

Danube GeoTour

Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube
Geoparks

PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES ON DANUBE GEOTOUR MODEL IN INTERNATIONAL OR EU MEDIA (DURING THE WHOLE PROJECT DURATION)

-

1ST INTEREEM REPORT Deliverable 2.3.3

Programme: Interreg Danube Transnational Programme

PA2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region

Project Duration 01/2017 to 06/2019

www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

Responsible Partner(s): ERDF PP2 Eisenwurzen Geopark

Participating Partners: LP IHC

Author(s): Oliver Gulas, Mojca Gorjup Kavčič

Date: 6.12.2017

Version: 1.0



Vsebina

1	Press relases	3
2	Article 1	6
3	Article 2	8
4	Article 3	10
5	On-line publications	11

1 Press releases

1st announcement

Sent to EGN and GGN and published on-line.

DANUBE GEOTOUR - KICK-OFF MEETING IN IDRIJA, SLOVENIA

During 13th and 15th March 2017 the KICK-OFF MEETING OF DANUBE GEOTOUR PROJECT (Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks) will be held in IDRIJA, SLOVENIA. The first day will be public, dedicated to all partners and interested public. The event is designed to raise awareness of the objectives and activities of the project. The main objective of the project Danube geoTour is to improve management capacities and strategies and to develop practical solutions for the activation of geodiversity/geo-heritage and to seize positive market trends for sustainable tourism development in 8 Geoparks of the Danube region. The Project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

More information about the project can be found here:

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour>

or on facebook: Interreg Danube GeoTour

<http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?p=6243> – March 2017

2nd PR

Sent to EGN and GGN.

Proposal of news:

With the January 2017 the project partners in the Danube GeoTour (Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks) started to implement the project activities. In the project, co-financed by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, partners will face a challenge, recognised by all partners: the sustainable use of the exceptional wealth of Geopark natural resources and heritage through sustainable tourism development that avoids the negative environmental impacts. The main project result will be joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the regions? Geoparks and act as an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Common strategy for sustainable management of tourism pressures will form the basis for creating innovative geoproducts. Sharing experiences, testing pilot geotourism products and new interpretative approaches should increase local inhabitants' engagement, Geopark management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

There is 11 partners in the project: Idrija Heritage Centre- Idrija Geopark (SLO), as a leading partner, Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate (H), Styrian Eisenwurzen (A), Public institution »Nature Park Papuk« (HR), ARGE Geopark Karavanks (A/SLO), Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (SLO), Bakony & Balaton Regional Tourism Nonprofit Ltd. (H), Bohemian Paradise Geopark non-profit organization (CZ), University of Bucharest (RO), University of Presov (SL), Public Enterprise National Park Djerdap (SRB). Additionally there are 3 associated strategic partners in the project, that will help to ensure the high quality of implemented actions: Humanopolis ltd / Rokua Geopark (F), Naturtejo – Tourism Company (P) and Global Geoparks Network (FR).

The total value of the project, with the duration 30 months (until June 2017) is approx. 1,7 mio EUR.

Public presentation and the Kick Off meeting of all project partners will be held between 13 and 15 March 2017 in Idrija (Slovenia).

3rd PR

Sent to EGN and GGN and published on-line and in GGN Newsletter.

Proposal of news: Successful launch of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project

Kick-off meeting in Idrija, Slovenia from 13th-15th March 2017

Last week the first get-together of the project partners at the Kick-off meeting took place. All partners of the Danube GeoTour project started together in Idrija, Slovenia and presented the project to the public. The subtitle shows the goal and the challenge which the 11 partners from 8 countries are facing over the next two and a half years: »*Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks*« The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

The main project result will be joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks regions and act as an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Sharing experiences, testing pilot geotourism products and new interpretative approaches should increase local inhabitants' engagement, Geopark management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

During the Kick-off Meeting the partners set the first tasks and activities and got furthermore inputs from the three associated strategic partners in the project. They will help to ensure the high quality of implemented actions: Humanpolis ltd / Rokua Geopark (Finland), Naturtejo – Tourism Company (Portugal) and finally the Global Geoparks Network (France). In addition, the partners learned more about Idrija heritage and history during the fieldtrips and visited a local school which is working on local handmade GeoProducts.

More information about the project is available within this link: www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour



Group Picture of the Kick-Off Meeting with all three associated strategic partners and the project partners: Idrija Heritage Centre- Idrija Geopark (SLO), Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate (H), Styrian Eisenwurzen (A), Public institution »Nature Park Papuk« (HR), ARGE Geopark Karavanks (A/SLO), Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (SLO), Bakony & Balaton Regional Tourism Nonprofit Ltd. (H), Bohemian Paradise Geopark non-profit organization (CZ), University of Bucharest (RO), University of Presov (SL), Public Enterprise National Park Djerdap (SRB).

2 Article 1

14th EGN Magazine

The yearly EGN Magazine was published by Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest on behalf of the European Geoparks Network in February 2017. In the 14th EGN Magazine, the article with title “Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovenia: Succesfully connecting Geoparks within EU project” was published, which includes information about projects currently run by the LP IHC and there is a significant space dedicated to the Danube GeoTour project. The magazine is printed in 17.000 hard copies and distributed to all 68 European Geoparks.

The older issues are available: http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?page_id=395

The article in 14th EGN Magazine:



COOPERATION
EUROPEAN
GEO PARKS

Idrija UNESCO GLOBAL Geopark, Slovenia Successfully connecting Geoparks within EU Projects

Summer and autumn 2016 have been successful seasons for Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark involving the successful application for funding for the EU projects RurAll and ESTEAM, and the acceptance of the tender for the EU funded Danube GeoTour project to begin in 2017. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark therefore participates, and makes a significant contribution to the life of the EGN.

The RurAll project, co-financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, connects two former mercury mining towns, Idrija and Abbadia San Salvatore (Tuscany, Italy). The main aim of the project is to connect rural inhabitants and to increase cooperation between their municipalities, to share best practices in preserving their heritage and in creating opportunities to develop sustainable tourism in rural areas. In October a three-day excursion for our partners was organized. The programme also included a round table discussion on the challenges involved in developing rural areas, and a cultural event involving a performance by *Kanonejske punce*, a female folk singers' group. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark partners presented their contribution in the centre of Abbadia San Salvatore on the last day. Participants in the workshop also designed joint tourist programmes that will be mutually promoted following the completion of the project. The excursion has offered participants an insight into tourism development in an environment similar to Idrija Geopark and provided an opportunity to establish new contacts and connections.

The ESTEAM project, co-financed by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, involves the leading partner Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Idrija Heritage Centre), Magma Geopark and Naturtejo Geopark, one primary school from each of the three geoparks – Čmi Vrh primary school (Slovenia), Samfundets Skole (Norway) and Jose Silvestre Ribeiro (Portugal) – as well as the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Localify (Iceland) a company creating branded apps. The project started in September,



Presentation by Geopark partners in Abbadia San Salvatore.

will last three years and aims to improve the quality of teaching Science using innovative methods by combining interactive learning with outdoor activities. Based on national curricula and teachers' and students' needs, the project will provide programmes to teach Science. These will result in a mobile app used for teaching Science in primary schools.

The Danube GeoTour project, part of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, which is currently awaiting official confirmation, will begin in January 2017. It involves cooperation between several European Geoparks, including Idrija Geopark (lead partner) Bakony-Balaton, Papuk, Styrian Eisenwurzen, Karavanke/Karawanken, Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geoparks and the aspiring Djerdap Geopark. Other project partners include the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Bakony & Balaton Regional Tourism Company, University of Bucharest, University of Presov and associated strategic partners, Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark, Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark and the GGN. The project will face challenges on sustainable use of the exceptional wealth of natural resources and heritage that avoids negative environmental impacts. The main outcome will be the joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks and provide a product to raise awareness and increase tourist visits. The common strategy for sustainable management of pressures from tourism will form the basis for innovative geoproducts, to develop new approaches for the interpretation of heritage, to increase engagement with the local residents, increase geopark management capability and decrease the quality gap between the Danube region and other European Geoparks.

Mojca Gorjup Kavčič, mojca.gorjup-kavcic@geopark-idrija.si

Jaka Kenk, jaka.kenk@visit-idrija.si

Nina Erjavec, nina.erjavec@visit-idrija.si

Idrija Heritage Centre (Idrija Geopark), Ulica IX, Korpusa 17, SI - 5280 Idrija

Round table discussion concerning the challenges in developing sustainable tourism in rural areas.



Participants at the ESTEAM Kick Off Meeting, getting to know karst features – entering the underground cave Hrvatova jama on the Čmi Vrh plateau.

3 Article 2

EGN Newsletter

In EGN Newsletter Issue 8, a short article about the kick off of the Danube GeoTour project was published.

All EGN Newsletters are downloadable:

http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?page_id=3807

EGN Newsletter, Issue 8: <http://www.europeangeoparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/newsletter-8F.pdf>



sustainable tourism.

Nearly 11,000 years of human activity in the area of the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark created a cultural landscape in which ancient monuments contrast with the legacy of 200 years of industrial activity. Quarries, limekilns, tramroads, canals, coal and silica mines reflect a period in which the Geopark's geological resources were exploited for metal production in south Wales. Weathered and overgrown, these relicts of an industrial age are an integral part of the Geopark's beautiful and dramatic landscape. Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark is deeply engaged in helping to support the local economy using the landscape, its geology and industrial history as drivers for growth. Its contribution to sustainable tourism includes its engagement with local businesses through organizing workshops and fieldtrips, annually, for the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark Ambassadors scheme.

Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark (Netherlands): Group excursion – Cycling in search of the Ice Ages

The Hondsrug region is a great place to visit for a day's cycling. This group safari will take you to amazing places on the Hondsrug where the landscape still bears traces of the last Ice Age. The 17 kilometre cycle trail begins at the Hunebedcentrum in Borger. The first stop is in the village of Ees at a feature known as a 'glacial kettle' (Gletsjerkuil). Cycling through the woods around Exloo you will see eroded valleys lying along the flanks of the Hondsrug. After the last Ice Age, as summers became warmer, the snow melted and the surface of the ground began to thaw. The meltwater washed away vast quantities of mud and as that process was repeated, year in and year out, it created these wide valleys. The last stretch of this cycle safari brings you back to Borger.



Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia): Launching the Danube GeoTour project with partners

In January 2017 a project Danube GeoTour (valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks), co-financed by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, has officially started. A leading partner IHC – Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark with 10 partners and 3 associated strategic partners (several UNESCO Global Geoparks and other institutions) will together face a challenge: the sustainable use of the exceptional wealth of a Geopark's natural resources and heritage through sustainable tourism development that avoids the negative environmental impacts. The main project result will be the joint Danube GeoTour, designed to strengthen cooperation between the region's Geoparks and act as an innovative tourism product. <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danube-geotour>

Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia/Austria): We are JAKOB 2017

At the 28. International Natour Alpe-Adria fair, which was held between 1st and 4th of February 2017 at Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre, Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark received the JAKOB 2017 award. JAKOB is an international award for quality and excellence in tourism in the Alps-Adriatic region. Every year, an international expert committee selects the best candidate, who makes an important contribution to the mosaic of innovative activities in the tourism industry of the Alps-Adriatic region. This year the main topic was related to 'Innovative touristic programmes for active vacation in natural environments'. The International expert committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Janez Bogataj, a Slovenian ethnologist, selected Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark from 44 candidates from various European countries. More Information: <http://www.natour-alpeadria.si/en/for-exhibitors/jakob-award>



4 Article 3

GGN Newsletter

In GGN Newsletter 2017 Issue 1, a short article (3rd PR) about the kick off of the Danube GeoTour project was published.

All GGN Newsletters are downloadable:

<http://www.globalgeopark.org/News/Newsletter/index.htm>

Issue 1/2017:

http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017_6_22/GGN_Newsletter_2017_Issue_1.pdf

Declaration of the Spanish Geoparks Forum, FITUR 2017
Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks, Spain

In the framework of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 (IYST2017), the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks have published the booklet "GEOPARKS, the model initiative sustenance of sustainable tourism". The official presentation of this booklet was made in the International Tourism Fair FITUR (Spain), in the stand of Geoparks. In this and Geoparks have invited the society to live the experience of feeling the history of Earth. Institutional representatives and enterprises from all Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks were present. In this session, the president of the OSA, Professor Ferrazón, made a presentation on the Global Geoparks Network.

As a result of the meeting of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks in FITUR in the context of the IYST2017, the following declaration was written:

From the dawn of life and the origin of continents to the formation of our touristic valleys and lakes, the Earth has been leading a process in which its inhabitants can read and understand their history. Three pillars, based on science, technology, and history, have been prepared to guide and interest a growing society through geological time. Science that preserves our heritage today, is of interest to all. From education to sustainable development. Therefore, when supporting a Geopark, visitors not only enjoy the value of the landscape, but also feel themselves within a world ready that is transmitted through its geological heritage.

