

6th International Symposium on Gully Erosion in a Changing World (6th ISGE)
Iasi, Romania, 06-12 May 2013

Gully erosion has been recognized as an important environmental threat throughout the world affecting several soil and land functions. There is ample physical evidence of intense gully erosion occurring at various times in the past in different parts of the world. Gullies are one of the few sources of morphological evidence in the landscape of past phases of erosion reflecting the impact of environmental change (land use, extreme climatic events). The development of gullies increases runoff and sediment connectivity in the landscape, hence increasing the risk of flooding and reservoir sedimentation.

Assessing the interactions between environmental change (land use, climate) and land degradation remains a key issue for environmental scientists, land managers and policy makers. Over the last decades, significant progress has been made in understanding gully erosion and its controlling factors.

The 6th International Symposium on Gully Erosion (6th ISGE) deployed in the city of Iasi, Romania between 06-12 May 2013, continued the sequence of successful meetings held in Leuven (Belgium, 2000), Chengdu (China, 2002), Oxford (USA, 2004), Pamplona (Spain, 2007) and Lublin (Poland, 2010). This important scientific meeting was organized by the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Faculty of Geography and Geology, under the high patronage of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), the European Society for Soil Conservation

(ESSC), the Romanian Association of Geomorphology (AGR) and the Romanian Academy.

The scientific meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ion Ionita with the Department of Geography, Faculty of Geography and Geology, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania and co-chaired by Prof. Dr. DSc. Jean Poesen, Head Division of Geography, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven, Belgium.

Almost 50 scientists from 21 countries attended and actively participated in the 6th ISGE by very interesting 34 oral presentations and 20 posters on the 07th and 09th of May 2013. The main focus in these presentations has been oriented on: Gully erosion and associated processes; Gully development and rates; Advances in measuring techniques; Gully erosion models and Gully erosion control.

Two scientific field trips have been carried out on the 08th and 10th of May 2013 in the Falciu Hills of the Barlad Plateau and the Jijia Rolling Plain of the Moldavian Plain. The meeting was closed by one day post-conference field excursion in the Moldavian Subcarpathians and the Eastern Carpathians of Romania.

Throughout the event, the organizing committee, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Ion Ionita and his "right and left hands", Dr. Lilian Niacsu and Dr. Mihai Niculita, hoped that the undoubted high quality scientific expertise of the participants and the Romanian hospitality joined in a very successful symposium.



The scientific field trip in the Valcioaia catchment, Fălcu Hills, Moldavian Plateau of Eastern Romania
(Photo: Mihai Niculita, 08 May 2013)