

IAG/AIG International Workshop on
Objective Geomorphological Representation Models: Breaking
through a New Geomorphological Mapping Frontier

Salerno - Cilento & Vallo di Diano Geopark, Italy, 15-19 October 2012

REPORT by YOUNG GEOMORPHOLOGISTS

We would like to use the first paragraph of our report to thank the institutions that granted us for attending the IAG/AIG International Workshop: “Objective Geomorphological Representation Models: Breaking Through a New Geomorphological Mapping Frontier”, that was held in Salerno (Italy), October 15 – 19, 2012. These institutions are the International Association of Geomorphology (IAG/AIG), the University of Salerno and the National Park of Cilento & Vallo di Diano. In addition, the workshop provided another key element: the opportunity to attend an Intensive Course on GIS-based Geomorphological Mapping, which was held also in October from 12 to 15.

During the aforementioned intensive course, we visited the Licosa Cape study area accompanied by Prof. Domenico Guida and Alessio Valente. They explained us the whole conceptual geomorphological evolution model for that area and tried to make us think about the cartographical translation of the model, from the classical system to a completely new mapping system. It was a real challenge for us, because we had to change our classical knowledge and concepts on geomorphological mapping, integrating-translating traditional symbols and landforms to full-coverage cartography. During the geomorphological mapping lab day we did a hard work to complete different steps: 1) integration of geological-geomorphological map, 2) from symbol-based to full-covered map, 3) from full-covered to grid-based maps and 4) from grid-based to object-based map. The final resulting map was later presented as a poster as well as orally during the Workshop. Therefore, we would also like to thank the organizing committee that supported and helped us, mainly Vincenzo Siervo, Vincenzo Palmieri, Eva Pescatore, Giandomenico Fubelli, Antonello Cestari and Albina Cuomo.

Throughout the workshop we had the opportunity to enjoy high quality talks and presentations; we mainly remember some of the keynote speakers: Tagashi Oguchi talked about classic and modern geomorphological mapping, Mike Smith presented a talk about the quantification of landforms, Lothar Scott introduced the new challenges in field based studies, Lucian Dragut talked about segmentation of landforms and last but not least Paolo Paron raised some crucial questions concerning modern methods of geomorphological mapping. We also appreciated the relaxed environment and the discussions that took place during the Workshop. Furthermore, we think that one of the best personal experiences was to share those days amongst us, the granted young geomorphologists. In fact, we keep in touch weekly and although our research lines or interests are quite different (tectonics, geomorphological mapping, geomorphosites or soil erosion) we expect to work together in the near future. Certainly, there are always some other things to highlight if you visit Italy: landscapes, monuments, people and of course the excellent Italian cuisine. In all these former aspects our experience was great. Finally, we would like to encourage IAG and other Scientific or Public

Institutions to provide support for young geomorphologists all over the world, especially in these difficult moments, when funds and budgets for research are getting lower and lower. Therefore, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the grants we have been awarded for the workshop. We were thrilled to learn of our selection for this honor and we are deeply appreciative of your generous support.

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