The administrative and technical signing the declaration guarantees their commitment to heritage conservation and sustainable development, and protect the geotourism model as the most innovative of its kind in the international year of sustainable tourism for development.

Madrid, FITUR, January 18, 2017
Spain is one of the countries with a higher number of UNESCO Global Geoparks. This is an example of collaboration among national UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The book "GEOPARKS, the model initiative sustenance of sustainable tourism" can be downloaded in the website of the Spanish Geoparks Forum link: <http://geoparks.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Book-GEOPARKS-en-ingles.pdf>

Antonio García-Joveral
antonio.garcia.joveral@univie.ac.at

Successful Launch of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project
Kick-off meeting in Idrja, Slovenia from 13th-15th March 2017

Last week the first get-together of the project partners at the kick-off meeting took place. All partners of the Danube GeoTour project started together in Idrja, Slovenia and presented the project to the public. The subtitle shows the goal and challenge which the 11 partners from 8 countries are facing over the next two and a half years: valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of the Danube Geoparks. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IFA).

The main project result will be joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Danube regions and act as an innovative tourism product to increase visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Diverse experiences, visiting sites, geotourism products, and new interpretative approaches could increase local inhabitants' engagement, enhance Geopark's management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

During the kick-off meeting the partners set the first tasks and activities and got furthermore input from the three associated strategic partners in the project. They will help to ensure the high quality of implemented actions. Human pilots for the Danube GeoTour are:

- Polona Geopark (France), Hahnenkamm National Park (Austria) and
- Touraine Geopark (Portugal) and
- Italy: the Global Geoparks Network (GPN). In addition, the partners learned more about Idrja heritage and history during the fieldtrip and visited a local school which is working on local handmade GeoProducts.

More information about the project is available within this link: www.interreg-danube.eu/interreg-geo-tour

Other Geoparks:
www.gpn@univie.ac.at
Natur und Geopark Donau-Donauweinsbucht
www.donau-geopark.com

5 On-line publications

5.1 European Geoparks Network

<http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?p=6243>



Geoparks
11 European zones working together to conserve and valorise their geological heritage through the integrated and sustainable development of their territories, are pleased to welcome you to the website of the European Geoparks Network.

Home - Welcome - Activities - Publications - Events - Organization - Join G&MEGN

Home » Events » News » DANUBE GEOTOUR – KICK-OFF MEETING IN IDRİJA UNESCO Global Geopark, SLOVENIA

DANUBE GEOTOUR – KICK-OFF MEETING IN IDRİJA UNESCO Global Geopark, SLOVENIA

During 13th and 15th March 2017 the KICK-OFF MEETING OF DANUBE GEOTOUR PROJECT (valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks) was held in IDRİJA UNESCO Global Geopark, SLOVENIA.

The first day was public, dedicated to all partners and interested public. The event is designed to raise awareness of the objectives and activities of the project.

The main objective of the project Danube GeoTour is to improve management capacities and skills/competences and to develop practical solutions for the activation of geo-heritage and to seize positive market trends for sustainable tourism development in Geoparks of the Danube region.

Partners are 5 UNESCO Global Geoparks and 1 supporting Geopark through their management bodies as well as Universities and Public Institutions.

