



CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

In this issue: – I National Congress on Rural Tourism at the Geopark – Environment Festival join children from the Geopark – European Geoparks Celebration comes to an end – Naturtejo in the Festival of the Tejo Flavors – Thematic walks invite solidarity...and more!



Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello/Ahoj/Helo/Helló/ Hei/
Dia duit/Bok/Kaixo/Pozdravljeni/Czesc/Halló/Merhaba

Geo-histories of our places and people: Amieira

Amieira cuddles up itself in a tangle of small water streams which, turning their back to the deep Zêzere valley, go down towards south to meet the Sendinho de Santo Amaro Stream. In an area of 26,29km² we can find four small villages, Amieira, Abitureira, Urraca and Sendinho da Senhora, which altogether number a total of 116 inhabitants. The remaining is a thick dark-green shroud confounding itself with the fog, shaped in the great valley. The Zêzere river reposes 300 metres below in the Cabril reservoir, a major geomonument to the modelling power of the water in the landscape. Life in those places is made of stone walls and, besides them, of forest and silence that covers all the hedges, among the most spectaculars that can be found in the valleys. The timeless Bridge of Felgueiras, reminds mythological contexts of good and evil, common in the north of the country, and where's no absence of a magnificent waterfall that a perpetual weir cannot hold. The hydraulic mills or the press bring together the memory and the silence. Many are the stories to be told between walls and schist paths, in the appeasing shadow of the alder trees.

Amieira is one more case of potential for silence tourism in this country region. The Vale de Moses project is, concerning this detail, paradigmatic. An English couple rebuilt 4 traditional houses. They linked agriculture of biologic production to a physical space that breeds nature. The result is a "yogā retreat", which takes part of the international circuits. People of the entire globe are meeting in Amieira, in Vale de Moses. Other valleys of this immense schist labyrinth stay suspended in time, waiting to be filled with fresh and innovative ideas.

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Front page: (Objectiva: Geopark Project)

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



1 June – 8th Estreito Footpaths under the Festival of the Landscape 2014. The Children's Day was celebrated in the village of Estreito with the 8th edition of the Estreito Footpaths. Several dozens of people participated in this local hiking celebration. This edition circumscribed some of the peripheral areas of Estreito. In the end there was an inviting lunch followed by a social meeting.



5 June – Environment Fest reunites students from the Geopark. The celebrations for the Environment Fest gathered more than one hundred youngsters, coming from 10 different schools of 5 municipalities integrating the Geopark. The event hosted a program oriented for the environmental sensitization and for the disclosure of territorial heritage values, yet aiming for an important conviviality between young people of different ages. In the scope of the Environment Fest hosted by Naturtejo Geopark and the Municipality of Vila Velha de Ródão, took place: the opening for the exhibit of 34 works presented for contest with the delivery of the awards for the 9 winning groups (74 students), the presentation of the winning works, the guided tour to the Fossil Trunks in the House of Arts, a boat ride to the Gates of Rodão Natural Monument and the visit to the Tagus Rock Art Interpretation Centre. The monitors of the activities were Hugo Oliveira, Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana.



6 June – Opening of the Exhibit “Perspectives on the Ponsul River”, disclosure and delivery of the awards for the Photography Contest of the Project “Rivers” – School Year of 2013/2014

6 June - Opening of the Exhibit "Perspectives on the Ponsul River", disclosure and delivery of the awards for the Photography Contest of the Project "Rivers" - School Year of 2013/2014. The exhibit "Perspectives on the Ponsul River" was the climatic stage of a project, developed during the School year of 2013/2014 by the Service of Educational Activity of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality with support from Naturtejo Geopark. In the present school year, in the Ponsul river, students of 8 classes from the parish adopted a total of eight sections, in a total of 4km of river. The students belong to six classes from the School Grouping José Silvestre Ribeiro and two classes from the Professional School of Raia (EPRIN). To each class was given the challenge to participate in a photography contest, aiming the characterization of the section adopted by each one. The pictures selected by them were organized in 4 categories: Flora, Fauna, Geodiversity and Human Presence. Part of those pictures integrated this exhibit as well as pictures taken by the monitors (Manuela Catana, Arlindo Cardoso and Hugo Oliveira) and by the Nature photographer and geopark collaborator Pedro Martins. The exhibit has as main focus the Ponsul River and the different perspectives that we can have from it. It aims to sensitize the general public for the importance of the riverside ecosystems and the water quality, as well as mobilizing the society to preserve the rivers and streams from this region. Concerning the photography contest the winners were announced and the prizes were delivered. The class that won the 1st prize was the 8thA, winning a trip to the Water Hall and to Sea Life, in Oporto. The tourism class of EPRIN and the 9thB received an honourable mention and pins from the Project "Rivers".

