



# Icelandic Geoparks

in a European and Global Context

# The presentation

- Origin of the Geopark concept
- European Geoparks Network
- Global Geoparks Network
- UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Discussion in Iceland
- Katla Geopark
- Reykjanes Geopark
- Saga Geopark Project

# Where do Geoparks come from?

- ▶ Digné declaration of the Rights of the Memory of the Earth (1991)
  - ▶ The participants of the First International Symposium on the Conservation of our Geological Heritage, including over 100 specialists from more than 30 nations, urgently request all national and international authorities to take into consideration and to protect this heritage, by all the legal, financial and organisational measures that may be necessary
- ▶ International Geological Congress in Beijing 1996
- ▶ UNESCO 1997-1999
- ▶ European Geoparks Network 2000 (France, Germany, Greece, Spain)
- ▶ Samkomulag við UNESCO 2001 (Under the auspices of ... ad hoc support...)
- ▶ Global Geoparks Network 2004 (17 European and 8 Chinese geoparks)
- ▶ UNESCO Global Geoparks 17 November 2015 – ratified by 195 countries
  - ▶ 127 UGGs in 35 countries, 70 in Europe, 35 in China, 8 in Japan ...

# Geoparks in Iceland

- Discussions in Iceland 2004 about a geopark in Reykjanes
- Pilot project in the Katla Geopark area started in 2008
- Visit by Patrick McKeever (now at UNESCO) 2009
- Katla Geopark formally established in November 2010
- Katla Geopark a member of EGN/GGN since 2011
- Reykjanes Geopark established in November 2012
- Reykjanes a member of EGN/GGN since 2015
- Saga Geopark established in March 2013
- Saga Geopark application November 2015 unsuccessful

# A few facts of Icelandic Geoparks

- Katla:
  - Huge area (9.542 km<sup>2</sup>), very rural (pop. 2.800, one half in three villages)
  - 3 municipalities (out of 15 in the region)
- Reykjanes:
  - 875 km<sup>2</sup>, pop. 24.000, 99,5% in six towns and villages
  - 5 municipalities (out of 5 in the region)
- Saga
  - Big area (2.270 km<sup>2</sup>), extremely rural (pop. 360, 42 of which in one village)
  - Part of one municipality with a population of 3.700
  - 10 municipalities in the region