

MAEGS - 16

Meeting of Association of European Geological Societies Geology for society: education and cultural heritage

9 - 13 July 2009, Cluj-Napoca, Romania



MAEGS-16, the **16th Meeting of the AEGS** was organized between 9–13 July 2009, in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) by the organizing committee headed by prof. dr. CORINA IONESCU, president of AEGS. The conference was held at the Faculty of Biology and Geology, Babeş-Bolyai University and attracted more than 100 participants from 22 countries.



The **AEGS** (Association of European Geological Societies) is an international organization promoting all fields of geosciences. It is supported by subscriptions from 30 national geological societies from Europe, with the General Assembly held every two years in one of the subscribing countries.

During the opening ceremony, the **Percival Allen Medal** award for outstanding achievements in the field of international relations in Earth Science was given to **EDUARDO DE MULDER** (Norway), executive director of International Year of Planet Earth, responsible for launching the International Year of Planet Earth.

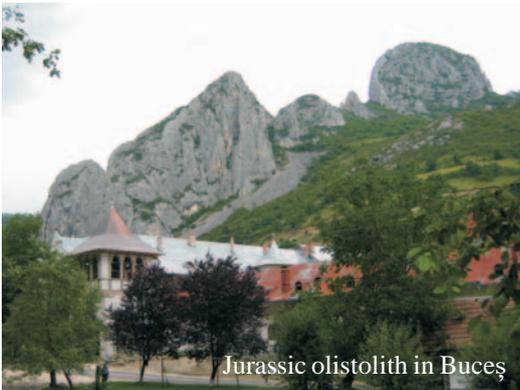
As the general aim of MAEGS is to bring together geoscientists and the representatives of the society to discuss recent progress and future trends, the following topics were chosen for MAEGS 16: “Education in Geology” and “Geology and Cultural Heritage”.

After two invited lectures by R. TREND (UK) and T. WEISZBURG (Hungary), 54 lectures were presented in seven parallel sessions:

- *Urban geology and impact of geohazards* (7) • *Secondary schools, university curricula, joint programs* (7) • *Archaeometry and geoarchaeology* (14) • *Building and dimension stones* (9) • *Geoparks and geosites* (9) • *Museums and public awareness* (3) • *Open symposium* (5)

One day of lectures was followed by a half day poster session where 50 posters were displayed in the identical sections.

For ca. 80 participants a two-day excursion was organized to the Monti Apuseni and Southern Carpathians. The localities were chosen in accord with the topics and covered both geology and cultural heritage. The most interesting geological localities were the large gold mine in Roşia Montana (N of Abrud), Zam quarry (Mureş valley) with excellent outcrops of Jurassic ophiolites, and a giant Jurassic olistolith in Cretaceous flysch (Geoagiu valley, Trascău Mts).



Jurassic olistolith in Buceş



Roşia Montana open pit



Jurassic ophiolites

The wonderful geology was accompanied by astonishing cultural monuments, excellently preserved Roman galleries in Roşia Montana; Sarmizegetusa, the former capital of Roman province of Dacia; Densuş, the oldest church in Romania with possible roots in the 6th century AD; and the impressive medieval castle of Ioan de Hunedoara (Corvin's Castle).



Roman gallery in Roşia Montana



Corvin's Castle

The participants may have left with the best impressions both from the Conference and today Romania.

Igor Petrik, SAS Bratislava