

Virtual Trips in Geomorphology Working Group

The first aim of the WG is to form an international network of geomorphologists, to share expertise, to promote geomorphology through virtual fieldtrips, not only to the scientific community but also to the citizens.

The second aim of the proposed WG is to bring geomorphologists together on a common virtual platform those have developed or are interested to develop new methods and techniques, 3D animations, VR videos, etc. for the development of virtual fieldtrips.

The main objectives of the proposed WG are to:

- Bring together geomorphologists working on different geomorphic environments to develop virtual fieldtrips
- Develop a record of the new methods and techniques used 3D animations and VR videos to represent geomorphological landscapes and phenomena
- Promote sites of geomorphological interest through virtual fieldtrips
- Contribute to the promotion and preservation of landscape heritage
- Share relevant data and to foster the exchange of information through social media etc.
- Develop joint international research projects and organize conferences, field and laboratory training workshops and summer schools
- Stimulate interaction with and among young and early career scientists and those from the developing world.

Past activities:

Members of the WG have already developed several virtual fieldtrips that are presented at the following website:

<https://geovirtualfieldtrips.com/?fbclid=IwAR1Tw9vh3l5UIMJMsnokDX8EG-nadju5lUzxkcZ2MJ96wxpHRoDp4kzbWSk>.

The website offers a range of virtual field trips on a variety of geomorphological topics, such as virtual field trips to Naxos Island, Greece, which allow users to explore the geology and geomorphology of the area and learn about the processes that have shaped the landscape, as well as other similar places around Greece.

Members of the WG has also published a paper in the journal Geosciences, which describes the use of virtual field trips in geomorphology education. The paper "GIS-Based Virtual Field Trip as a Tool for Remote Education" explores the usefulness of virtual field trips as an alternative to traditional field trips. The authors performed a virtual navigation on the island of Naxos, Greece, and presented it to third-year students of the Faculty of Geology and Geoenvironment in Athens. The participating students were asked to fill in a questionnaire to evaluate the contribution of virtual field trips to their education and state their opinion on whether they can replace actual field trips. The paper suggests that virtual field trips can significantly support the realization of actual field trips by introducing the necessary background of a particular study area and offering more time for practical activities or field methodologies during the actual field trip.

Finally, in order to disseminate the WG and its activities two social media channels have been developed:

- Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091558218577>
- Twitter page <https://twitter.com/VTGeomorphology>

The two social media accounts will advertise and promote all future activities of our WG, such as new virtual fieldtrips, webinars, publications, videos, etc.

Forthcoming activities:

As already noted, all future activities of our WG will be announced on the two social media channels. Some of the planned activities for the following year are the development of geomorphological virtual trips from members of the WG and webinars related to the topics addressed by the WG.