7-10 June - Geotrails crossing the Geopark. The guides from the company Actigeo hosted a holiday program in the Geotrails for a nice couple. They walked the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia and the Boulders Trail of Monsanto.



8 June - Thematic visit to the Conhal do Arneiro Roman Mine under the annual festival. In the scope of the First Festival "Flavours of the River" in Santana (Nisa) took place the Pedestrian Trail PR4 "Conhal Tracks" with a group of around 30 participants, guided by Carlos Neto de Carvalho. This festival promoted fish dishes, such as Fish Soup, the Alentejo Breadcrumbs, the Lamprey, and also being energized Nature sport activities such as Birdwatching in the Gates of Rodão Natural Monument, Hiking through the "Conhal Tracks", Canoeing in the Tagus River, Cooking Workshops and mountain bike activities, all of them held in the stunning landscapes of the Tagus River that mark the Naturtejo Global Geopark.

The pedestrian trail climbed the hill crest line, where they visited the Buraca da Faiopa and the Gates of Rodão Viewpoint, which allows a magnificent view towards the entire ancient Roman Mine of Conhal do Arneiro. Back to the Conhal, the participants could learn in detail the Roman gold mining techniques, from traces still visible nowadays.

8 June - Enjoy trekking in Madeirã. Dozens of participants ranged the surroundings of Madeirã in a beautiful morning dedicated to the twists and turns that the Zêzere River brings to the mountain landscape of Oleiros.

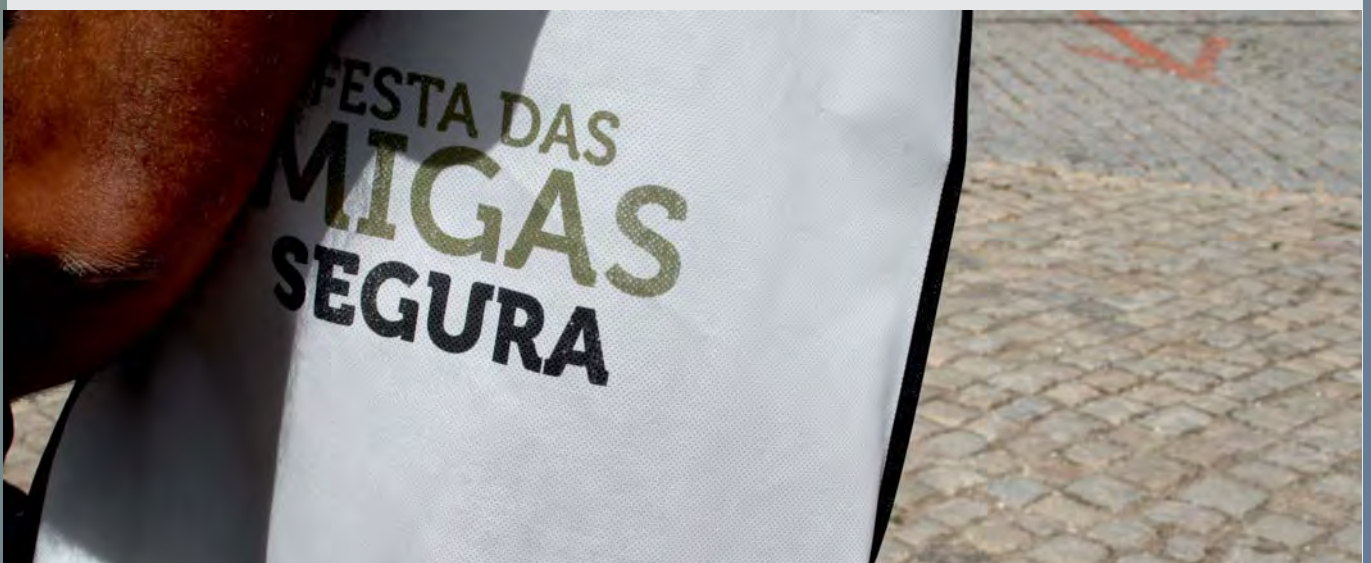
8 June - Trekking day around the chestnut trees of Isna. The traditional village of Isna received dozens of participants in another hiking trail. Locals and visitors had the opportunity to range the village surroundings, marked by the green colours of the secular Chestnut trees astonishing everyone with their trunk dimensions.



