

EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION – GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013
APRIL 7–12, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) is the greatest geosciences union of Europe (over 12,500 members), the initiatives of which aim at strengthening the geoscience community by promoting the cooperation between scientists and advancing scientific research of excellence in geosciences, planetary and space sciences. It was established in September 2002 as a merger of the European Geophysical Society (EGS) and the European Union of Geosciences (EUG). The EGU publishes 15 open-access journals, and organizes meetings, education and outreach activities. Its annual General Assembly is the largest geosciences conference in Europe, attracting over 11,000 scientists; organized in over 500 sessions it includes an average of around 4,500 oral presentations and over 9,000 posters.

The EGU General Assembly in 2013 was attended by 11,167 scientists from 95 countries (including Romania – 79 researchers). The Conference program scheduled 448 scientific sessions, 96 Poster Summaries & Discussions, as well as 143 side-events (e.g. the launch of the Light Optical Aerosol Counter, which measured aerosol profiles up to 100 m twice a day at 10:30 and 15:30, in front of the main building of the Austria Center Vienna). The event numbered 4,684 oral presentations, 8,207 posters, and for the very first time, 452 PICO (Presenting Interactive Content) presentations. The meeting included 10 Union sessions (e.g. the EGU Awards Ceremony (Great Debates, Medal Lectures, Keynote Lectures, Short Courses, Geo Cinema) and addressed a wide range of topics grouped into 25 core Scientific Divisions (e.g. Atmospheric Sciences; Cryospheric Sciences; Energy, Resources and Environment; Geomorphology, Hydrological Sciences, Seismology, Natural Hazards). The Conference provided good opportunities for building fulfilling careers for young scientists and students and supporting them to be in the mainstream of geoscience research by attending meetings, round tables open discussions with key experts and leading scientists, the young geoscientist forum and network, mentoring schemes, short courses for acquiring knowledge and new skills (e.g. non-linear time series analysis, applying the Fast Fourier Transformation), workshops (e.g. open access to publishing, how to apply for a job), and the job market. In 2013, the EGU has teamed up with UNESCO to take the GIFT (Geosciences Information for Teachers) workshop to Africa, aiming at sharing the latest scientific findings in geosciences beyond the European borders. The GIFT workshop gathered more than 1,000 science teachers, the debates addressing the greatest challenges in Earth Sciences (e.g. traditional mineral extraction versus environmental management, climate change adaptation, prevention of natural hazards, ensuring access to drinking water).

The scientific results of participants in the EGU Conference are encouraged to be published within the EGU open-access peer-reviewed journals, which are included in its current portfolio (e.g. Earth Surface Dynamics, The Cryosphere, Climate of the Past, Biogeosciences, Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences, Hydrology and Earth System Sciences). The impact factor of the EGU journals (in 2013) ranged between 1.37 and 5.51.

The Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy was represented by nine researchers who gave presentations at four scientific sessions of the EGU Conference, namely: Natural hazards – *Uncertainty associated within regional landslide risk analysis – a case study in Buzău County, Romania* (V. Zumpano, R. Ciurean, **M. Micu**, **D. Bălteanu** and T. Glade), *Comparing the predictive capability of landslide susceptibility models in three different study areas using the Weights of Evidence technique* (H. Hussin, V. Zumpano, S. Sterlacchini, P. Reichenbach, **D. Bălteanu**, **M. Micu**, G. Bordogna and M. Cugini); Cryospheric Science – *Snow line analysis in the Romanian Carpathians under the influence of winter warming* (**D. Micu** and I. Șandric); Climate: Past, present, future – *Climate services for an urban area (Baia Mare City, Romania) with a focus on climate extremes* (**M. Sima**, **D. Micu**, **C-S. Dragotă** and **S. Mihalache**); Soil System Sciences – *Climate change adaptation options for sustainable management of agriculture in the Eastern Lower Danube Plain, Romania* (**E-A. Popovici**, **M. Sima**, **D. Bălteanu**, **C-S. Dragotă**, **I. Grigorescu** and **Gh. Kucsicsa**).

The next EGU General Assembly will take place in Vienna (Austria), between April 27 and May 02, 2014.

Dana Micu

6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GULLY EROSION
IN A CHANGING WORLD (6th ISGE)
MAY 6–12, 2013, IAȘI, ROMANIA

The international symposiums on gully erosion have been organized every two or three years since the first edition held in 2000 in Belgium: 2002 in China, 2004 in the USA, 2007 in Spain and 2010 in Poland. Their aim has been to encourage the understanding of gully erosion and its controlling factors.

