

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
“NATURAL HAZARDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS”

(Pătârlagele, Buzău County, 20–25 September, 2008)

Between the 20th and 25th of September 2008, the Pătârlagele Natural Hazards Research Centre of the Institute of Geography hosted the 8th edition of the International Summer School *Natural Hazards and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions*. The Summer School, organized by the Institute of Geography under the auspices of International Association of Geomorphologists, was part of the IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology *Landslides, Floods and Environmental Change in Mountain Regions* (15–26 September 2009, Braşov). The manifestation was addressed to young researchers, Master and Ph.D. students from Romania and abroad, interested in this particular topic.

The first three days of the Summer School took place simultaneously with the Post-conference field-trip *Large Landslides, Floods and Seismic Activity*, attended by important personalities of Geomorphology, like Prof. Michael Crozier (Vice-president of the IAG, Institute of Geography, School of Earth Sciences, New Zealand), Prof. Monique Fort (Vice-president of the IAG, Université Paris-Diderot, Département de Géographie, France), Prof. Frank Audemard (vice-president of the IAG, Venezuelan Foundation for Seismological Research – FUNVISIS, Venezuela), Prof. Denes Loczy (University of Pécs, Hungary), Prof. Piotr Migon (University of Wrocław, Poland), Prof. Dan Bălţeanu (Institute of Geography, Romania), Prof. Ioan Aurel Irimuş (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), Prof. Virgil Surdeanu (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), Prof. Petru Urdea (University of Timișoara, Romania).

Being organized in an area subjected to many natural hazards (slope processes, especially landslides and mudflows, valleys affected by flash-floods and associated channel processes) and having a high vulnerability to extreme phenomena, the Summer School provided opportunities for young scholars to assist to some state-of-the-art research trends, important for sustainable development.

Besides attending lectures, the main purpose of the Summer School was to allow the students to present their own researches. The inter-disciplinary character of the discussions was outlined by the multitude of subjects: the mapping of geomorphological processes, natural hazards assessment, human pressure on the environment, vulnerability of rural settlements to natural and technological hazards. The implication of the local authorities was also an important point in the discussions, as members of the local council and of the Civil Protection were involved in the active debates.

This edition of the Summer School was attended by 9 participants, Master and Ph.D. students and also young researchers from Estonia, Malta, Slovenia, Turkey, Hungary and Romania, who have a special interest in geomorphological risk assessment, land-use dynamics and human geography.

The Summer School was divided into two main activities: lectures and field work. The lectures focused on: *Landslides Geomorphology* (Prof. Michael Crozier, Vice-president of the IAG, Institute of Geography, School of Earth Sciences, New Zealand), *Local structural protection as part of integral risk management* and *Digital models as a tool for hazard and risk analysis measures* (Dr. Markus Holub, Institute of Mountain Risk Engineering, Department of Structural Engineering & Natural Hazards, BOKU University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences – Vienna) and *Applied Geomorphology* (Dr. Sally Marx, Tonkin & Taylor Environmental and Engineering Consultancy, Wellington, New Zealand). The field trips focused on deep seated landslide assessment and associated risk, mudflows digital modelling, landslide susceptibility and hazard assessment, floods in large and small catchments, human vulnerability and risk assessment. The Summer School ended with an inter-active workshop, the discussions among participants relating to the field work conducted during the event and its correlation with each one's field of interest.

The presented papers will be selectively published in the geographical journals.

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