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# Geomorphosites

**A Working Group of the International Association of Geomorphologists**

**Annual Report 2015**

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## Introduction

This report presents the activities of the working group *Geomorphosites* during the period December 2014 to December 2015.

## Activities 2015

### **European Geoscience Union General Assembly, Vienna (Austria), 12-17 April 2015**

The working group co-organised the session SSS9.11 "*Geoheritage, Geodiversity and Cultural Landscapes: key issues for present and future times*", chaired by Paola Coratza, Benjamin van Wyk de Vries, Zbigniew Zwoliński, Co-Conveners: Marco Giardino, Alicja Najwer, Hanneke van den Ancker, Sjoerd Kluiving, Emmanuel Reynard, Grazina Skridlaite, Erika Vye.

The session aimed to highlight the relationship between geodiversity, the physical environment and cultural elements of landscapes and/or geoheritage and was co-organized together with the IAG Working Group on "Landform Assessment for Geodiversity". 22 oral communications and 24 posters were presented and the session was attended by about 60 persons. The contributions were dealing especially with the following issues: links between geodiversity, geoheritage and cultural landscape; geodiversity, geoheritage and geomorphology; geodiversity and geoheritage conservation-enhancement and education.

### **Second International Conference on "Geosites: research and tourism development for regional promotion", Tozeur (Tunisia), 19-24 October 2015**

The Laboratory for Geomorphological Mapping, Space, Environment and Dynamics, organised the first Conference in Tunisia on the topic of geosites, geomorphosite, geoheritage, and their potential use for regional promotion and development. The working group gave the auspices to this important initiative.



*A view of the poster session.*



*A view of an oasis landscape during the fieldtrip  
(photograph: J. Bussard).*

**IAG Regional Conference “Gradualism vs catastrophism in landscape evolution”  
Barnaul (Russia), 2-4 July 2015.**

The working group co-organised, in collaboration with the IAG WG on Geoarcheology, the session “Human aspect of Geomorphology”, chaired by Emmanuel Reynard and Kosmas Pavlopoulos. 9 oral communications and 3 posters were presented and the conference was attended by about 80 persons.



*A view of the audience.*

**INTERGEO – digital platform on geomorphosites**

The working group, in collaboration with the University of Lausanne, is developing an e-learning course on geomorphosites. The course is divided into four parts: (1) Generalities – definitions, links with heritage and landscape studies, active geomorphosites, the IAG working group; (2) Methods – selection and assessment, mapping issues, geomorphosite visualization, technical and digital tools in geomorphosite

studies; (3) Conservation and promotion – example of geomorphosite studies related to geoconservation, geoparks, World Heritage Sites, geotourism and interpretation, and natural hazards; (4) Examples – cultural, karstic, coastal, mountain, fluvial, volcanic and anthropogenic geomorphosites. Each chapter contains a short description, a list of references, selected publications, as well as other educational material, e.g. videos, virtual fieldtrips etc. In particular, several videos allow presenting in a very dynamic way concepts and examples. Most of the content has been prepared during the period December 2014 to October 2015 and is now ready and is tested by the six universities involved in the project during the academic year 2015–2016. The universities partners involved in are: University of Lausanne, Switzerland (Emmanuel Reynard, Lucie Darbellay), University Savoie Mont-Blanc, France (Nathalie Cayla and Fabien Hobléa), University Paris IV, France (Christian Giusti), University of Modena e Reggio Emilia (Paola Coratza), University of Bucharest, Romania (Laura Comanescu and Florina Grecu), University of Minho, Portugal (Paulo Pereira). Each university is using INTERGEO as a support for the specific courses on geoconservation and geomorphological heritage. Each team will then carry out fieldwork and will exchange on the results during a virtual international conference to be organized in Summer 2016 (the various teams will interact by video-conferences). The course will then be fully open-access by September 2016. The content of the course will evolve and will be completed in the future.

**Publications**

***Geomorphosites, Special issue of Geoheritage***

This special issue of Geoheritage, edited by E. Reynard, P. Coratza and F. Hobléa, collected seven papers following the Paris Conference session: the two first texts deal with methodological issues, focusing on the pre-selection of potential geomorphosites; the following papers relate to integrative approaches aiming at inventorying the geomorphological heritage at the regional scale in a context of geotourism development; the three other papers are case studies focusing on specific contexts and approaches that are currently at the core of research on geomorphosites.

The volume will be published as issue 1/2016 but the papers are already on-line.

## **Future activities 2016**

### ***European Geoscience Union General Assembly, Vienna, 12-17 April 2015***

The WG, in collaboration with the IAG WG on "Landform Assessment for Geodiversity", co-organises the joint session SSS3.6/EOS7 "**Geoheritage and Geodiversity Matter: Themes, Links and Interactions**", convened by Paola Coratza, Benjamin van Wyk de Vries and Zbigniew Zwoliński (Co-Conveners: Marco Giardino, Alicja Najwer, Hanneke van den Ancker, Sjoerd Kluiwing, Emmanuel Reynard, Grazina Skridlaite, Erika Vye, Thomas Kisser).

More information about the session:

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/20473>

### ***33rd International Geographical Congress – IGU, Beijing (China), 21-25 August 2016***

The WG, in collaboration with the IGU Commission "Geomorphology and Society", co-organises the session "Geomorphology, Geomorphosites and Landscape", chaired by Emmanuel Reynard and Jiun-Chuan Lin. Communications and posters dealing with the following issues are particularly welcome:

- methodological papers (assessment and mapping) and case studies dealing with landscape component of geomorphosites and geomorphology;
- geomorphological processes and landscape evolution;
- landscape value of geomorphological sites and tourist promotion;
- geomorphology and cultural landscapes (in particular terraced farmland landscapes)

Call for sessions is open till **February 15, 2016**.

More information about the conference:

<http://www.igc2016.org/dct/page/1>

### ***International Workshop on Urban Geomorphosites – Rome (Italy), date to be defined (October or November) 2016***

The University of Rome La Sapienza, in collaboration with the Universities of Modena and Reggio Emilia and Lausanne, is planning to organise a workshop with the aim to discuss specific issues concerning Urban Geomorphosites. In particular special attention will be given to the following issues: methodologies for the assessment and mapping of urban

geomorphosites; urban geotourism; relationships between cultural and geomorphological heritage in cities; conservation of geoheritage in context of fast urban growing.

Updates will be given as soon as available.

Paola CORATZA and Fabien HOBLEA