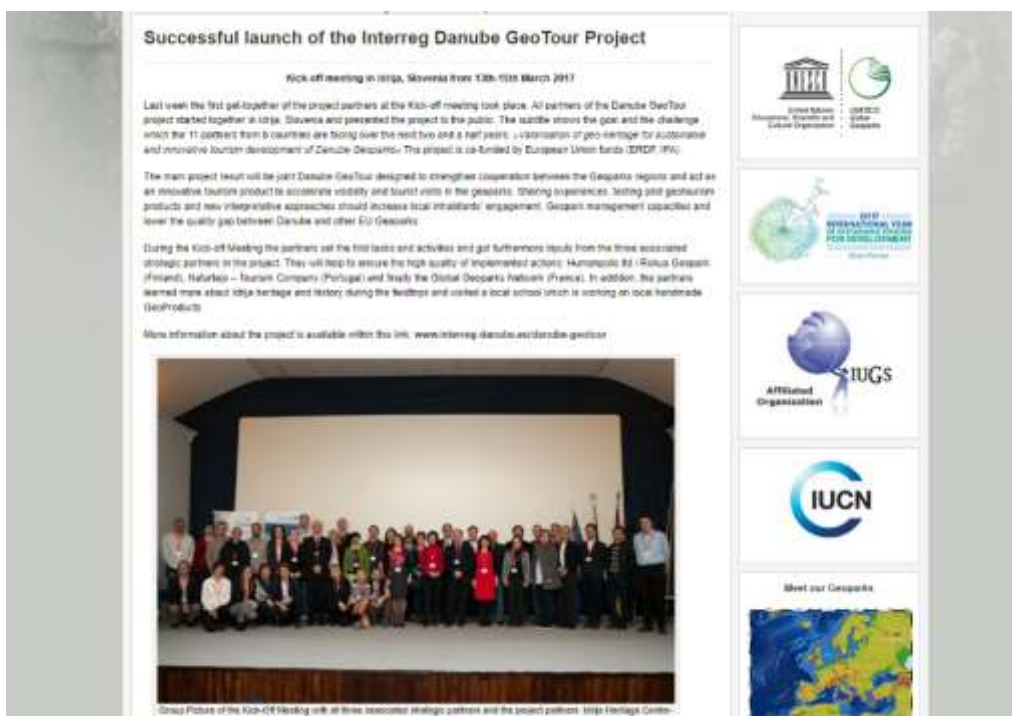
Associated partners are 2 UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

The Project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IFV).

More information about the project can be found here:
<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour>
or on facebook: [Interreg Danube GeoTour](#)

Logos: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO Global Geoparks, Interreg Danube Transnational Programme Danube GeoTour, IUGS Affiliated Organisation, IUCN.

<http://www.europeangeoparks.org/?p=6425>



Successful launch of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project

Kick-off meeting in Idrija, Slovenia from 13th-15th March 2017

Last week the first get-together of the project partners at the Kick-off meeting took place. All partners of the Danube GeoTour project started together in Idrija, Slovenia and presented the project to the public. The meeting shows the goal and the challenge which the 11 partners from 8 countries are facing over the next two and a half years: valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IFV).

The main project result will be joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks regions and act as an innovative tourism product to increase visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Sharing experiences, testing joint geotourism products and new interpretative approaches should increase local inhabitants' engagement. Geopark management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

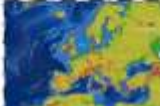
During the Kick-off Meeting the partners set the first tasks and activities and got furthermore inputs from the three associated strategic partners in the project. They will help to ensure the high quality of implemented actions: Hantropolis 83 (Rovani Geopark) (France), Naturpark – Tourism Company (Portugal) and French the Global Geoparks Network (France). In addition, the partners learned more about Idrija heritage and history during the visit and visited a local school which is working on local handmade (Geo)Products.

More information about the project is available within the link: www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour

Group Picture of the Kick-off Meeting with all those associated strategic partners and the project partners: Idrija Heritage Centre.

Logos: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO Global Geoparks, IUGS Affiliated Organisation, IUCN.

Meet our Geoparks



5.2 Global Geoparks Network

<http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=1877>



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK
International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK WEBSITE ABOUT NEWS MEMBERS JOIN GGN FAQs CONTACT LINKS

News Home News

Successful launch of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project

Kick-off meeting in Idrija, Slovenia from 13th-19th March 2017

Last week the first get-together of the project partners at the Kick-off meeting took place. All partners of the Danube GeoTour project started together in Idrija, Slovenia and presented the project to the public. The subtitle shows the goal and the challenge which the 11 partners from 8 countries are facing over the next two and a half years: *Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks*. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

The main project result will be Joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks regions and act as an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Sharing experiences, testing pilot geotourism products and new interpretative approaches should increase local inhabitants' engagement, Geopark management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

During the Kick-off Meeting the partners set the first tasks and activities and got furthermore inputs from the three associated strategic partners in the project. They will help to ensure the high quality of implemented actions: Humanparks Ltd / Rieuska Geopark (Finland), Naturtejo – Tourism Company (Portugal) and finally the Global Geoparks Network (France). In addition, the partners learned more about Idrija heritage and history during the fieldtrips and visited a local school which is working on local

LATEST NEWS

- About Funding Delegates from Developing Countries to Participate in the 5th APGN Symposium
- Calendar of Events
- 39th Coordination Committee Meeting – Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark 23-28 March, 2017

LIKE US!

Global Geopark... 862 likes

You and 12 other friends like this

