

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2001 / 2019



Event for the opening of 41 new high standard hiking trails called TERRA.tracks.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 (minijobs not included)

Number of visitors: about 3 Mio

Number of Geopark events: 170 events in the printed program, 500 events on our website. Most of them not realized because of the pandemic.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: none by us

Number of Geopark press releases: about 100

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- New funding by German NatCom for members of German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks. Joint effort of German Forum to realize common projects like “Virtual travel through time” application and TERRA.vita serving as lead partner. Second project concerning exchange with potential Geoparks in Afrika. TERRA.vita responsible for special

efforts in Senegal.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in all digital meetings of EGN and GGN
- Hartmut Escher representing UGG`s in Germany as speaker and member of National Committee for Geoparks

Management and Financial Status

- Annual Budget 1.5 Mio. EUR
- New professional accounting system and controlling implemented
- Two new minijobbers employed, to do maintenance in the fields
- New pick-up truck for maintenance

Geoconservation

- Publication of a new book on the most valuable TERRAvita geosites as well as on valuable landscapes, 200 pages, edition of 2,000
- Quarry with most important geosite “Dinosaur Tracks Barkhausen” has been cleared of vegetation.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Opening of 41 new TERRA.tracks in the northern part of TERRA.vita (high standard hiking trails). Now counting for 81 new tracks together, realized in 2019 and 2020
- Printed event program with 170 events (edition of 15,000), digital event calendar with more than 500 events
- Four new bilingual TERRA.tipps (brochures about our highlights), new series of postcards
- Two hiking magazines on the new TERRA.track hiking trails and on geotourism in the region, available in local supermarkets and kiosks
- New ice age hiking trail “TERRA.track Ice Age Explorer Trail” with 10 interactive elements and information panels explaining the ice age and archaeological sites
- New booklet “Hiking passport to fun” with tasks and quizzes for children as well as a downloadable task sheet for the “TERRA.track Ice Age Explorer Trail”
- New highlight “Rock Plateau Sussum” displays a broad collection of erratics and explains the ice age by 12 information panels
- Renewal of a sauropod dinosaur model at the “Dinosaur Tracks Barkhausen” geosite
- Renewal of information panels at Piesberg
- Participation in a project developing a new mountain bike park
- Tender out by TERRA.vita for a new Geocentre at the Hügge region
- Participation in a project remodeling the Museum am Schölerberg, our central visitor center
- Participation in a project for a follow up use of a big coal mine area, closed in 2018. New implementation will include a successor of a mining history museum and a new hiking area

on closed coal mining debris deponies.

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

- First Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in February
- Development of information concept for the Piesberg area
- Environmental Education Course for the “NABU Büchen”, NGO for nature and environment protection

Strategic partnership

- We extended our formal partnership with additional outdoor educational actors just as Kubikus, Bad Essen and Gymnasium Fürstenau
- INTERREG Va project together with De Hondsrug (NL) running in time. First results visible, like 1st German/Dutch Geopark magazine and combined map.
- TERRA.vita is a new member of Regio App, a nationwide platform for regional products
- Consistent adoption of TERRA.vita topics in the marketing and wording of the municipal and regional tourism organizations
- New collaboration with the climate protection department of Osnabrück County

Promotional activities

- Visit of a delegation of the aspiring UGGp Vestjylland from Denmark in UGGp TERRA.vita
- Visit of a delegation of the National Geopark Ruhrgebiet from Germany in UGGp TERRA.vita
- New online programs for lockdown times: series of guided tours in webvideos, manuals for handcrafting with natural materials, “geopoetry” riddle challenge
- Two organized tours for journalists

4. CONTACTS

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