

## **MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION AMONG THE VISEGRAD GROUP GEOPARKS**

**(Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland)**

**(Hereinafter referred to as the “Memorandum”)**

concluded between the following Participants:

**1.**

**Name: The Inter-Departmental Commission of the Geoparks Network  
of the Slovak Republic**

**(Medzirezortná komisia siete geoparkov Slovenskej republiky)**

**Represented by: Ing. Patrik Pachinger, President**

**Address: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic**

**Námestie Ľ. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava**

**(Hereinafter referred to as “IDCGN SR”)**

**2.**

**Name: National Geoparks Council of the Czech Republic**

**(Rada národních geoparků České republiky)**

**Represented by: doc. Ing. Martina Pásková, Ph.D., President**

**Address: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic**

**Vršovická 65, 100 10 Praha 10**

**(Hereinafter referred to as “NCG CR”)**

**3.**

**Name: Hungarian National Commission for Geoparks**

**(Geopark Magyar Nemzeti Bizottság)**

**Represented by: Bertalan Balczó, President**

**Address: Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary**

**Apáczai Csere János u. 9, 1052 Budapest**

**(Hereinafter referred to as the “HNCG”)**

4.

Name: **The Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute  
(Państwowy Instytut Geologiczny – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy)**

Represented by: **Piotr Szrek, Ph.D., D.Sc., Deputy Director**

Address: **The Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute  
Rakowiecka 4, 00-975 Warszawa**

(Hereinafter referred to as the “PGI-NRI”)

(IDCGN SR, NCG CR, HNCG, and PGI-NRI hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Participants to the Memorandum” or individually “Participant to the Memorandum”).

### **PREAMBLE**

Geoparks as territories are important not only from the viewpoint of geological (abiotic nature) and biological (living nature) research, but also from the perspective of archaeology, mining geology, culture, history, and ethnographic specificity and diversity (the cultural component of the land).

They are established in line with the sustainable development strategy, offer research potential, help promote environmentalism, and facilitate education. Geoparks support local development in terms of new economic and cultural regional activities (nature-friendly and sustainable tourism) and simultaneously help protect and conserve geodiversity and biodiversity.

In order to establish cooperation and exchange experience in the area of Geopark establishment, operation, and development, the Participants to the Memorandum have decided to conclude this Memorandum.

### **I.**

#### **AREA OF COOPERATION**

This Memorandum provides the basic framework for long-term stable cooperation among the Participants to the Memorandum based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and respect mainly in the following areas:

- the exchange of experience regarding Geopark establishment, operating models, and funding possibilities;

- the preparation of proposals of conceptual and strategic materials as well as action plans related to the operation of Geoparks for possible use on the level of state and public administration;
- the promotion of Geopark establishment, operation, development, and sustainability;
- cooperation with the bodies of the Global Geopark Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks.

## **II.**

### **SCOPE OF ACTIVITY WITHIN THE COOPERATION**

Participants to the Memorandum will focus mainly on the promotion and coordination of the following activities:

- identification of the areas suitable for establishing geoparks (including the possibilities of cross-border geoparks) taking into account the natural and cultural assets of the areas, involving the affected local communities and national geopark networks;
- implementation of the UNESCO criteria for national and cross-border geoparks nominated to the UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- evaluation of the activities performed by the national and cross-border geoparks and their revalidation in order to ensure systematic improvement of their quality;
- elaboration of methodology and dissemination of best practices on preserving and presentation of the natural (mainly from the perspective of the abiotic natural assets and its diversity) and cultural heritage;
- awareness-raising and educational activities focused on geoscience and sustainable geotourism.

These activities will be carried out in accordance with the respective national laws and policies of the Participants to the Memorandum.

## **III.**

### **FUNDING**

The Participants to the Memorandum hereby acknowledge that the cooperation established by this Memorandum depends on the available funding and human resources. Each Participant to this Memorandum undertakes to cover any expenses that arise in relation to the cooperation

under this Memorandum individually, and will not be entitled to reimbursement of expenses or their part from any other Participant to the Memorandum, unless the Participants to the Memorandum agree in writing that the expenses will be borne jointly. The commencement of all cooperative activities in terms of which joint financial costs are expected will be subject to the mutual written consent of the Participants to the Memorandum. The Participants to the Memorandum hereby undertake to agree in writing on any plans and projects to be implemented jointly.

#### **IV.**

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The Participants to the Memorandum hereby agree that all documents and outputs obtained through the implementation of the activities defined in this Memorandum based on mutual cooperation can be used in all known manners, free of charge, and with no limits in terms of time, space, or subject matter by any Participant to the Memorandum.

#### **V.**

#### **THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL TRUST**

The Participants to the Memorandum hereby mutually undertake to provide one other with information that is accurate, not misleading and in accordance with the information available to the best of their own knowledge and conscience.

#### **VI.**

#### **DURATION OF THE MEMORANDUM**

This Memorandum will enter into force on the day of its signature of the Participants. This Memorandum will be effective for an indefinite period of time. The Participants to the Memorandum can terminate this Memorandum by a written agreement among the Participants to the Memorandum on the date specified below.

The contents of this Memorandum can be amended and supplemented only in the form of numbered written amendments to the Memorandum signed by all Participants to the Memorandum.

This Memorandum will be issued in the Slovak and English languages - two (2) copies in the Slovak language for IDCGN SR and eight (8) copies in the English language for IDCGN SR, NCG CR, HNCG, and PGI-NRI, who will receive two (2) copies each. Both language versions are equal.

In case of difference in the interpretation of this Memorandum, the English language text will prevail.

By signing this Memorandum, the Participants to the Memorandum hereby confirm that this Memorandum is coherent and clear, they have concluded it freely, it has not been concluded under duress or manifestly unfavourable conditions and that the Participants have read the Memorandum and understood its content.

This Memorandum is not intended to create any binding obligations among the Participants, in particular under national or international law.

In Banská Štiavnica, 10 May 2023



Ing. Patrik Pachinger

IDCGN SR

In Banská Štiavnica, 10 May 2023



doc. Ing. Martina Pásková, Ph.D.

NCG CR

In Banská Štiavnica, 10 May 2023



Bertalan Balczó

HNCG

In Banská Štiavnica, 10 May 2023



Piotr Szrek, Ph.D., D.Sc.

PGI-NRI