

16th Joint Geomorphological Meeting (Italy, Romania, Belgium, France, Greece),
Morphoevolution in tectonical active belts,
Rome, Italy and Central Appenine Mountains, 1-5 July 2012

The Joint Geomorphological Meeting became a tradition in the IAG events'calendar. This year the Italian group of geomorphologists by the AIGeo (Associazione Italiana di Geografia fisica e Geomorfologia) organized at Rome an interesting scientific event, focused on the morphological evolution in tectonical active mountain belts. As usual, the conference was sustained by the collaboration between the geomorphological groups and associations from Italy, Romania, France, Greece and Belgium.

This informal event was organized at the Earth Science Department of University La Sapienza in Rome, in collaboration with The Department of Geological Sciences from University of Roma Tre. Researchers from 11 countries (75 in total) presented their results related on the topic of the conference but also on close research themes like applied and environmental geomorphology.

The International Association of Geomorphology also joined the conference by two vice-presidents, prof. E. Fouache from France and prof. P. Migoń from Poland, together with prof. Morgan De Dapper from Belgium, Secretary General of the IAG and prof. M. Soldati from Italy, executive member of the IAG board.

The aim of the scientific meeting came from the latest dramatic seismic events in the Appenines (2009, 2012), which confirmed the contemporary tectonic evolution of these areas and their active morphodynamics along fault scarps and within basins.

Solicited papers from each of the five countries which initiated the joint meeting were focused on different case studies on the relationship between recent tectonic events and geomorphological evolution: Dating uplift events based on composite metric on fluvial landscapes (A. Demoulin, Belgium), Tectonic control on hillslope processes in The Himalayas (M. Fort, France), Geomorphological evolution of the NW Peloponessus (L. Stamatopoulos, Greece), The age, properties and

morphotectonic meaning of the summit paleosurface in Southern Italy (M. Schiatarella, Italy).

The Romanian Association of Geomorphologists presented a paper entitled River channel morphodynamics at the contact area between Romanian Plain and Curvature Subcarpathian, presented by dr. Gabriela Toroimac and coordinated by professor Florina Grecu, from University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography.

Poster session was organized with the help of the Paleontological Museum in University La Sapienza and offered a good opportunity of scientific exchange between the participants but mainly between young researcher and experienced researchers.

An important part of the event was the 3 days long field trip. According to the main topic of conference, the Italian colleagues proposed a very interesting excursion covering the some of the representative Pliocene-Quaternary basins from the Central Appenine Mountains. These are an expression of the recent tectonic evolution which can be proved by the morphodynamic features and also by archaeological and historical evidences along the active fault scarp systems. Beyond shore reconstruction issues and the fault around Rieti Depression, the participants visited the area affected by the severe earthquake around L' Aquila basin. The second day focused on recent active faults and stream network evolution along Middle Alterno River Valley and Subequana Basin, in the context of a spectacular morphological inversion. In Sulmona basin, representative slope morphodinamics on active fault scarps were discussed during a hot summer afternoon with the professional references from Italian young colleagues. Third day of the trip focused on the Cassino tectonic depression, where active faults cut the landscapes to the border with the mountain steep slopes.

The Romanian Association of Geomorphologists was represented by professor Florina Grecu and an important number of researchers (14) coming from

the universities of Bucharest, Iași and Craiova. They presented an important number of posters focused on the topic of the conference and on closer subjects like geomorphosites, geomorphological mapping and GIS analysis of natural hazards.

The Joint Geomorphological Session was another good occasion for meeting geomorphologists with a strong interest in connecting geological research with geomorphological research. The next similar event is proposed by the Belgian Group of Geomorphologists, in 2014, after the

Geomorphological Congress to be held in Paris, France (August, 2013).

It was a meeting where high quality scientific expertise, friendship and Italian hospitality joined in a hot summer season days in the heart of the Appennines, probably one of the youngest mountain belts of Europe. This was because of the excellent organisation, coordinated by professor Paola Fredi and collaborators, dr. Marta della Seta and dr. Giandomenico Fubelli.

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