

International conference

Regional Conference on Geomorphology of the International Association of Geomorphologists

Athens, Greece, September 19–21, 2019

During September 19–21, 2019, the Regional Conference on Geomorphology of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) took place in Athens, Greece. Entitled *Geomorphology of Climatically and Tectonically Sensitive Areas* and organized by the Greek Committee for Geomorphology & Environment of the Geological Association of Greece in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Patras, Hellenic Centre of Marine Research and Harokopio University. The Conference included a pre-Conference field trip (four days, Santorini Island, Cyclades, and Aegean Sea), a post-Conference field trip (four days, Rhodes island, Aegean Sea and dedicated to the memory of Paolo Pirazzoli) and an intensive course for young geomorphologists.



The latter, organized under the joined auspices of IAG–EGU was entitled *Coastal Geomorphology of Climatically and Tectonically Sensitive Areas* and

took place during September 22–27, 2019. The event was hosted by Harokopio University and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, and 19 participants from 7 countries (Brazil, Colombia, Croatia, Greece, India, Indonesia and Italy) participated to numerous laboratories and field works.

The conference was attended by 252 participants from 36 countries (12 from Romania). It consisted out of 14 scientific sessions (Advancing theory and modelling of river systems, Anthropocene, Geoarchaeology and Society, Coastal geomorphology and Morphodynamics, Denudation in the Mediterranean Zone, Geodiversity of landforms in the Mediterranean Zone, Geomorphological Hazards and Risks, Glacial and Periglacial Geomorphology, Human Impacts on Geomorphic Systems, Karst Geomorphology, Quantifying land surface processes with high-resolution topography and terrain analysis, Seismic Geomorphology, Submarine Geomorphology, Tectonic Geomorphology, UNESCO Global Geoparks: geoheritage assessment and management – geotourism development) which gathered 125 oral presentations and 89 posters. Four keynote lectures focused on the heritage value of Geomorphology (Emmanuel Reynard), the imprint of river capture on continental topography and biodiversity (Taylor Peron), tsunami signatures in ancient harbor deposits (Andreas Vott) and sandstone and conglomerate landforms (Piotr Migon).

During the conference, a Council Meeting of the IAG took place (the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists was represented by Petru Urdea, Vice-President responsible for international relationships and collaborations). Among the most important issues discussed (and approved) during the meeting were: the milestone in the history of the IAG represented by the obtaining of its legal status, making thus IAG a registered international non-profit organization, with an official address and fi-

nancial personality (4th of March 2019, under Spanish Law, the IAG was formally recognized as a legal institution); approval of the new IAG Constitution and Bylaws; travelling grants will be offered as well for countries not considered "less favoured" (provided that the National Scientific Members are having the IAG membership fees paid up-to-date); a new definition for Young Geomorphologists: *Undergraduate or postgraduate – Masters/PhD students or scientists who has received their highest degree, i.e. BSc, MSc, or PhD, within the past seven years. Provided parental leave fell into that period, up to one year of parental leave time may be added per child, where appropriate*, approval of new IAG Working Groups and new National Scientific Members.

The Romanian Association of Geomorphologists was represented by 10 of its members (Bucharest University, West University of Timisoara, Institute of Geography), which gave oral and poster presentations on glacial geomorphology (the rock glaciers on the Bulgarian highest mountains and Retezat mountains: a comparative analysis), coastal geomorphology (coastal evolution of the two natural reserves of the tideless Black Sea and Baltic sea: similarities, discordances and cyclic alternating evolutionary trends; paleoecological tracers of marine–freshwater transitions during the Early to Mid-Holocene Danube Delta build-up; using satellite images to detect underwater features along Danube Delta upper shoreface), applied geomorphology for geoarcheology (new contributions to the analysis of the geomorphological and geological vulnerability of

the roman edifice with mosaic site, Constanta) and slope processes (national-scale landslide susceptibility map in Romania).

The next Regional Conference on Geomorphology will be organized in October 2020 in Iran (Mashhad University), under the title *Desert and arid environments: opening opportunities for geomorphologists to share research experiences*.



Mihai MICU, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy,