

### UNESCO Global Geoparks as key territories for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 of the United Nations

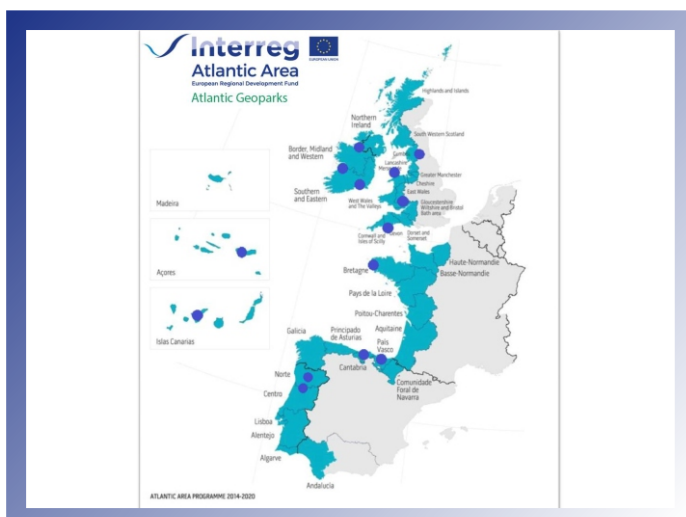


For more than a decade now and all over the world, UNESCO Global Geoparks have campaigned for a holistic understanding of our planet and its evolution. Their environmental education and awareness programmes place a special emphasis on conveying these natural interrelationships and the impact Man has on these. The Geoparks create their initiatives and projects together with the people of the region. Their international activities are an opportunity for exchanging ideas with partners around the world. In this context, they transform the SDG's 2030, which focus on a better coexistence of all people and our planet in a social, economic and ecological context, into hands-on activities and projects. In this way, they contribute to raising awareness of the people living in Geoparks about these goals in a clear and understandable manner. Thus the UNESCO Global Geoparks provide an ideal platform for implementing and supporting the philosophy and aims of the SDG's 2030.

### How UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe support the SDG's 2030

#### Adamello Brenta Unesco Global Geopark (Italy) for Sustainable Development Goal 2030: (Goal 15)

Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark held a scientific awareness raising show called "Trentino Natura: special event on Biodiversity". Four hundred people discovered, through interviews with experts and guests, music, songs and dance, the complexity of this concept and why it is important and should be preserved. Among the guests, the Bishop of Trento, illustrating Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Creation "Laudato si'", urged the audience with these very applauded words: "Let the thoughts go and make the public opinion move, because only if it moves we can direct the choices of the leaders of the Earth. The world needs thoughts more than ever."



#### Atlantic Geoparks: Connecting 10 Geoparks and 3 partners in 4 countries (Goal 8, 16 and 17)

Supported by the GGN ten European Geoparks along with two aspiring Geoparks and the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro have been awarded funding by the EU INTERREG Atlantic Area Programme for a transnational economic, cultural and sustainable tourism development project. The project aims to promote and disseminate the geological and cultural heritage of the Atlantic Geoparks. Through a series of work packages the project will develop: management toolkits, support for aspiring Geoparks, a geodiversity conservation charter, geotourism monitoring system, an online presence with social networking, innovative ICT tools, community engagement programmes and a Cultural Route for the Council of Europe. Participating Geoparks: Arouca Geopark (Portugal), Azores Geopark (Portugal), Forest Fawr Geopark (UK), Marble Arch Geopark (Ireland), Basque Coast Geopark (Spain), Lanzarote Geopark (Spain), North Pennines AONB Geopark (UK), Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark (Ireland), Copper Coast Geopark (Ireland), GeoMon Geopark (UK)

### Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): In memory of the 1718 A.D. eruption (Goals 4, 16)