The 6th International Symposium on Gully Erosion was held in Iași on 06–12 May 2013. The task of organizing this edition was attributed to the Department of Geography of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași. Besides, the event evolved under the auspices of the International Association of Geomorphologists, the Association of Romanian Geomorphologists and the European Society for Soil Conservation. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Ion Ioniță (Dept. of Geography, Faculty of Geography and Geology, “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași, Romania) and co-chaired by Prof. Jean Poesen (Head Division of Geography, Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven, Belgium).

This edition’s topic has been *Gully Erosion in a Changing World* with the focus on promoting communication and exchange of scientific knowledge on gullies, identifying existing gaps in their research and discussing better management practices for land under the threat of gullies in the context of climate change and human pressure.

The symposium was attended by almost 50 participants coming from 21 different countries. Among them Prof. J. Poesen (Belgium), Prof. M.A. Fullen (UK), Dr. W. Zglobicki (Poland), Prof. S.J. Bennett (USA), Prof. D. Torri (Italy), Prof. J. Casali (Spain), Prof. D. Bălțeanu (Romania).

The scientific meeting was divided in several parts. Two days were devoted to oral and poster presentations. Other three days were occupied by scientific field trips and one post-conference excursion. The first two scientific field trips allowed participants to discover the characteristic features (causes, rates of activity in time, mechanisms) of mainly valley-bottom-type gullies in the Bârlad Plateau, as well as those of small discontinuous gullies of valley-sides in the Jijia Rolling Plain. The post-conference excursion crossed the Moldavian Subcarpathians and the Eastern Carpathians of Romania. Landforms in relation to the morphostructural units, present-day geomorphic processes as well as environmental issues raised by the presence of the Izvoru Muntelui and the Bicaz reservoirs were in the center of discussions.

On the 9th of May a special ceremony was organized, as part of the symposium, at the Senate of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași. The aim of it was to offer Prof. Jean Poesen (Katholic University of Leuven, Belgium), President of the Belgian Association of Geomorphologists, the title of *Honorary Professor of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași* for his outstanding research in the field of geomorphological processes, soil erosion and soil and water conservation.

Marta Jurchescu

THE 8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOMORPHOLOGY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS (IAG)
“*GEOMORPHOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY*”,
AUGUST 27–31, 2013, PARIS, FRANCE

Between August 27–31, 2013, more than 1,500 participants worldwide gathered in Paris at the Cité des Sciences de La Villette for the 8th International Conference on Geomorphology of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG). Entitled “*Geomorphology and Sustainability*”, the Conference was co-organized by the Groupe Français de Géomorphologie (GFG) and it was opened to all scientists and practitioners in geomorphology and connected sciences. The Conference included 26 scientific sessions, one open session, 5 keynote lectures and one Workshop devoted to Young Geomorphologists. Beside the numerous scientific sessions, the organizers presented a wide variety of scientific excursions (3 pre-Conference, 7 mid-Conference, 13 post-Conference) in both France and neighboring countries (Belgium, Switzerland, Spain).

The sessions covered a broad range of topics, focusing on both theoretical and fundamental (history and epistemology of geomorphology, geomorphology and earth system science, planetary geomorphology, mega-geomorphology, methods in Geomorphology) and practical, applied issues (hillslope processes and mass movements, fluvial geomorphology and river management, methods for landslide hazard and risk assessment). An important part was devoted to the anthropocene geomorphology and its relationships with history (geoarcheology) or ecology (human impacts on landscape, geoconservation and geotourism). The numerous devastating events occurred worldwide during the last 3-4 years (earthquakes, large floods and tsunamis, massive landslides, hurricanes) were approached within the sections devoted to geomorphic hazards, risk management and climate change impact. The increased demand of online scientific services or interactive solutions gathered numerous presentations focusing on modelling in geomorphology, remote sensing, radar and laser scanning, statistics in geomorphology, applied geomorphological mapping, DEMs, GIS and spatial analysis.

The Romanian geomorphologists had an active participation, the representatives of the Universities of Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Suceava, Iași presenting issues related to slope processes, periglacial geomorphology, coastal geomorphology, landslide and flood hazard, causes and consequences, human-induced hazards. The Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy was involved, besides scientific presentations, in the organization of the event at the level of Scientific Committee and Scientific Session Convening.

Mihai Micu

