

"Let's tell the Story of Earth and Life on the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia": Workshop addressed to the Naturtejo Geopark staff (Portugal)

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The staff of any geopark must be fully aware of its territory's potential. This was the reason for the organization of a workshop addressed to the Naturtejo Geopark staff, which will be presented in this work. The workshop themes were the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia and the Ichnologic Park Geomonument framed within the Naturtejo Geopark context.

This event was organized by both the Tourism and the Geology and Palaeontology Offices of the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova over four days. The first two sessions, theoretical and practical, took place at the Centro Cultural Raiano in Idanha-a-Nova and the last two sessions occurred in the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia.

The book *Fossils Trail - Questions and Answers (Ichnologic Park of Penha Garcia)* written by these sessions' instructor and published by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in 2009 was used as a theoretical support. This educational book is part of the author's Masters Dissertation of the University of Minho entitled "Valuing and Promoting the Geological Heritage of the Naturtejo Geopark: strategies for the Ichnologic Park of Penha Garcia".

Around 30 participants, among them technicians of the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and those from the Association of Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Penha Garcia, the Naturtejo E.I.M. company along with Tourism and Activities companies and hotel accommodation of the Naturtejo Geopark territory, attended the workshop.

This workshop included theoretical sessions on the role of the Naturtejo Geopark on Geoconservation and Geotourism along with the importance of belonging to the European and Global Geoparks Networks (under the auspices of UNESCO), the explanation of general geological concepts and the presentation of the stops with geological, historical and cultural interest already selected in the Fossils Trail. On the last day of the event, the participants presented the group with projects on the main stops of the Fossils Trail.

According to the positive views of the participants, expressed by the anonymous satisfaction questionnaires filled in by them, it is possible to conclude that this workshop was very important as a lifelong training action.



9th European Geoparks Conference 2010

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