



Geoparks for understanding geodiversity

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Global Geoparks are sites which promote their geodiversity through community-led initiatives to enhance regional sustainable development and environmental education. The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) now includes 111 sites in 32 countries.

Finland's only and the world's northernmost Geopark, Rokua Geopark, is part of the Global and European Geoparks Networks operating under the auspices of UNESCO. This kind of global networking enhances the possibilities of learning geodiversity in different spatial scales, i.e. locally, regionally and globally. The networking of Geoparks also supports science and environmental education at schools. The schools just have get to know the Geoparks and get connected with them.

I am working as a biology and geography teacher at Oulun Lyseon lukio which is an upper secondary school at Oulu, Finland. The Rokua Geopark locates about 50 kilometers southeast from Oulu. So, the proximity of the Rokua Geopark explains my interest. However, it is not the only reason. I'm also concerned about the diminishing amount of physical geography which will be taught in Finnish upper secondary schools according to the new national curriculum. As the amount of teaching geography will be diminished, the quality should be made better and more interesting for students.

In my poster I show practical examples what has been done at Rokua Geopark and in Finland to support science and environmental education at schools. These examples include the creation of geological spots and trails which students can visit with their class trips to Rokua Geopark. As the class field trips are not so common because of their costs the digital resources offer an alternative for learning. In the classrooms it is possible to play an educational board game which occurs at Rokua Geopark. Teachers can print the actual board game with instructions and question cards from the Rokua Geopark's net page. I also give some ideas how e-learning, digital resources and global connections can be used to enhance the understanding of geodiversity – through different scales.