In 2018 the Azores UGG, in partnership with the Pico Natural Park, the Pico Museum and the São João Parish Council, generated several activities to commemorate the eruption 300 years ago on Pico Mountain Volcano, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest volcano in the North Atlantic. This eruption resulted in a significant disruption in the lives of the Pico islanders and also created important geosites, the locally named "Mistérios" of Santa Luzia and São João, with its rocky lava flow landscapes. These activities include: i) public meetings including a round-table discussion with the local population and the lecture "Mistérios" of Pico Island: Volcanoes that shaped Man and History"; ii) the walking trail "Mistérios do Sul do Pico" with an interpretation of the local natural and cultural heritage, iii) several actions to raise awareness about volcanic eruptions at the schools of Pico Island. Also, in 2018 a set of two information panels highlighting the 1718 volcanic eruption will be placed at two popular recreational forest areas and geosites of the Azores UGG.



### The Basque Coast Unesco Global Geopark (Spain) is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goals 1 – 17)

The Basque UNESCO network (EHUS) is a network of 19 public and private Basque institutions linked to UNESCO: ASPnet Schools, UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Centres, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks and World Heritage Sites, etc. At EHUS, we believe that the Sustainable Development Agenda, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), call upon us, as Basque citizens, to commit to and coordinate our efforts to articulate a Basque Agenda 2030 which will strive to achieve these goals, both here and at a global level. The meeting, led and facilitated by members of the Basque Coast Geopark on 6 November, was attended by a broad range of political and social representatives.

### Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy): Promoting 2018 European Year for Cultural Heritage (Goals 4, 11)

The Beigua Geopark will promote the cultural heritage of its own area, with strong support from its ten Municipalities, by developing a special programme of events. These will accompany visitors all the year round to discover the territory through history, culture and traditions that can be enjoyed in museums, through monuments and events. This initiative is also designed to affirm a broad and integrated promotion of the local heritage and to consolidate the identity of the Beigua's valleys. Moreover, the programme, as part of the activities the Beigua Geopark, intends to comply consistently with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 with particular reference to Goal 4 (target 4.7, about the appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development) and Goal 11 (target 11.4, to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the cultural and natural heritage).



### Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): How we implement and communicate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 (Goals 1 – 17)

UNESCO has declared the UNESCO Global Geoparks as model territories for the implementation and communication of the SDG's 2030. In this context, the Geopark has implemented a series of activities: The Geopark's website includes the SDG platform, which offers basic information about the goals, examples of best practice related to specific goals and helpful links for achieving a more sustainable life. This platform will be available to local communities and stakeholders to present their own SDG projects. Articles in the Geopark's magazine regularly inform readers about SDG related activities in the Geopark. Vocational training for the Geopark Rangers and Geopark on-site guides will additionally ensure that the SDG's 2030 are experienced as an integral part of the Geopark's communication and philosophy. More information: [www.geopark.de](http://www.geopark.de)

## Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland): Launching Destination Management Guides (Goal 8)

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark recently launched outputs from their EULIFE project. During the five year project a partnership of state agencies, local community and business groups worked to develop a model for sustainable tourism destination development. The model aims to balance tourism development with heritage conservation in high nature value destinations. The partnership launched a series of destination-managed 'how to' guides and a series of online tools that tackle three areas of sustainable destination development: working with tourism businesses, managing heritage sites, developing stakeholder partnership skills. Guides can be downloaded from the Geopark website and are adaptable to other destinations. <http://www.burrengeopark.ie/geopark-life/guides-and-toolkits/>



## Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): 3<sup>rd</sup> Environmental and Sports Meeting of Lake Tsivlou (Goals 3, 4, 13, 17)

