The FORM-OSE Post-Graduate Training School ‘Coastal hazard assessment and risk management’ took place in Caen (France) between the 19th and 25th of June 2011. The training school has been organized by the ‘European Centre on Geomorphological Hazards’ (CERG, Strasbourg, France), in close collaboration with the ‘Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics’ (ICoD, Valletta, Malta) which are two of the 27 centres of the EUR-OPA Agreement of the Council of Europe. Further support was provided by the University of Caen Basse-Normandy (Department of Geography, the Laboratory ‘Physical Geography and Environment’ GEOPHEN - LETG UMR 6554 CNRS), the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) represented the first day of the course by the French IAG Vice-President (Eric Fouache) and the French Geomorphology Group (GFG) represented the first day by Monique Fort as President of the French Geomorphology Group and former IAG Vice-President.

The aim of the course was to provide the participants with updated knowledge on traditional and innovative multi-disciplinary methods and techniques for the analysis of geomorphological coastal instability processes and related hazards and risks. The attendees have gained knowledge on the following topics:

1) Principles of sustainable coastal risk management strategies,
2) Techniques for coastal processes investigation and monitoring,
3) Methods for quantitative hazard and risk analysis at various temporal and spatial scales,
4) Implementation of the risk analysis in land-use planning procedures.

Courses were given by international scientists from the field of geomorphology, engineering geology, geophysics and image processing. Twenty lectures from teachers (geomorphology, engineering geology, geophysics and image processing) coming from France, Italy, United Kingdom, Malta, Portugal and The Netherlands were organized, together with practical training in the field for slope processes recognition and monitoring, practical training in data processing and field visits (Mont Saint Michel bay ‘UNESCO World Heritage Site’ & Etretat-Fécamp shoreline).

Twenty one participants have assisted to the Intensive Course (18 PhD-students and 3 technicians and engineers who work in ‘management and/or applied research services’) from eight countries (United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal and China). Eleven of them were supported by means of IAG, EUROPA & CERG grants. All presentations of the course could be downloaded on the CERG website: http://www.cerg.eu (Training activities).

Prof. Olivier MAQUAIRE & Prof. Stéphane COSTA
On behalf the local organisation
Photo taken after the Opening Ceremony (from the left: Olivier Maquaire, Monique Fort, Mara Nunes, Mauro Soldati, Eric Fouache)

Group photo taken during the field-trip to Villerville landslide