11 June – Visit to Oporto for the winner class of the 1st Prize in the Photography Contest of the Project “Rivers”. In this visit to the Water Hall and to Sea Life, took part 19 students from the 8thA of the School Grouping José Silvestre Ribeiro, followed by their Natural Sciences teacher and by the 3 monitors of the Project “Rivers” (Hugo Oliveira, Arlindo Cardoso and Manuela Catana).

12 June – Field Trip “The Gates of Rodão Natural Monument and the Fossil Trunks of Vila Velha de Ródão”. In this field trip, participated 23 students from the Santa Casa da Misericórdia Kindergarten of Idanha-a-Nova, followed by 4 adults (Educators and auxiliaries of Educational Activity) and the monitor was Hugo Oliveira.

15 June – The Diabolic Path – climbing by Monsanto trails deep into the night. It was 3AM when the first participants arrived. More than thirty gathered in the dead of the night next to the magical place of S. Pedro de Vir-a-Corça. They were received by Geolife's “little witch”, the new touristic animation company running from Monsanto to all the territory. The Diabolic Path, in the scope of the Landscape Festival that celebrates the European Geoparks, has as goal to show the legendary village of Monsanto, in which its diversity includes numerous myths and legends associated to magical places. In the nocturnal climbing through the Inselberg of Monsanto there was no lack of ancient histories and tales told by the “witch” on duty, Susana Nascimento. The unique sunrise from atop of Monsanto granitic mountain was expected with enthusiasm. Returning to the historical village, a reinvigorating breakfast was waiting for the group of around 35 participants.



15 June - I Festival of Breadcrumbs at Segura.

15 June - I Festival of Breadcrumbs at Segura. The First Festival of Breadcrumbs in Segura showed itself as an enormous success. The local population and the visitors delighted themselves with the breadcrumb tasting and the 24 dishes put to contest sold out quickly. More than 700 soups were served by the locals that made them in less of an hour.

The fair was hosted by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova together with the Parish Union of Zebreira and Segura, supported by the Inter-municipal Community of Beira Baixa and Naturtejo Geopark, and aimed to promote the regional gastronomy of Beira Baixa and energizing the local economy.

Among all the proposals coming from the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality, the winner was the Chickpea Breadcrumb with Boar from the Hunting and Fishing Lodge of Segura. In 2nd place stayed the Tomatoes Breadcrumb from the Parish Union of Monfortinho and Salvaterra do Extremo and in 3rd place the Bean Breadcrumb with Cabbage from João Martinho, in Rosmanihal. The jury was formed by seven locals and presided by the Chef António Sequeira, from the Technical College of Hotel Trade and Tourism of Estoril.

In the award ceremony for the winners, the mayor of Idanha-a-Nova Municipality, Armindo Jacinto, saluted all the competitors and highlighted the municipality gastronomical richness. "This Festival was a great success because the breadcrumbs are a gastronomical product that admittedly is part of our municipality immaterial heritage", stressed the mayor.

The President of the Parish Union of Zebreira and Segura, Daniel Fonseca, also expressed satisfaction since this event had exceeded the organization objectives. Given that the breadcrumbs ran out in no time, on the next year the organization intends to present more breadcrumbs, in bigger amounts, and preparing the festival square for more visitors.

Simultaneously with the 1st Breadcrumb Contest of Segura, the event provided many other entertaining opportunities. There were theatre performances, traditional music, workshops and live cooking.

15 June - Walking against diabetes across the city. The city centre of Castelo Branco was invaded by 800 wayfarers against diabetes. In an urban course of two kilometres they covered part of the Town historical centre with sport animation. In the Town Center took place a health prevention fair with cardiovascular illness and diabetes detection for the participants and a fitness gym set up by Decathlon sports company. This initiative counted with numerous supports, where Naturtejo Geopark could not be left behind.



18, 25 June - Solidarity visits to the Fragas do Cavalo wolfram mines. In the scope of the Summer Camp 2014 hosted in Oleiros, under the theme "Forest", 30 youngsters between 12 and 14 years, from the "Roots" Association of Lisbon, Child and Young Support Association, and its monitors visited the Minas do Cavalo. This activity approached the 2nd World War and the "Black Gold Fever" issues, main purpose of these ancient wolfram mines working until 1957, in a guided tour made by Joana Rodrigues and Carlos Neto de Carvalho.

Back to Naturtejo Geopark, a second group of 30 youngsters from the "Roots" Association made one more week of volunteering in the scope of Summer Camp 2014 where this association have been invigorating some activities for the old Basic School of Abitureira revitalization. Herewith its monitors, this group with ages between 15 and 17 years, made a visit to the Cavalo wolfram Mines guided by Joana Rodrigues.

The tour started by visiting the Ore Preparation Workshop, nowadays in ruins, where were placed the ore splitting machines. It was followed by a walk through the heaps where the young could watch the entrance for the abandoned galleries, with marks of tools and even some quartz veins. The youngsters discussed the geopolitical importance of the wolfram in that period, particularly in this region where the labour force traded the fields for the mines.



20-21 June – I National Congress on Rural Tourism in Naturtejo Geopark. The Portuguese Federation for Rural Tourism (FPTR), promoting entity of the First National Congress on Rural Tourism “Tourism, Territory and Heritage”, argued that “It is crucial that rural tourism becomes part of the outlined strategy in the National Strategic Plan for Tourism”.

According to Cândido Mendes, chairman of the FPTR, such represents a crucial aspect for the differentiation of “Portugal” as touristic brand in the international markets, as well as the sustainable development in the territory. The “internationalization is crucial for the rural tourism success”, refers Cândido Mendes.

In his turn, Pedro Machado, Chairman of the Centre of Portugal Tourism, highlighted the necessity of public acknowledgment for the importance and impact of rural tourism. This understanding is supported by the economist Augusto Mateus, one of the Congress speakers, who made the proposal of an active cooperation from the FPTR with the INE for the creation of a Tourism Satellite Account. On the other hand, Armindo Jacinto, chairman of Naturtejo, argued that this congress happens in a decisive moment for tourism in general, and for rural tourism in particular, as in this moment are being outlined the guidelines intended to lead the development in the sector for the upcoming years. Throughout the Congress, was stressed the tourism supply quality in the rural world in Portugal, as result for the strong investment that has been verified in the sector, as well as the networking importance and the benchmarking as key tools for the creation of critical mass and attitude towards the internal and especially the external market. The First National Congress on Rural Tourism “Tourism, Territory and Heritage”, took place in the Santa Margarida Hotel****, in the Oleiros Municipality, was held on 20 and 21 June of 2014 and gathered tourism entrepreneurs in rural areas, representatives of several regional touristic entities, where stands out the presence of the Chairman for the Regional Directorate of Azores Tourism, autarchies and yet associative leaders, in a total of 125 participants.

This event fostered countless reflections and contributes from participants of all the country which, in this unprecedented meeting, pointed asserting strategies for this growing sector.

The organization was a partnership between the Portuguese Federation for Rural Tourism, The Regional Entity of the Centre of Portugal Tourism, Naturtejo EIM and the Municipality of Oleiros, with the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic.