Aigialeia Municipality, with the collaboration of the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark, will organize in 2018 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Environmental and Athletic Meeting at Tsivlos Lake in Greece. Together the Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark and the Environmental Education Centre of Kleitoria-Akrata guide the participants and inform them about the ecological interest of the area. The members of the Pedagogy Team of the Environmental Education Centre of Kleitoria - Akrata engage in activities with environmental laboratories and games for children. The Road Race, Around Tsivlou Lake, has a large number of competitors while the spectators participate in archery lessons, kayaking, rafting, kayaking in two-person inflatable kayaks, flying fox and exhibitions concerned with various local products, traditional recipes and products associated with the local gastronomy. According to the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the Geopark will contribute to the following: Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, Goal 4: Quality Education, Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal, Stay informed at [www.fdcchelmos.gr](http://www.fdcchelmos.gr)

## Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen (Austria): New training documents for guides. (Goal 4)

The UNESCO Global Geopark team is working very closely together with all geological sites. The main Geopark site is the GeoVillage Gams including the famous Kraus Cave, the Noth Gorge, a GeoWorkshop and a GeoCentre. In January 2018 staff members of the Geopark had the possibility to complete new training documents for the guides in the GeoVillage Gams. Now all partners hope to gain new guides especially for school and student groups as well as raising the quality of teaching about the geodiversity in the area, nature protection and cultural heritage. Figure Caption: An example of a guided tour in the Noth Gorge at the GeoVillage Gams – The colleagues of other European Geoparks are very interested – Copyright Udo Gattenlöhner



## Harz-Braunschweiger-Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Art combines (Goals 4, 8)

In 2018, art lovers can look forward to attractive exhibitions in the area of the UNESCO Global Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen. A general prospectus concerning special exhibitions presents the recently produced leaflet "Modern art in the UNESCO Global Geopark". A first-class exhibition can be visited, for example, in the Art House Meyenburg in Nordhausen. Under the title "Artists see literature", works by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso and others can be viewed by visitors from 15<sup>th</sup> September. The leaflet is available in all participating museums, in selected Geopark information centres, in the Geopark offices and online: <http://www.harzregion.de/de/shop.html>

## De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark (Netherlands): Discover Prehistoric Groningen (Goals 4, 9)

May 2017 saw the opening of the POP-UP cycle route 'Discover Prehistoric Groningen'. The route runs through the northern part of the Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark. POP-UPs are places along the route which tell the story of the unique geological development, archaeological importance and varied cultural landscape of the Hondsrug region. The route links together Hunebeds, the 3,400 – 2850 BC burial monuments of the Funnel Beaker People, churches, windmills, collapsed pingos, old farmhouses, a botanical garden and a former monastery. Each of the POP-UPs is marked by a beach flag and is open when the flag is flying. Visitors are invited to get off their bikes, take a look around and learn more about the POP-UP.

Information: [m.deterd@dehondsrug.nl](mailto:m.deterd@dehondsrug.nl) [www.dehondsrug.nl](http://www.dehondsrug.nl)

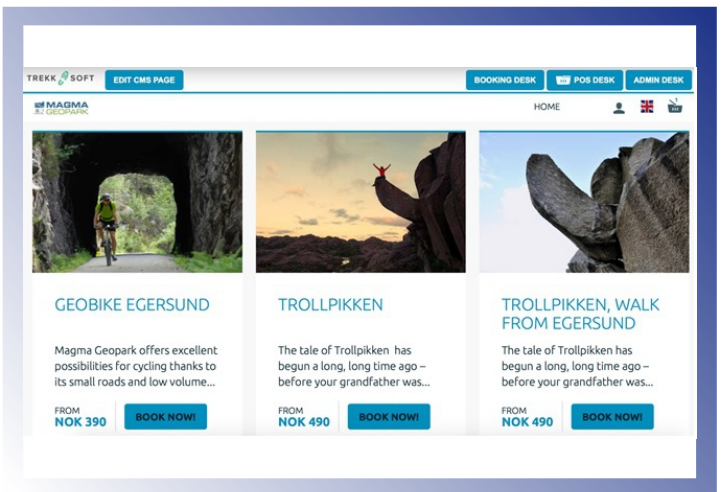


## Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland): Planning for a sustainable future (Goals 8, 16)

