

# EGTC GEOPARK KARAWANKEN- KARAVANKE



# KARAWANKEN-KARAVANKE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Throughout the summer and winter, the Karawanken Geopark experiences a significant increase in recreational activities, which can lead to various impacts and user conflicts. These issues arise from unclear regulations, unauthorised usage, and illegal activities in nature that affect protected areas and vulnerable species. In selected pilot areas of the Geopark, we focus on managing visitor flows, understanding the relationship between people and nature, and examining how recreational activities affect the environment, including flora, fauna, and physical and hydrological processes.



As part of the project "HUMANITA - Human-Nature Interactions and Impacts of Tourist Activities on Protected Areas", supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027 with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund, we implement innovative methods for monitoring visitor flows and assessing their impact on nature, including the installation of visitor counters in strategic locations. We also focus on erosion monitoring, wildlife observations, and participatory monitoring, with particular attention to Invasive Alien Species.



The Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark actively engages the local community in its initiatives, aiming to help both managers and users better understand the impacts of different recreational activities on hiking and biking trails. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility for nature conservation, the Geopark promotes sustainable tourism practices, nature conservation methods, and educational programmes.



The HUMANITA project develops evidence-based and participatory management tools that allow regions to better monitor and evaluate the impact of tourism in protected areas. This project is supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027 with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund.



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