The second day of the congress was dedicated to a thematic visit through the Municipality of Oleiros, where the participants enjoyed some touristic products, typical from the rural area of Naturtejo Geopark, which are an example for the supply and the visitor attendance.

The event was also marked by a heartfelt tribute from all the participants to Luís Galvanito, vice president of FPTR, who passed away recently.



22-24 June – PhD student and professor from the University of Turin visit Naturtejo Geopark. Alexandra Magagna, student in the doctorate degree and her tutor, Professor Marco Giardino, from the University of Turin, came to Naturtejo Geopark to meet the Geopark's territory, its management model and developed actions, with particular emphasis in its educational programs. Followed by Manuela Catana they visited several geomonuments and interpretation centres. They climbed to the Castle of Idanha-a-Nova Viewpoint to observe the Ponsul Fault, ranged the Fossils and Boulders Trails, they visited the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre "Lands of Idanha" in Segura, the Forest Living Science Centre, in Proença-a-Nova and the Tagus Rock Art Interpretation Centre/Archaeology Hall in Vila Velha de Ródão. Afterwards, they travelled on boat through the Gates of Rodão Natural Monument, admired the Fossil Trunks in CACTEJO and meet the Gates of Almourão.



17-18 May – 24-28 June – Revalidation mission to North Pennines Global Geopark, England. One of the geoparks coordinators responsibilities is to guarantee high standards in the geoparks development through an evaluation process that all the geoparks pass through every four years, which later goes through a deep reflexion in the Advisory Committee and a voting in the Geoparks Network Coordination Committee. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited, together with the Professor Mahito Watanabe, by UNESCO to proceed with the revalidation of the North Pennines Global Geopark. This geopark is located north of England, next to the city of Newcastle and was the first geopark from the United Kingdom to take part in the European Geoparks Network. The evaluators examined the obtained results from this geopark since its last revalidation in 2011, with particular emphasis in the retrieved mining heritage, remediation projects for environmental impacts, educational activities and involvement with the local communities.



26 June - Participation in the Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Mines and Geosites Working Group.

Took place in the Salt Pan Eco museum of Rio Maior the V Annual Meeting of Portuguese Mines and Geosites Working Group (www.roteirodeminas.pt) and representing the Naturtejo Geopark were the geologist Joana Rodrigues and the anthropologist Eddy Chambino. In this event were discussed the already developed and for future development activities by this platform, were exchanged experiences between partners and revealed new partnership proposals. This meeting issue was "Safeguard of the Immaterial Heritage", being presented several examples of good practices, namely the example of Naturtejo Geopark with the communication "When We Went for Ore" – Inventory of the Geomining Heritage and Memories Recovery for the Museum project developed in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova". Also took place a visit to Rio Maior Salt Pans and its supporting structures, which received in 2012 the Geoconservation Award by ProGEO Portugal.



27 June - Allianz in a medieval lunch at Monsanto. 91 employees of the company Allianz made a program in the Historical Village of Monsanto. Divided in eleven teams, they made a peddy-paper organized by Vila Fraga, touristic outdoor company associated to Naturtejo, covering the village and Monsanto's boulders area. Afterwards, they travelled to the Middle Age with a Medieval Lunch with lots of entertainment, in a viewpoint overlooking the border landscapes.



27-29 June – Geopark in the Festival of Tagus Flavours of Vila Velha de Ródão. Naturtejo Geopark attended with their own stand in the main Fair of Vila Velha de Ródão, which displays the Tagus landscape and culture. Thousands of visitors had the opportunity to learn and to have fun, enjoying the show cooking of several local chefs to acknowledge the local products and the traditional gastronomy with the author personal touch. The promotion of the Global Geoparks Network was made using the Geopark's mobile kitchen in the live cooking shows. Sérgio Ribeiro was the responsible for energizing the Geopark stand in the fair, where were also present Cristina Preguiça, Alice Marcelo and Joana Rodrigues.



