

WORKSHOP ON GEODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS

Co-organized by the European Federation of Geologists (EFG), European Geoparks Network, Hateg Country Dinosaurs European Geopark and Geological Survey of Romania, in collaboration with the European Commission, TAIX Office arranged a multi-country workshop on New practices on Geodiversity and sustainable development of the regions, 8-10 October 2007, in Sibiu, Romania.

The workshop was coordinated by the EFG PE Soil protection and Geoheritage Coordinator: Hanneke. About 60 participants from 25 countries.

Some of the conclusions from the workshop were the following:

1. Confirmed the great benefits and importance of international exchange of expertise and knowledge about geodiversity and sustainable development of the regions.

2. Recognized the significant value of geodiversity and geosystem services:

- as an intrinsic part of Europe's natural heritage;
- as a foundation for biodiversity;
- in underpinning cultural heritage in Europe;
- in contributing to sustainable economic development through local community involvement in geotourism and expansion of the European Geoparks Network;
- in conferring public health benefits through opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the natural world;
- through the application of earth system process understanding in the management and mitigation of the impacts of climate change, flooding and sea-level rise;
- through the role of soil functions in supporting food and fibre production, providing environmental services and as a sink/source of greenhouse gases.

This conclusion was presented to the Commission, DG Research, during the meeting in Brussels with Karen Fabbri and Catherine Eccles, EU Administrators in the Soil Protection area.