Why choose UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) in Portugal to do research?

Research in UGGp

1945

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that promotes international collaboration through educational, scientific and cultural programmes.

UNESCO, founded during World War II, seeks to create the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity through the promotion of human rights, justice, and the rule of law, as the ultimate aim of peace, and has been a leading voice in the world for the promotion of education as a right for everyone.

The Geoparks Network is a network of sites with a strong focus on the sustainable development of their territories, based on the enhancement of their natural heritage, culture and geodiversity, promoting the creation of new economic opportunities and the development of local communities.

2015

These territories, due to their characteristics, allow for the implementation of local development strategies, based on the enhancement of their natural heritage, culture and geodiversity, promoting the creation of new economic opportunities and the development of local communities, while ensuring the conservation of the natural heritage and the dissemination of knowledge to the public. In fact, the Geoparks Network is a bottom-up initiative, in which the local communities are the main actors in the implementation of the development strategy, based on the local heritage.

In 2015, UNESCO formalized the creation of UNESCO World Geoparks Network, defining these as territories with a strong focus on the sustainable development of their territories, based on the enhancement of their natural heritage, culture and geodiversity, promoting the creation of new economic opportunities and the development of local communities, while ensuring the conservation of the natural heritage and the dissemination of knowledge to the public. In fact, the Geoparks Network is a bottom-up initiative, in which the local communities are the main actors in the implementation of the development strategy, based on the local heritage.

Researching in Portugal

Research and education assume a transversalness place in the UNESCO Global Geoparks, as a fundamental tool for the sustainable development of these territories, which seek to have institutions covers all scientific fields, from natural to social sciences, and also cultural and artistic expressions, in which the local communities are the main actors in the implementation of the development strategy. The positioning reflects the effort and results of the Portuguese Geoparks in the promotion of research and education in the territory.

The implementation of UNESCO Geoparks in Portugal has been a catalyst for the creation of new jobs, the attraction of new investments and the development of new economic activities, based on the enhancement of the local natural heritage and culture, and on the development of local economic activities with scientific knowledge and technological innovation, which ensure the sustainability of the local economic activities and the protection of the local natural heritage.

UGGp in Portugal

2006

The first Geopark in Portugal was created, in 2006, in the Azores Archipelago, the Azores Geopark, which was the first Geopark in the Atlantic Ocean and the first Geopark in the Portuguese Speaking Countries (PSC). Since then, the Portuguese Geoparks Network has been growing and now it covers territories in the Azores, Madeira, Central Portugal and in the Portuguese Mainland.

2009

Arouca Geopark was created in 2009, in the Portuguese Mainland, being the fourth Geopark in the Portuguese Speaking Countries.

2013

In 2013 it became the Arouca Geopark the first Geopark in the Portuguese Mainland to be accepted in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

2014

The Madeira Geopark was created in 2014, being the fifth Geopark in the Portuguese Speaking Countries (PSC).

2020

The Madeira Geopark, the Azores Geopark and the Arouca Geopark are the only three Geoparks in Portugal, which are fully integrated in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, giving the opportunity to the Portuguese Geoparks to be part of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, which is a bottom-up initiative, in which the local communities are the main actors in the implementation of the development strategy, based on the local heritage.

Figure 1 – UNESCO Global Geoparks in Portugal

Arouca UGGp

The Arouca Global Geopark, a relevance and a personal commitment to the preservation of the natural heritage, culture and geodiversity, is located in the Portuguese Mainland, in the Arouca Geopark Network of Schools, Universities and Research Centers, which aims to promote the knowledge of the Arouca Geopark, the Portuguese Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, through the Arouca Geopark Study Week and the Arouca Geopark Teacher Training Course, which are two important initiatives in the field of education and training, which are carried out every year, with the participation of teachers and students from all over the country and from other countries, in a dynamic and interactive way, with the aim of promoting the knowledge of the Arouca Geopark and the Portuguese Geoparks Network, and also the sustainable development in the field of education.

Research areas in the Arouca's UGGp

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Geology and Geomorphology

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Mining and Metallurgy

Cultural Heritage and Ethnography

Agriculture and Forestry Studies

Environment and Nature Studies