27-28 June – Learning and sporting in the Geopark. In the scope of Biology and Geology classes, 40 students from the 10th, 11th and 12th Grade followed by 7 teachers came to Naturtejo Geopark to have some field classes with adventure sports. On the 1st day they made the Field Trip A, scrolling the Fossils Trail, where they had the opportunity to practice climbing and bathing in the river pool of Pego. On the second day, in Vila Velha de Ródão they participated in the Field Trip D, travelling on boat through the Gates of Rodão Natural Monument and making some canoeing next to the pier. They yet visited the Fossil Trunks in the garden of CACTEJO and the Tagus Rock Art Interpretation Centre/Archaeology Hall. The monitors were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.

28-29 June – Visiting the historical villages of the Geopark. Actigeo outdoor company followed once again a group with 26 tourists in a program through Naturtejo Geopark. They had the opportunity to visit the historical villages of Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto.



29-30 June – Geofun program: “Nature, Culture and Adventure in Naturtejo Geopark”. 50 students from the 9th Grade, from the College Paulo VI, in Gondomar, followed by 4 teachers, made their finalists trip from the 3rd Cycle of the Basic School in Geopark lands. On the first day they visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and dived in the fresh waters of the Ponsul, in the river pool of Pego. On the second day they went towards Vila Velha de Ródão where they made the boat trip through the Gates of Rodão Natural Monument and practiced some adventure sports such as: canoeing, archery and paintball. The monitors of the Field Trips were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana and the sporting activities were supervised by specialized technicians.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & RADIO

- 3 June (Condestavel Radio) – Vila Velha de Ródão – Environment Festival
- 5 June (RTP1 national TV – Portugal em Directo news) – Environment Festival
- 11 June (Beira Baixa TV) – Environment Festival at Vila Velha de Ródão
- 14 June (Condestável Radio) – Oleiros hosts the I National Congress on Rural Tourism

Newspapers & www

- June (Ensino Magazine) – The Portas de Ródão Natural Monument
- June (Raiano) – Naturtejo Geopark promotes territory in Paris
- June (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Environment Festival at Vila Velha de Ródão
- June (Boletim Municipal de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Rodão's heritage under the service of science, economic development, and life quality of local community
- June (Boletim Municipal de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Environment Fest at Vila Velha de Ródão
- June-December (Boletim Municipal de Penamacor) – TTransGeopark passed here
- 3 June (Povo da Beira) – VII Lamb Festival presented international cuisine
- 3 June (Povo da Beira) – Walking for diabetes and Fair of Health Prevention on 15th June
- 4 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Mediterranean lamb captivates visitors
- 5 June (Reconquista) – Environment Festival join young people from the Geopark
- 9 June (Povo da Beira) – Environment Festival at Vila Velha de Ródão
- 9 June (Povo da Beira) – Municipality of Oleiros hosts the I National Congress of Rural Tourism
- 11 June (Gazeta do Interior's headlines) – Segura hosts the 1st Breadcrumbs Festival
- 11 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Walking for diabetes and Health Prevention Fair on Sunday
- 11 June (Gazeta do Interior)- The Rivers Project adopts Ponsul's four kilometers
- 11 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Monsanto hosts night walk by the Diabolic Path
- 12 June (Reconquista) – Rural Tourism – Presidency of the Republic sponsors the congress
- 12 June (Reconquista) – Walking for Diabetes and Health Prevention Fair on Sunday
- 12 June (Reconquista) – I Breadcrumbs Festival scheduled for Segura



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

12 June (Reconquista) – Environment Festival

18 June (Reconquista) – Festival of Breadcrumbs in Segura was a success and exhaust the supply

18 June (Reconquista) – National Congress at Oleiros on Friday and Saturday

20 June (Diário de Coimbra) – Responsibles wish Rural Tourism recognized and promoted

25 June (Gazeta do Interior) – The potentialities of tourism in the countryside

26 June (Diário de Coimbra) – Oleiros hosted Congress on Rural Tourism

26 June (Jornal do Fundão) – Tourism asks for decreasing costs to attract clientes

26 June (www.cafeportugal.net) – Oleiros – I Congress on Rural Tourism to debate constraints and opportunities for the sector

