

Geoparks: is it possible in Latvia and Lithuania?

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Interreg



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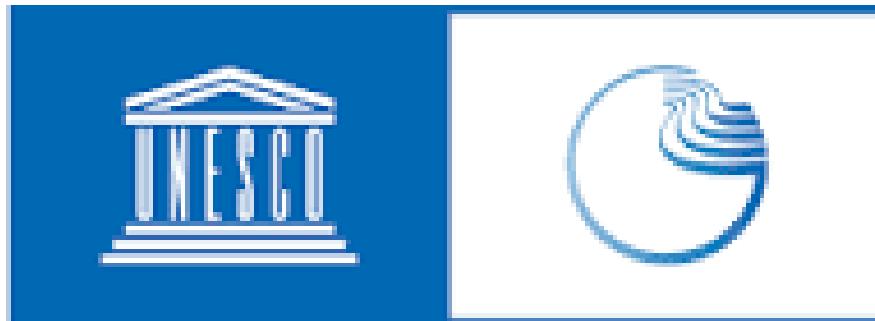
Latvia – Lithuania





What is Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.



“Landscapes and geological formations are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future sustainable development.”

Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

unesco
Global Geopark



Geological heritage of international value

In order to become a UNESCO Global Geopark, the area must have geological heritage of international value. This is assessed by scientific professionals, as part of the "UNESCO Global Geopark Evaluation Team". Based on the international peer-reviewed, published research conducted on the geological sites within the area, the scientific professionals make a globally comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites constitute international value.

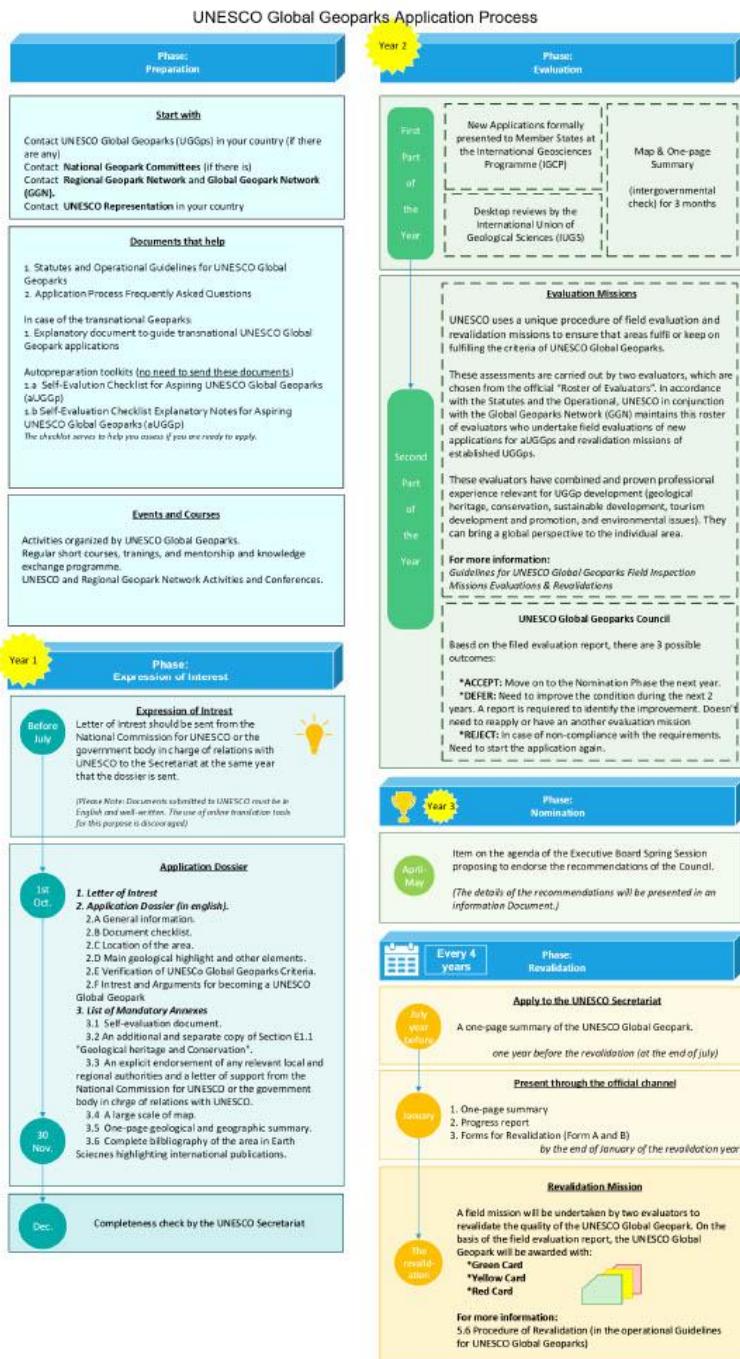
Is there any criteria?

- UNESCO Global Geoparks must be single, unified geographical areas;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks should use that heritage, in connection with all other aspects of that area's natural and cultural heritage, to promote awareness of key issues facing society;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks should be areas with a management body having legal existence recognized under national legislation;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks should actively involve local communities and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders in the Geopark;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to share their experience and advice and to undertake joint projects within the GGN. Membership of GGN is obligatory;
- UNESCO Global Geopark must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage;
- In the case where an applying area overlaps with another UNESCO designated site, such as a World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve, the request must be clearly justified and evidence must be provided for how UNESCO Global Geopark status will add value by being both independently branded and in synergy with the other designations



How to apply?

