The Norwegian Committee of Geoheritage and Geoparks

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Since last October 2013, Pål Thjømøe the manager of Magma Geopark, has been the Coordinator of the Norwegian Committee of Geoheritage and Geoparks (NCGG). The NCGG was established following the mandate of the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) for 2014: “NGU will develop and assist with geological knowledge for better management and visualization of geological diversity as a value in Norwegian nature”, and taking into consideration the aspiring Geopark projects in Norway among these: Trollfjell Geopark, Geopark North, Hamar Mjøsa area, Rondane Geopark and Longyearbyen. The Committee consists of representatives from the following institutions: NGU; PROGEO; Norwegian Geological society; the Global Geoparks from Norway; UNESCO Norwegian Commission; Environmental Department; Museums engaged in geoscience issues. The network has a fairly broad mandate where the main tasks are: (i) support and provide quality assurance for applications to the European / Global Geoparks; (ii) establish a national Geopark network, and develop criteria for membership in a national network; (iii) develop characterization and value criteria for geological localities in Norway. The intention is to develop it further with a PhD proposal that aims to develop guidelines for the Management plan of the cultural and natural heritage in Geoparks; (iv) promote and enhance the geological diversity: NGU has started to develop a database for geological diversity (http://geotest.ngu.no/kart/naturarv_94/); and (v) focus on the educational aspects of the promotion and valorization of the geological diversity.

The intention of the Committee is to act holistically and connect “geo” with all geosciences (GEA “ Earth “). The “Committee” will support Geopark processes and stimulate the projects development. At the same time the NGU´s expertise will support all initiatives and the candidates aspiring Geoparks.

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