

## Naturtejo Geopark school programme *Anim'a Rocha*: interpretative tool for the “Travel across the Earth bones”

Joana Rodrigues<sup>1</sup>, Carlos Neto de Carvalho<sup>1,2</sup>, Bruno Henriques<sup>3</sup> & Sara Canilho<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional – European and Global Geopark under UNESCO (Portugal). <sup>2</sup>Geology and Paleontology Office of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova - Centro Cultural Raiano. Av. Joaquim Morão, 6060-101 Idanha-a-Nova (Portugal). <sup>3</sup>Escola Básica e Secundária Pedro da Fonseca, Avenida do Colégio, n.º 26, 6150 - 401 Proença-a-Nova (Portugal). E-mail: joana225@sapo.pt.

Under the scope of the annual school programme *Anim'a Rocha* for local schools, Naturtejo Geopark works closely with teachers and students promoting activities that reach the specific needs and interests of each school.

“Searching... what is ours” is an one-year project developed by 4 students from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade (17 years old) from Pedro da Fonseca High School (Proença-a-Nova) that aims to search for local legacy and their main goal is the study of the Geology and Biology of the region, namely the area of Portas de Almourão Geomonument. The final product is the interpretation for the existing “Travel across the Earth bones” geotourist trail, consisting of interpretative leaflet, thematic panels and an audio guide available online for download.

The project involves the school community, Naturtejo Geopark, Proença-a-Nova municipality and tourism office and the role of the Geopark was to provide scientific and logistic support in the creation of new interpretation tools. The trail has 18 km and medium difficulty, including viewpoints, and geosites, the main interests are the evolution of the landscape, fossils, ancient Roman gold and legendary iron mines, the Ocreza River gorge, *Ulex* (gorse), *Cistus ladanifer* (Gum Rockrose), *Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry Tree), *Paeonia broteroi* (an endemic species), *Juniperus* (junipers) and other more specialized quartzite-related flora.

With this project the group intends to develop interpretation for young visitors and raise public awareness for Geology, Biology and Nature conservation. The first step was to decipher the natural wonders of Talhadas mountain range with thematic fieldwork, accompanied by Naturtejo Geopark staff and local researchers, followed by documentation research in order to select panel's location, audio guide themes and leaflet information. The audio guides allow an autonomous visit with visitor's own timing, besides more detailed and comprehensive information.

There is no better perspective of the deep Almourão gorge and of the Portas do Almourão Geomonument than from this trail where quartzite shows up here as a powerful rock, with an ancient history that reveals the building of a mountain that Ocreza River ripped in its path, across time.

The presentation of the project resulted in a guided visit by the students, included in the European Geoparks Week and in the Proença-a-Nova monthly trails, for testing of the developed products.

*Anim'a Rocha* programme combines sustainable development practices, raising awareness for natural heritage by working closely with teachers and students for local people and tourists, to create new and own tools for Naturtejo territory.





---

# 10th European Geoparks Conference 2011

---

*Sustainability through Knowledge  
Communicating Geoparks*

---

**ABSTRACTS / NORWAY 2011**

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



Den norske UNESCO-  
kommisjonen



Gea Norvegica Geopark