

## The engagement of local communities in the Geopark project of the Beaujolais, France

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The Geopark project seeks to make people understand their richness. Linked to history of the Earth, geology of the territory shapes their current lives and most human and economic activities. As there is a strong bond between geoheritage and people, engaging local stakeholders and territory inhabitants seems to be a logical and necessary step in the project.

The labeling process is building thanks to the participation of many local stakeholders. The richness of the territory is enhanced by its people, who hopefully will become greeters; volunteers sharing knowledge about places they love with visitors. Indeed, since its launch, each action seeks to rely on territorial initiatives that already exist, and impulse a dynamic between them. Thus, it permits them to overcome the isolation of initiatives in the territory. The participatory forum of the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2013 is one example to show that. It aims at giving a voice to the inhabitants, best ambassadors of their own cultural richness, and finest experts on them. The governance of the Geopark project has been built with the same philosophy: working groups bringing together elected representatives, technicians and civil society players, are today the prime movers of the project. These are particular tools that may have been developed to involve for the best the diversity of local stakeholders. In fact, the knowledge of the territory must not be only institutional, and the project ensures a both scientific and territorial coherence thanks to the human resources.

Our participation to the 6th International Conference on Global Geoparks is an occasion for presenting the different tools implemented to ensure the participatory governance and the obstacles it is necessary to overcome in order to make alive the territorial dynamic related to the Geopark project of the Beaujolais.

Presented in Theme 2.