

GRECEL, GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE: RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COOPERATION IN EUROPEAN LEVEL

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Education formal or informal, is a strong tool and therefore a big priority for a successful geological heritage conservation. But for a successful education in geoconservation and geological heritage issues, there is an obvious need of specifically trained teachers and of the preparation of appropriate material for indoor and outdoor educational activities. GRECEL is a project, in the framework of the European Commission Socrates/Comenius, action 3.1 program. Its aim is the continuous information of multidisciplinary high-school teachers on new trends of Geological Sciences and specifically on matters of Geological Heritage, directly related to environmental aspects, and its targets: a) the creation of an international network for the dissemination of knowledge and experiences, in matters of Geological Heritage and Geoconservation for a more complete environmental education. b) preparation of educational material and tools as well as the organization of international training courses on geological heritage issues and the introduction of new methods in education in order for the geological environment to be recognized as an important environmental factor. c) new technology use as pedagogical and communication tools for the dissemination of knowledge and experience. The final objectives of the project are the elaboration of a European dimension master plan, focusing at a European policy in education for geological heritage conservation. As such, the project represents a major new initiative to raise the profile of Geoconservation and establish it as an integral part of broader environmental education programs. The net result will be an increase in understanding and support, for the various developing national and international Geoconservation programs within the European Community and further consolidation of the subject as a fundamental part of all environment and conservation strategies.