

INCLUSIVE MULTISENSORIAL ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. A CASE STUDY DEVELOPED IN THE BASQUE COAST GEOPARK IN ZUMAYA (NORTH SPAIN)

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People with different kinds of disabilities are part of our societies. In the last decades and mainly in the first world, efforts to include these people in different levels of formal educational programs have been made. However, scientific activities are much more infrequent, even non-formal ones.

In 2012, a group of professors, students and administrative workers from the Faculty of Geological Sciences of the University Complutense of Madrid (Spain) begun the innovation project Geodivulgar, to develop non-formal geological educative actions for all the society. Due to the success of the designed activities, the association Ciencia sin Barreras (Science without Barriers) emerged two years later to develop inclusive activities for people with disabilities. Nowadays, more than 50 members from different faculties, universities, museums, etc. integrate these two complementary group.

Along the weekend 19-21 June, 2015 an innovative and inclusive action was conducted by Ciencias sin Barreras: a geological fieldtrip in the Basque Coast Geopark in Zumaya (North Spain) for deafblindness people without geological educational background. The Geological Society of London (Jeremy Wilson Charitable Trust & Thomas Jefferson Field Research Fund), Geodivulgar (University Complutense of Madrid) and individual donations granted this activity. The excellent exposure conditions in Zumaya, as well as the existence there of two Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP), were the main reasons to choose this location for this activity. It was focused on understanding concepts such as the sedimentation process, biological evolution and extinction, the geological time or the significance of geological time boundaries. To develop the activity, each participant needed a mentoring geologist for explanations as well as an interpreter-signing for translation of the information and tactile methods applied directly on the outcrop (Gómez-Heras & García-Frank, 2016).

This event had an impact on the media. It was broadcast in the national TV program "En lengua de signos" (La2 de TVE, 27/06/2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV2lrcydc4g>). A documentary film was made and showed in the Zero Project Conference and in the Cineforum of the General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union, (Viena, February and April, 2016, respectively) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2uWUBsY3Ow>, in Spanish; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UofKRblfptY>, in English).

This case study must be considered as a good example of the great possibilities of the Geoparks as places where accessible and inclusive activities for people with disabilities are possible, according to the seventeen UN Sustainable Goals 2016-2030.

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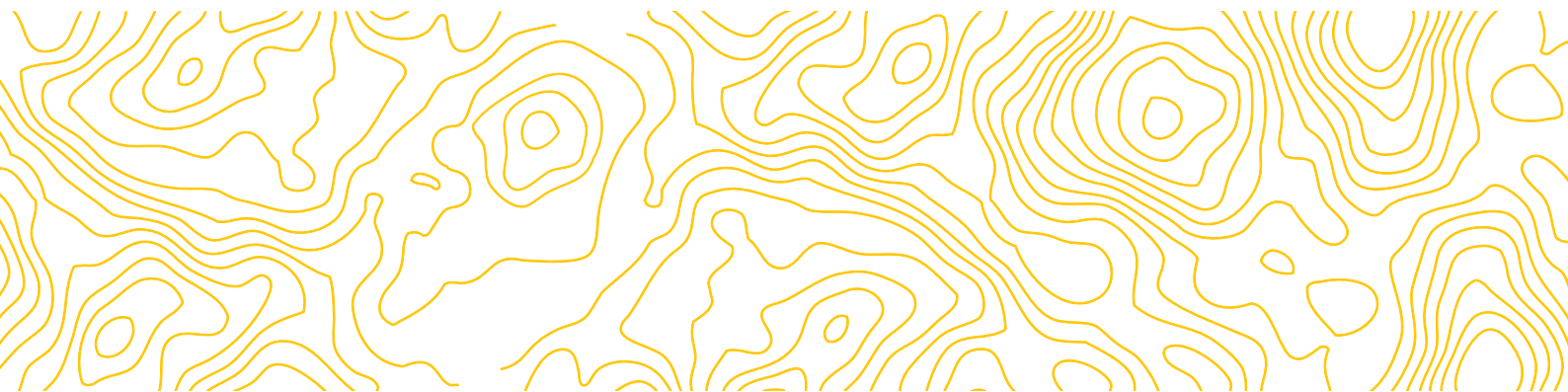
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