



The importance and potential of local geoheritage (case study: Lomnicko and Deblínsko, South Moravian Region, Czech Republic)

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Geoheritage is considered an important resource for the geotourism and recreational purposes. In the Czech Republic, there are a lot of examples of such use of geoheritage: sandstone rock cities (e.g. Elbe Sandstones) or karst areas (e.g. Moravian Karst) and others. These geoheritage features are usually significant on the national level, their existence assure the attractiveness of the given area, enables geotourist and recreational activities and support local and regional development.

However, in the local scale, the geodiversity (respectively local geoheritage, represented by particular geosites and geomorphosites) also serves the above mentioned purposes. Maybe these landscapes or landforms are not so breathtaking, extensive or unique, but they also possess values that are very important for the tourist and recreational purposes and their possible further development. These values are:

- 1) scientific, conservation and educational value (e.g. landforms and processes are illustrative, visible and simple to understand, integrity or conditions of landforms are relatively good which can be affected by lower amount of visitors and less intensive use of them),
- 2) added values (e.g. ecological, historical or archaeological values, artistic and literature values, geomorphological aspect, relations to the historic landuse, the traces of the landscape memory, local materials used for local buildings and constructions),
- 3) economic and tourist value (accessibility, presence of tourist infrastructure or background for short-term visits, financial availability – “local geoheritage – local prices”),
- 4) number of visitors and knowledge/popularity of the site/area (local geoheritage is not so well-known and popular and the number of visitors is not so high as in the case of national and global geoheritage, so it offers a friendly and nice alternative for visitors that are looking for something new, original, calm and not so overcrowded at the same time),
- 5) stronger feel of local identity (local products, “real” or authentic local people, folklore and services, not only “theatre”).

Of course, there are much more values, criteria and factors that can be taken into account and also, the most of them are disputable. To specify other features and values that influence and emphasize the importance of local geoheritage, the detailed investigation is going to be done, especially via discussions with local stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, schools, economic subjects, local action groups), scientists from different branches and others.

The contribution presents examples from two areas situated not far from Brno (the second largest city of the Czech Republic) – Lomnicko and Deblínsko, that can be seen as “average” areas from the geoheritage point of view on the national level, but on the local and regional level, there is a considerable number of geo(morpho)sites with a potential for geotourism. The last but not least, these areas can offer an alternative to the Moravian Karst, traditional tourist destination lying close to Brno, which is undoubtedly much more important on the national level, but it is overcrowded and overloaded, especially during holidays and weekends.