Katla UNESCO Global Geopark together with NOHNIK Landscape and Architecture have made a Destination Management Plan for the Geopark. A sudden increase in tourism within the area has called for management with a holistic approach and well established infrastructure to protect vulnerable landscapes. Local stakeholders, travel operators, government agencies and landowners, participated in three workshops, exchanging their concerns and contributions. The conclusions, together with results of the high level response to a published online survey, were included in the 250-page final report. This will serve as the foundation for future planning of the Geopark and its geosites and will be incorporated in the municipalities' master plans – promoting cooperation on sustainable tourism in the area.

## Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway): Environmental tourist activities (Goals 4, 8)

Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (MGP), located in South West of Norway, is actively working to promote and valorize the area within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The "Climate action" goal is one of the Geopark's areas of activities. Last year Magma Geopark strengthened the connection with the regions and stakeholders to establish a common strategy for green transport combined with tourism activities. From next summer Magma Geopark's tourism provision can be accessed and booked through the MGP webpage ([www.magmageopark.com](http://www.magmageopark.com)) and other tourist portals. The booking system allows visitors to book their tour using the advice and expertise of one of the twelve MGP professional guides. MGP tourism offers are focused on outdoor environmentally friendly activities like hiking, climbing and biking. Innovative educational activities are also available, such as the virtual experience within geoVR interactive exhibition at the Magma Global Geopark office in the centre of Egersund.



## Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany/Poland): Transformation of a mining area (Goals 8, 9, 15)

In a joint project, five UNESCO sites from Poland and Germany will contribute to the structural change in the Lusatian border region. On the initiative of the youngest member of the UNESCO sites, the Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa Geopark, established a joint project to transform the current mining region as a ground-breaking, attractive and lively area in line with the aims and principles of the UN Agenda 2030.

## Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Assessment of the instability hazard of granite boulders in the historical village of Monsanto (Goal 9)

The historical village of Monsanto is a National Monument, a popular tourist attraction, with annually thousands of visitors to the UNESCO Naturtejo Global Geopark. Its uniqueness derives from the mimetic granite architecture which uses the space between (and sometimes under) the boulder field that covers the steep slopes of an impressive inselberg. Some of these large boulders weighing tons to thousands of tons are naturally unstable or become unstable due to construction works. The municipality of Idanha-a-Nova together and the Geopark are working with the Instituto D. Luiz of the University of Lisbon and the Technical Institute of Lisbon to map and assess the instability hazard of boulders in the urban and peripheral area of Monsanto. Professors Isabel Fernandes and Teresa Freitas are using drone and LIDAR technology for outlining a plan to prevent sliding and toppling of boulders, as well as predicting their hazardous trajectories.



## A new partnership between the Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy) and the school (Goal 4, 8, 17)

As part of its educational activities, Rocca di Cerere Geopark has established a cooperation with the secondary school "Federico II" of Enna. The school has the largest student enrollment in the Geopark and offers a focus on tourism. The cooperation is established within the framework of the Erasmus + Programme "Agenda 2030: That's our Challenge". The project will include exchanges between schools in Italy, Greece, France and Spain. A particular emphasis has been placed on the link between sustainable development and geological heritage as elements for environmental, economic and social growth and on geo-tourism as potential for creating new fulfilling jobs.

## Sierra Norte UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Environmental Participation and Sensitization Programme 2017-2018 (Goal 15)

Natural Park Sierra Norte de Sevilla UGG initiated the Environmental Participation and Sensitization Programme 2017-2018, framed in No. 15 Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (*Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems*), with the following objectives: increase knowledge and create actions to improve the heritage of the UGG; involve the local population in the promotion and conservation of their natural resources; learn about the conservation of natural and rural spaces, and provide opportunities for sustainable development; facilitate the participation of citizens and the integration of social participants in the resolution of environmental problems in the UGG.

