

**The Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Conference on Geomorphology held on the occasion
of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission**
Stará Lesná, Tatranská Lomnica, Slovakia, June 24–28, 2013

In 2013, 50 years are completed since the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC) was founded. Back in 1963, an International Symposium on the geomorphology of the Carpathians was organized by the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The symposium was held both in Poland and in Slovakia.

Therefore, this year's Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Conference on Geomorphology, held in Stará Lesná between the 24th and the 28th of June 2013, was a jubilee edition celebrating 50 years since the founding of the CBGC. It was organized, as half-a-century ago, by both Slovak and Polish geomorphologists. More precisely, this year's Conference – belonging to the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC) and the IAG/AIG Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group (CBDRWG) – was organized by the Association of Slovak Geomorphologists, the Association of Polish Geomorphologists, the Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (*Dr. Milan Lehotský, Dr. Ján Novotný, MSc. Miloš Rusnák*), the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation of the Polish Academy of Sciences (*Assoc. Prof. Zofia Rączkowska, Dr Michał Długosz*), the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of the Jagiellonian University (*Prof. Kazimierz Krzemień, Dr. Elżbieta Gorczyca, Dr Dominika Wałach-Wrońska*) and the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava (*Dr. Zora Machová*).

Among the honorary members of the International Committee of the Conference two Romanian geomorphologists were also listed: Prof. Lucian Badea and Prof. Dan Bălteanu from the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy.

The conference venue has been the Congress Center Academia of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, in Stará Lesná, Tatranská Lomnica, Slovakia. This center is located in the Eastern part of the Vysoké Tatry Mountains in Slovakia, in the near vicinity of the Tatra National Park.

Key note lectures were given by: Prof. *Leszek Starkel* (Main regularities of mountain relief evolution), Prof. *Jaromír Demek* (Pleistocene

cryopediments and cryopediplains of the Moravian-Silesian Carpathians (Czech Republic)), Prof. *Dénes Lóczy* (Landforms, water availability and land use in floodplains), Prof. *Petru Urdea* (Geophysical investigation in the periglacial belt of the central area of the Făgăraș Mountains) and Prof. *Milan Lehotský* (Response of a mountain bedrock-alluvial river in flysh geological setting to contemporary environmental conditions (case study the Topľa River, Slovakia)).

The conference was further structured in several successive oral and poster sessions which brought together presentations on *fluvial geomorphology and palaeo-hydrology, slope processes*, as well as on other topics. The conference was attended by a large number of participants coming from Carpathian, Balkan and Dinaric countries: Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Austria and Croatia.

Two excursions were provided during the conference program: one half-day excursion in the Liptovská kotlina Basin and one-day post-conference excursion in the Polish part of the High Tatra Mountains (the Morskie Oko Lake) and the Western Tatra Mountains. (the Chochołowska dolina Valley).

On the evening of the first day a Joint Council Meeting of the IAG/AIG CBDRWG (the last meeting of the working group) and of the CBGC took place. The meeting approved the main issues to be submitted to elections within the Plenary Session of the CBGC, at the end of the actual conference. This latter one was, as expected, mainly devoted to the anniversary of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission. The programme included several speeches: Prof. Leszek Starkel shared some of his memories from the early beginning of the Commission's existence and explained the first steps taken by the Carpathian colleagues in cooperating with each other (the founders of the Commission who are no longer among us were remembered on this occasion, among which also the Romanian ones - Prof. *Vintila Mihăilescu, Prof. Tiberiu Morariu, Prof. Gheorghe Niculescu*); Prof. *Miloš Stankoviansky* summarized the 50 years of activity of the CBGC (1963-2013) – presidents, meetings, working groups, publications –,

as well as the briefer history of the IAG Working Group on the CBD Region; Prof. *Dénes Lóczy*, before ending his Presidency of the CBGC, gave his Report on the past two years since the last meeting in Ostravice; Prof. *Zofia Rączkowska* presented a Report on the journal *Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica*.

The officially nominated candidate for the Presidency of the Commission, Prof. *Petru Urdea* from Romania, was elected by the Plenary Session, and the position of a Secretary, to be occupied by a person from the same country as the President, was also approved. In his new quality, that of President of the CBGC, Prof. *Petru Urdea* presented the plan of activities for the next years, which includes, among other things, conferences, thematic workshops and summer schools, editing a new

volume in the Springer Geography series and a special issue of the *Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica* and constructing a website. The date and venue for the next conference were also voted in the Plenary Session. Based on a slight change suggested in the name of the Commission from Carpatho-Balkan to Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric – following the example of the IAG Working Group, a proposition came from the President of the Geomorphological Society of Slovenia, Dr. *Irena Mrak*, which would place the next Geomorphological meeting in September 2016 in Postojna, Slovenia. Prof. *Karel Natek* offered to be the contact person in this respect. With this occasion an increase in the frequency of meetings was made, i.e. from four to three years.



The 50th anniversary of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission celebrated during the Plenary Session; from left to right: Prof. Dénes Lóczy, Prof. Leszek Starkel and Prof. Miloš Stankoviansky
(Photo: Laurențiu Niculescu, June 27th 2013)

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