

## **Geoscience education in the Czech Republic on the example of the Železné hory National Geopark: Iron Mountains National Geopark**

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Students are getting to know an animate and inanimate nature for the first time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year of primary school in the Czech Republic. A more complex form of geology they obtain in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of primary school in Natural science. Pupils are learning about mineralogy, petrography, palaeontology, and general and regional geology. In secondary schools students are getting knowledge about geology in physical or socio-economic geography, but there is not Geology as an individual subject. Geology is the science that cannot be learned and understood without quality learning materials. Collections of rocks, minerals and fossils do not exist in many Czech schools, or they are too old and small and they do not have any localization.

The Železné hory National Geopark defines the territories that are formed from many large geological units, and which, with a little exaggeration, combine geology of the entire Czech Republic. In a relatively short period of time it is possible in the area of the Geopark to see something, what would on the whole territory of the Czech Republic take several weeks when traveling thousands of kilometres.

In the last five years a number of the touring exhibitions with geological topics have been realised in cooperation with the Vodní zdroje Chrudim Company. The educational activities focus on the organization of tours and lectures for primary and secondary schools. Three or five geological trips, and about ten educational events with geological topics are regularly organised every year. Gained experiences during educational activities in the Železné hory National Geopark have been used to implement projects *Geosciences* and *The stones and water*, which are made for teachers and students. The projects respond to the necessity of learning the theoretical information in practice and the ability to pass on this information to other people.

Presented in Theme 3