

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2015 / 2019



Figure 1 - 2019 revalidation of the Reykjanes UGGp - Geopark representatives and GGN evaluators holding up the Bridge between continents.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 6 (3x100%, 1x50%, 2x25%) staffs including 1 geoscientist

Number of visitors: Numbers for 2019 are not yet available. Total visitors to Iceland was 2.315.925 in 2018. It's expected that the numbers of visitors for 2019 will be smaller and in line with decreasing numbers of tourists in Iceland.

Number of Geopark events: - EGN Week 2018: 7 events, 800 participants.

-8 evening outdoor activity events in cooperation with two partners, 300 participants.

-The yearly Reykjanes Geopark / Visit Reykjanes winter conference was held in the Geopark.

-Open meetings in the Geopark, with various themes for the local and other guests.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: at least 15 student groups came from abroad to visit the Geopark. Visits were conducted by GeoCamp Iceland, a Geopark partner. Number of press releases and advertisements in local and national newspapers. 9 newsletters through Visit Reykjanes. One local tv broadcast.

Number of Geopark press release: Number of press releases and advertisements in local and national newspapers. 9 newsletters through Visit Reykjanes. One local tv broadcast. Numerous social media posts etc.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Green card granted after a very successful first-time revalidation mission.
- RUGGp and Blue Lagoon signed extensive cooperation agreement.
- The development of the Geopark spokesperson (mascot) continues and a children's book and family travel map was funded.
- 5 Geoconservation/development project grants were granted.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in the 43rd EGN CC meeting in March 2019.
- Participation in the 44th EGN CC meeting in September 2019 and the 15th European Conference on European Geoparks.
- Reykjanes Geopark sent all reports to EGN/GGN.
- Published an article in the EGN magazine and sent articles for the newsletters.
- Active in the Thematic working groups "Volcanic Areas" and "Communication".

Management and Financial Status

- The Geoparks administrative board meetings in 2019 were 6 in total.
- Financial status is acceptable

Geoconservation

- The Environment Agency of Iceland provided rangers in the area from May-December 2019.
- Numerous applications for Icelandic geoconservation grants, 3 of them were approved.
- Previously ongoing development projects continued.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- 6 companies/organizations signed contract to become a Geopark Company/partner.
- Outdoors activity events hosted by the Geopark and two other partners.
- The successful partnership of RUGGp and Visit Reykjanes continues.

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

- development of new programmes is ongoing and some of them will be launched in 2020.

Strategic partnership

- national Environmental agency and RUGGp have opened a dialogue regarding the Geoparks region. Blue lagoon and RUGG signed cooperation agreement.

Promotional activities

- The geopark as the destination of Reykjanes was part of Promote Iceland and Visit Reykjanes promotional activities.

4. CONTACTS

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