

The young are always in a hurry and the long time period of Earth history astonishes them



Rock and man in the Madonie Geopark

At the Civic Museum in Caltavuturo, one of the 21 communes of the Madonie Geopark, an informative section for geological teaching was inaugurated on 23 October 2008, and a study day was held on "Rock and Man, geology at the service of tourist development in the territory". This involved professional geologists from the Sicilian Regional Association of Geologists as well as teachers and students from the new Technical Institute for Tourism. The institute was founded in 2008 to train young people from the local area and provide them with the expertise for working in the field of sustainable development across the whole of the Madonie Geopark.

View of Caltavuturo where rocks and history are well integrated

The event, appropriately included in the first "Culture Week -

Caltavuturo 19-26 October" which aimed to promote the social growth of the community, brought to a close a series of events started two years ago. This well attended series of events was concerned with geological, cultural and environmental education, developed from the project of the Caltavuturo Comprehensive School "Rock and Man" and was organized by teachers and geologists of the Haliotis association for over 200 pupils. Commitment and enthusiasm did the rest, as demonstrated by the written texts and manufactured articles produced and displayed, highlighting the close relationship between rocks in the territory, human activities in the past and present and pointing towards an eco-sustainable future.

The geological section of the Civic Museum, another source of information in the Madonie Geopark, contains various explanatory panels regarding the geological trails and geo-sites in the Geopark, a model reproducing the village and the rock that overhangs it, as well as a permanent exhibition of the most representative rocks. Thus, following the opening of the Museum of the

Madonie Puppet Theatre at the Civic Museum, the constitution of the "Abiturism" society and the provision of economic incentives for the creation of hospitality services, Caltavuturo continues to invest in tourism and enriches the geo-touristic provision within the Madonie Geopark.

In addition to various local initiatives that support the development and growth of the Madonie Geopark, the Coordinator of the European Geoparks Network, Nickolas Zouros, contributed his "virtual" support for the event by sending a message stating that protection and enjoyment of the geological heritage constitute opportunities for local development. Through the fascination created by connecting the geological history with projects concerned with education, for sustainability, and the committed voluntary involvement by the local administration and bodies responsible for the development of the territory we have taken under our aegis the resources and potential for our sense of identity and place founded upon rocks that reveal culture.

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A corner of the informative section for geological teaching