26 June (www.cafeportugal.net) – Rural Tourism – an urgent change in the strategies of Portugal's abroad promotion is required

26 June (Reconquista) – Augusto Mateus...country is mad with settlement

26 June (Reconquista) – Congress at Oleiros – Make the rural tourism international

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES

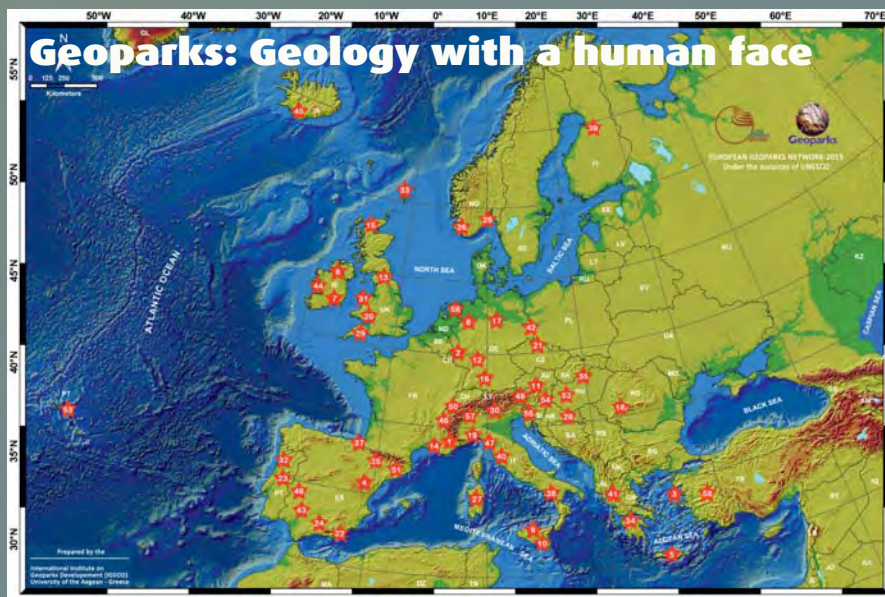
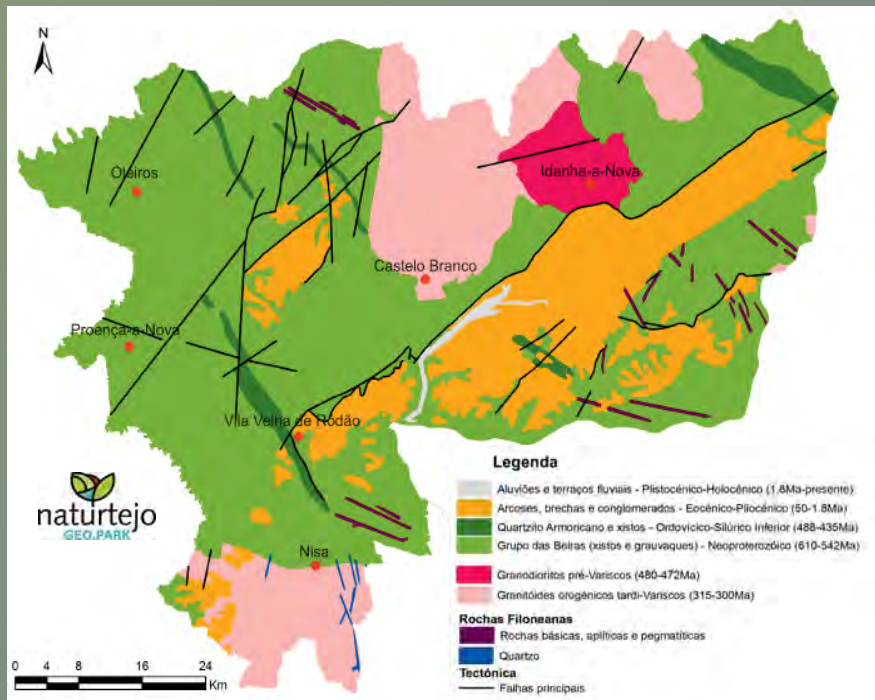


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