

## SUMMARY

### Global Network of National Geoparks UNESCO (procedure of the creation)

Identify, protect and promote areas of geological and geomorphological importance has become more conceptual for the last twenty years. One of the new ideas are geoparks which are established by the national decisions based on criteria, procedure and control of UNESCO.

Until 2006 there are 48 members of the Global Network of National Geoparks, including 28 in Europe (Table 1). Main tasks of geoparks are on the one hand, preserve natural and cultural objects and wide promotion of knowledge about the Earth and on the other hand, sustainable development. According to UNESCO's instructions (UNESCO 2004, Eder, Patzak 2004, Guidelines 2006, Annex 2006, Guidelines 2007) geopark should be area with well-defined limits and large enough to serve local economic and cultural development, has diverse geosites network and other objects, be accepted by local authorities, has managing body and arrangement plan, cooperates with various organizations, be helpful with education, training and researches, develop geotourism, improve nature conservation methods for preservation of geological heritage.

National geopark seeking UNESCO's assistance can be member of the European Geoparks Network (ENG) and the Global Network of National Geoparks according to special procedure (Fig. 1). Submission of geopark requires application (not exceed 30 pages) written in English or French in 3 printed copies and 3 CD-ROMs with following topics (Annex 2006, Guidelines 2007): 1 – identification of the area, 2 – scientific description, 3 – general information of the area, 4 – management plan and structure, 5 – sustainable development policy strategy and importance of geotourism in this context, 6 – arguments for the nomination as a Geopark within the Global Network. Application should have signature part and self-evaluation form divided into 2 parts: A – description of the area, B – geoparks progress evaluation. Part A consists: administrative data (confirmed by signatures) and identification of the territory (geology and landscape, management structure, information and environmental education, geotourism, sustainable regional economy). Part B consists: 1 – relationship with European Geopark Network, 2 – management structure and financial status, 3 – geoconservation strategy, 4 – strategic partnership, 5 – marketing and promotion, 6 – sustainable economic development.

Planning of geoparks in Poland is in the preliminary stage. Creation process of geoparks requires conception which should take into consideration: regulation by law, geoparks nominations standards and develop national network, selection of areas for European/global network, establishing efforts order and preparing application for UNESCO.