhibition are metal water buckets designed as in the former colliery washrooms on the Piesberg as hands-on hanging showcases. The buckets were contributed and created by more than 70 local participants. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the exhibition is currently taking place digitally ([www.mik-osnabrueck.de](http://www.mik-osnabrueck.de)) and on social media (#ÜberWasser).

## Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway): How can Nordic youths in Iceland, Finland and Norway contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 12?

Trollfjell Geopark (Norway), Katla Geopark (Iceland), Rokua Geopark (Finland), and three local upper secondary schools have established a three-year Nordplus Junior-project within the framework of selected SDGs. The project includes visits to all three countries, with Trollfjell Geopark hosting this spring's assembly week. Due to Covid-19, the students got together digitally across the countries and worked on Global Goal 12- Responsible consumption and production. In addition, each school visited a local company to investigate how it contributes to sustainable consumption and production. The students presented the results through informative posters, as seen in the photo. The project's webpage: <https://geoheritage.fas.is/>, stations is free of charge for guests and inhabitants!





## Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Cyprus): Geopark promotion

2021 has been so far a very significant, memorable and indeed challenging year for Troodos Geopark. Guests who choose to visit at the Geopark Visitor Centre, have the opportunity to learn and experience the geological uniqueness of the Troodos area, the most complete fragment of oceanic crust on earth. Promotion of Geopark products through new electronic platforms, geo-tourism and geo-educational exercises, cultural and sporting events as well as pioneering exhibitions and conferences are some examples of the activities that will take place within the year as part of the programme. The pandemic, as well as the weather, probably won't allow for our favorite outdoor activities such as hiking, traditional climbing and cycling to take place in our beautiful Geopark. Meetings, printed and digital material for promoting the project, events, workshops, production of children's material, cultural and sporting activities, exhibitions, and conferences are some of the actions taken within the next years as part of the project. The aim of this initiative is to inform visitors and help them to interpret the geological beauty of our planet as well as the secrets of the life that resides in our Geopark.

## Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Sticking the Geopark EVERYWHERE: Geopaca conquers WhatsApp

There are many ways to convey a message nowadays. The use of stickers on social networks is a pleasant way to communicate with your audience. Designed and used properly, they reinforce communication, enhance identity, favour engagement and convey emotions and closeness. Stickers with Geopaca, our mascot, in different gestures and activities have been designed and used in the last month through WhatsApp, becoming a great identification tool for the Geopark and its promotion. From the youngest to our elderly, companies, institutions, etc. are helping to publicize the territory in an entertaining and innovative way.

Has it reached you yet?



## Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark (Croatia): International Geodiversity Day

Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark has joined the initiative to establish an International Geodiversity Day. We supported the initiative with an audio-visual contribution and our video about geodiversity in our Geopark was one of three current set videos which invite other members to collaborate and support the establishment of the International Geodiversity Day. In our message we summarize why geodiversity is important for us: We are UNESCO Global Geopark Vis Archipelago (central Adriatic, Dalmatia, Croatia). Geodiversity in our Geopark provides many benefits for plants, animals and humans. Geodiversity is very important for our co-existence. That is why Geopark Vis Archipelago is One of the last Paradise Oases in the Mediterranean.

## Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Insect protection project

Insects form the basis of life for all classes of higher animals. They are not only food for animals, but also essential components of many natural processes. Ultimately, they are indispensable for human life. To ensure a sustainable future, the protection of insects is vital. Thus, the nature and climate protection sectors of the Vulkaneifel district created a project giving all regional schools and communities the possibility to convert inner-city lawns into wildflower meadows. In an overwhelming feedback, areas with a total size of ~27.000 m<sup>2</sup> were offered, of which ~8.000 m<sup>2</sup> will be converted as a first project step.

