

4th IAG-EGU Intensive Course

"Geomorphic services for environmental change understanding: from field surveying to dynamic and systemic risks evaluation"

Sinaia, Romania, 12–15 September 2025

and

IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology – Romania 2025 "Geomorphology for society: challenges and opportunities"

Timisoara, Romania, 16–18 September 2025

Report

Maria Kotowska

University of Wrocław
maria.kotowska@uwr.edu.pl

In September of 2025 I had an opportunity to travel to Romania for the IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology and the preceding Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists. I would like to thank the International Association of Geomorphologists for offering me a grant enabling my participation in these events.

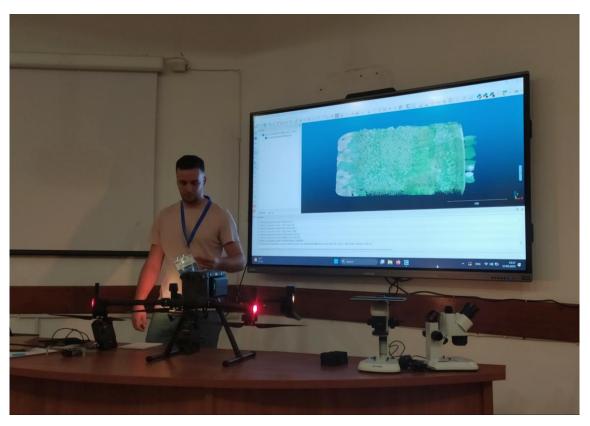
The 4th IAG-EGU Intensive Course started with organized transfer from Bucharest to the beautiful mountain town of Sinaia. We got accommodated in the comfortable buildings of Sinaia Zoological Station and started with an Ice Breaker dinner. From the very beginning the atmosphere was friendly and welcoming so we were off to a very good start.

The title of the Course was "Geomorphic services for environmental change understanding: from field surveying to dynamic and systemic risks evaluation" and that is exactly what we got to learned



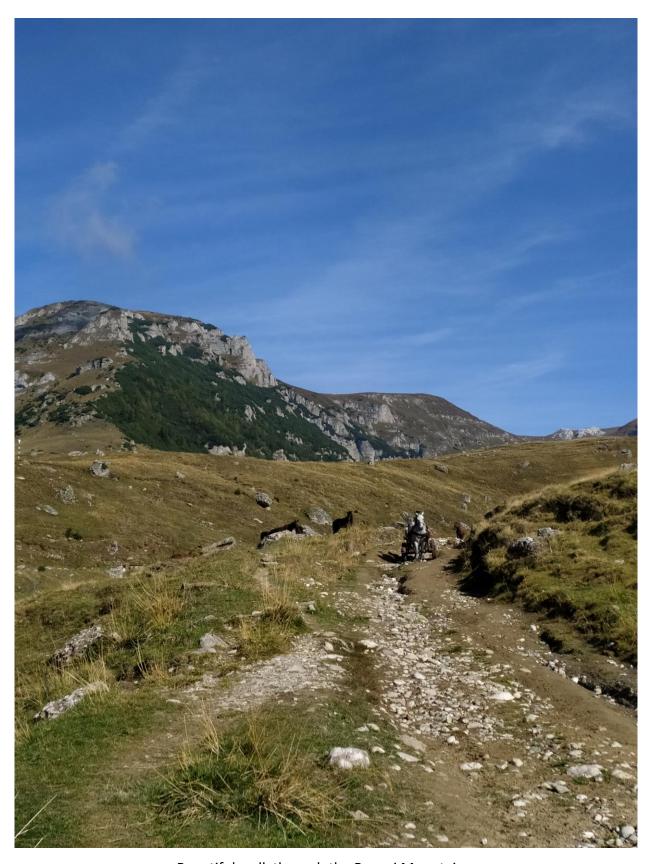
about. During three productive busy days we had varied scientific sessions, practical exercises in different software and two exciting field trips. While admiring the breathtaking Bucegi Mountains we were shown various research methods such as tree core sampling, Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) and Terrestrial Laser Scanning (TLS). The schedule of the Course was well prepared and clearly presented. Even though the weather conditions prevented performing e.g. drone flights, the organizers made sure to modify a plan and pass on the knowledge in the best way possible.

The most important part of the event was the people. I got to make connections from outside of my university and meet people at a similar stage of the scientific career. Being in an open and supporting international environment led to many interesting discussions, also apart from geomorphology. The organizers were friendly and helpful. It was visible they put a lot of effort and heart into making the Course run smoothly and I really felt taken care of.



Presentation of the drone with LiDAR.





Beautiful walk through the Bucegi Mountains.





Old landslide deposits where we did among others the ERT measurements.

From Sinaia we moved to Timişoara for the IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology – Romania 2025 "Geomorphology for society: challenges and opportunities". Timişoara turned out to be a charming city with lively atmosphere and many green areas for peaceful walks.

The Conference took place at the West University of Timişoara within its comfortable and spacious campus. All rooms were well marked and the central space for posters and coffee breaks was conducive to conversations and meeting new people. The plan of the event was interesting and diverse, with four parallel thematic sessions and keynote lectures on various topics. The highlight of the event was for sure the mid-conference trip to the Lipovei Hills joined with an amazing festive dinner at the winery (although the restaurant next to the University was so beautiful that every dinner resembled festive dinner!).



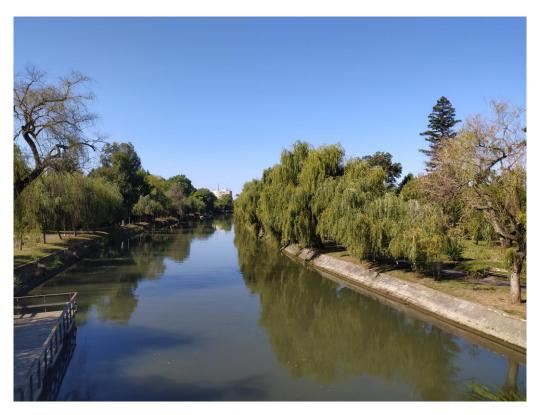
Even though it was the biggest conference that I took part in it was not as intimidating as I expected. The atmosphere was rather relaxed and the organizers were open to questions and ready to help. I had a chance to form new international connections and strengthen the existing ones. We shared many laughs and have already started making plans to meet again in the future.

Thank you once again to the International Association of Geomorphologists for offering me a grant enabling this unforgettable experience.



Piața Unirii in the center of Timișoara during sunset.





Walks at the Bega River, right next to the University.



Visiting the vineyard at the Lipovei Hills. Participants ready to taste the wine!