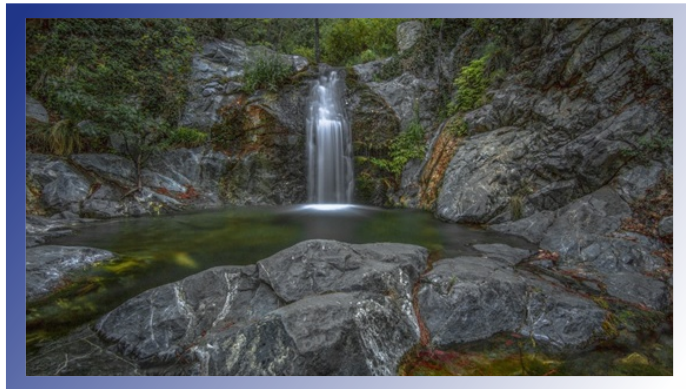


## Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): Palaeontology and Geotourism (Goal 8)

The rich geological and paleontological history of Sitia Geopark offers the ideal background for the development of geotourism. The oldest fossils in Greece consisting of plant remains from the Carboniferous Period (~300 million years old) have been found in the Geopark. The Miocene Era, is represented by one of the most impressive and important fossils *Deinotherium giganteum*, a large elephant with downward curving tusks. Deer (*Candiacervus cretensis*), Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus creutzburgi*), elephants (*Elephas antiquus*), mice (*Kritimys catreus*) of the Pleistocene era, complete the palaeontological richness of Sitia Geopark providing the visitor with a unique experience for a trip through time.

### Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Integration of the "Week of the Partners of the Mine Road Map and Points of Interest in Mining and Geology of Portugal" (Goals 8, 16)

Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark integrates, once again between 19- 25 March, the "Week of Partners of the Roadmap of Mines and Points of Mining and Geological Interest of Portugal". During this week, the Geopark offers activities, which will provide an introduction to some of the "secrets" that integrate this UNESCO Global Geopark. From North to South of the country, and in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, all partners propose to deliver multiple and diversified activities. The scientific dissemination associated with geology and mines and the exploitation of the development potential of the territories associated with exploration activities are the main objectives of the Mine Road Map and Points of Interest for the Mining and Geological Interest of Portugal. This project is promoted by the General Direction of Energy and Geology, by the Mine Road Map and Points of Interest for the Mining and Geological Interest of Portugal, and more than three dozen other entities that join the initiative annually.

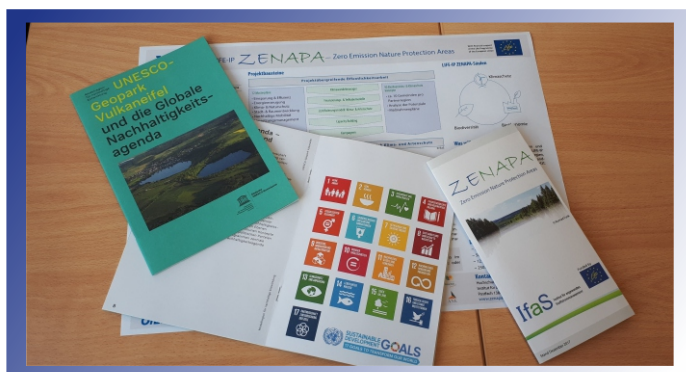


### Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Cyprus): The Greek-Cypriot Geoparks' network (Goals 9, 16, 17)

2018 is going to be a very significant year for Troodos Geopark since many actions will be implemented through the new programme that has been approved and concerns the Greek-Cypriot Geoparks' Network. Meetings, printed and digital material for promoting project, events, workshops, geo-tourism activities, the production of children's material, cultural and sporting activities, exhibitions, and conferences are some of the actions to be taken within the next years as part of the project. Moreover, many sports activities are being planned until June 2018 in collaboration with recognized professionals in the area aiming to promote the alternative tourism that Troodos Geopark can offer to any visitor such as hiking, sport and traditional climbing, cycling etc.

### Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): EDUSITES - Educative sites (Goal 4).

What if the activities carried out in the Geocentros (educational centres in Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UGG) become permanent sites with an educational and touristic value? Last year, talks and workshops about the geological time finished in a 20 m long piece of street art illustrating major events in the History of the Earth and highlighting the most important geological and biological events in our geopark. This and other similar activities planned for 2018 (e.g. a garden with traditional games based in geosites, fauna-flora graffiti, a stratigraphic climbing wall and others) will be identified as EDUSITES, sites that translate the Geopark from schools to the public.

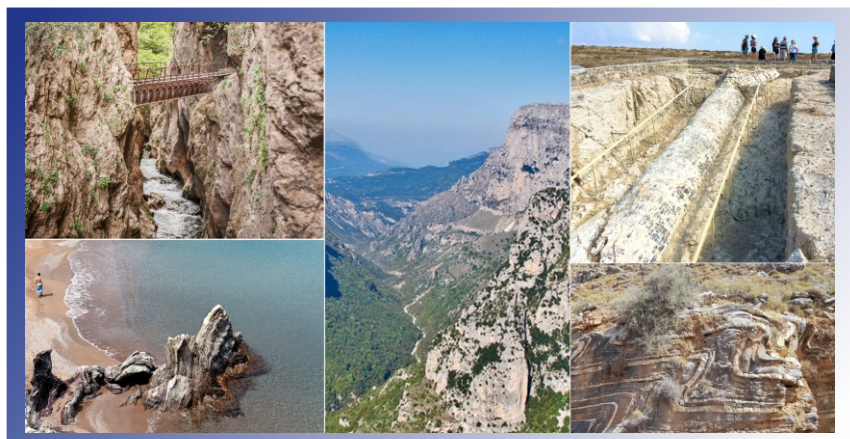


### Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): The LIFE-IP ZENAPA Project (Goals 7, 11, 13, 15, 16)

With Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark's participation in the LIFE-IP funded project ZENAPA, the region contributes simultaneously to a number of SDG's. The main focus of the project is concerned with climate and the creation of CO2 neutral large-scale protection areas but will also consider issues involved with biodiversity and the bio-economy . However, the proposed actions will further contribute towards achieving the goals of cleaner energy, more sustainable and resilient communities, improved regional added value and new partnerships. Currently a number of actions are in preparation involving local climate change and biodiversity concepts in 10 villages and conferences on climate change for children.

## Agenda/Calendar ●●●●●

Important Dates for the Calendar column (May - September):



### 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GEOPARKS OF GREECE AND CYPRUS

The 1st International Conference on Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus will be held on **May 17th and May 18th, 2018** in Athens. The aim of the conference is to present the Geoparks' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. During the conference the involvement and the role of the Geoparks in sustainable local development, the promotion of geo-tourism, the contribution of the Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus to environmental education and raising citizen awareness concerning the transfer of good practices and actions for the protection and conservation of the natural heritage will be discussed and emphasized. The conference is organized by the Greek National Committee for UNESCO and the Cyprus National Committee for UNESCO, supported by the Governments of Greece and Cyprus, Regions and Municipalities within regions that already have or wish to create Geoparks, the Hellenic Geoparks Forum, Geoparks of Cyprus and Greece as well as Universities, Museums and Scientific Institutes.



### 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS IN ADAMELLO BRENTA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK (ITALY)

The 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place in the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, in Trentino Province, north-eastern Italy, **from 11th to 14th September 2018**. A special programme for persons accompanying the delegates will be organized during the Conference, with excursions, activities and guided tours in order to experience and discover the geological, natural and cultural distinctiveness of the Adamello Brenta UGG. Pre and Post Conference Tours are organised together with