

platy, or undeformed bubble-wall shards. Pumice wisps occur in some lithotypes showing random orientation and relict tube vesicle texture. Other components are sparse feldspar and quartz crystal fragments. The formerly glassy shards are recrystallised to a fine quartz-rich mosaic. Shards are occasionally well preserved due to carbonate microcrystalline calcite that outlines them.

The dominance of juvenile pyroclasts, particularly the abundance of various shard types and quartz crystal fragments suggest that they were sourced from explosive, acidic eruptions. The interlayering with carbonates containing pelagic (open marine) fossil assemblages suggests that they have been deposited farther offshore. In this circumstances are these subaqueous deposits not likely to be strictly primary pyroclastic in origin. Bedforms indicate rapid, possibly mass-flow, deposition in offshore environment. Nevertheless the abundance of texturally poorly or unmodified pyroclasts suggests that pyroclastic material was delivered more or less directly to sedimentary transport and deposition systems. Although it has been suggested that the origin had been primary pyroclastic surge deposits from subaerial depositional settings, we thought that pyroclastic material generated from explosive eruptions at marine submerged vents. The dominance of juvenile pyroclasts suggests that fragmentation occurred when lavas emplaced into marine unlithified sediments allow explosive vaporisation of pore fluids or when superheated water flashed to steam that rapidly expands. Thus we interpret deposits near Sinj as pyroclast rich offshore mass-flow deposits.

Buzau Land Geopark. Steps in building a new Geopark in Romania

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Rapid development of geopark concept and positive results of existing geoparks have generated in Romania both the official recognition of geopark as distinctive protected area and the increase of interests of new territories to develop geoparks. Based on a local initiative and a grass root effort a new geopark project has been launched in Romania: The Buzău Land Geopark. Located in the south-eastern part of Romania, the territory covers about 1100 sq kilometers, comprises 18 mayoralties and a population of 45000 inhabitants. Unique geological sites like mud volcanoes, amber deposits, salt caves, and oil springs are present. Sedimentary rocks folded and overthrust outline a geological history covering more than 70 million years. The paper presents the main steps taken so far in building the new geopark. The approach is based on our previous experience in Hateg Geopark and in other geoparks members of the European Geoparks Network. The process comprises: interdisciplinary research studies, stakeholders identification, local heritage evaluation, and sustainable development strategy design, establishing the basic requirements for a brand development, correlation with local projects and initiatives and design of training courses for the geopark team. This approach allowed us to identify the optimal territory for the geopark, to create a framework for partnership, local needs identification and to set-up clear objectives for sustainable use of local resources. The commitment of local communities has generated national projects dealing with public awareness, cultural events, promotion, and informal education. All these are valuable elements to prove the rightness of the geopark concept and its capacity to join around groups and stakeholders from different areas of interest.