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat coordinates the proposal submissions





How to apply?

A successful UNESCO Global Geopark application should at least demonstrate that:

- It has geological heritage of international value and is managed by a body with legal recognition under national legislation.
- The management body should include all relevant stakeholders, including partners and scientific, local and indigenous (if any) communities.
- It has a comprehensive management plan, covering governance, development, communication, protection, infrastructure, finance, and partnership issues.
- It is in regular contact with other UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as with the Global Geoparks Network.
- Its geological heritage is connected with its cultural and natural heritage, and this connection is used for educational purposes, awareness raising, and informing visitors and locals alike.
- It is a single unified territory – no interrupted borders; the entire territory should be involved in the Geopark's activities.
- If the Geopark project is closer than 100km from an existing UNESCO Global Geopark, ensure that an independent study is undertaken to demonstrate the geological difference and possible complementarity with that Geopark.
- The Geopark engages in appropriate branding, visibility and communication efforts, to both visitors and local people through a dedicated website, signposts, panels, museums, geopark corners, visitor centers, leaflets, and detailed map of the area that connects the area's geological and other sites. An aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark must have a corporate identity, differentiating it from other designations or protected areas in the vicinity.



Is it big family of Global Geoparks?

At present, there are [229 UNESCO Global Geoparks](#) in 50 countries.





Is it beneficiary?

- UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.
- Global Geoparks help to promote region;
- Stimulate generation of new revenue sources through geotourism;
- Accelerate close partnership between local communities, municipalities, companies, park administrations and another stockholders;
- Growing up understanding of geology and landscape values, importance for sustainable development;
- Create opportunities for international cooperation





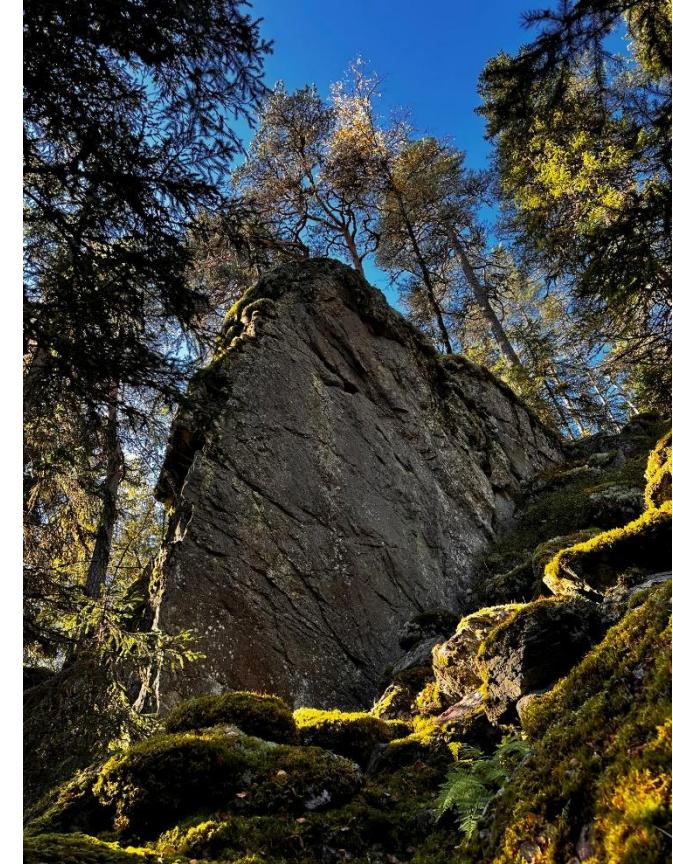
Who can help in the process? Finnish experience

UNESCO designated Salpausselkä Geopark, situated in the Lahti region in southern Finland, tells the story of the best-known geological entity of Finland. The First and Second Salpausselkä are unique ice-marginal formations laid down by ancient meltwater streams at the end of the Ice Age. They reach across the entirety of southern Finland and are at their most spectacular in the area of Salpausselkä Geopark. Here they are joined to eskers of international value, such as the picturesque Kelvenne Island and Pulkkilanhajarju Esker in Päijänne National Park





How can be useful geoformations for local economy? Finnish experience



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 Salpausselkä
Geopark
FINLAND

 unesco
Global Geopark



How can be useful geoformations for local economy? Finnish experience



<https://www.lahti.fi/en/news/unesco-global-geopark-designation-to-salpausselka-geopark/>



<https://visitlahti.fi/en/frontpage/salpausselka-geopark/pre-tours-in-salpausselka-geopark/>

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Is it possible to have Global Geopark in LT an LV?



Maybe UNESCO Geopark can be here?



Is it possible to have Global Geopark in LT an LV?



Or here?

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Have Kurzeme areas known as international geological significance?

<https://www.copernicus.eu/en/media/image-day-gallery/latvia-slitere-national-park>



What we can do now?

- Start to understand what UNESCO Global Geopark system is;
- Find protentional areas for Global Geopark;
- Collect data about geological structures and valuable landscapes, rich of geological heritage;
- Start discussions with local players to find most balanced opportunities;
- JUST ACT, DON'T BE AFRAID, BE PATIEN, MOVE FORVARD!!!!

THANK YOU!

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