

## **Intensive Course on Mountain Geomorphosites** (22-24 August 2013, Lausanne and Swiss Alps / Switzerland)

The Intensive Course on Mountain Geomorphosites was held on 22-25 August 2013 in Lausanne and Hérens valley (Switzerland) and regrouped almost 30 distinguished geomorphologists and Ms. and PhD. students from 12 countries.

The Intensive Course was organized by the Working Group on Geomorphosites (working group of International Association of Geomorphologists) and by its Chair Prof. Emmanuel Reynard from Geographical Institute, Lausanne University. The scientific activities were developed during 4 days (22 to 25 August 2013) in Lausanne (at the Institute of Geography, University of Lausanne) and in the Swiss Alps (at Hérens valley).

Generally, the main objectives of this Intensive Course were to improve knowledge and assessment of geomorphological sites, with particular emphasis on conservation, education and tourism attractivity in respect to these sites. Another important objective was to create and maintain an international network on mountain geomorphosites.



**Day 1 (22 August)** - Professor Reynard opened the meeting with a discussion about the objectives of the course (Figure A). Then, several notorious specialists on mountain geomorphosites talked about the specificities and characteristics of those mountain geomorphosites (E. Reynard – *Switzerland*, C.

Giusti, N. Cayla – *France*, Z. Zwolinski – *Poland*). At the afternoon a geoscientific itinerary prepared by the University of Lausanne and Bureau Relief (guides: prof. E. Reynard, S. Martin and G. Regolini) took place in the town of Lausanne.

**Day 2 (23 August)** - The second full day of the course, Friday, opened with a series of talks on methods of study and approaches on mountain geomorphosites (I. Bollati, M. Giardino – *Italy*, S. Martin, G. Regolini – *Switzerland*, F. Hoblea – *France*, P. Pereira – *Portugal* and I.A. Ayala – *Mexico*). At the afternoon, prof. E. Reynard organized a field trip in Lavaux, UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the participants observed the beautiful vineyards on the banks of Geneva Lake (Figure B).

**Day 3 (24 August)** - In the morning the group left Lausanne for the Hérens valley. The participants visited the Lac Bleu (Figure C), the Arolla valley and settlement and at the end of the day the commune of Evolène made a welcome reception. All the young participants presented their research projects and they exchanged their experience in various mountain ranges.

**Day 4 (25 August)** - The group left the Arolla for Ferpècle and Euseigne. At Ferpècle the participants take contact with a spectacular glacial valley and with the Mont Miné glacier (Figure D). Descending from the alpine region, the group stop to see and comment an important local géomorphosite: the Euseigne pyramid.

To conclude, the outstanding themes of the course which were very good analyzed were: (1) study of the specificities of mountain geomorphological heritage, (2) presentation and discussion of methods used in geomorphological heritage research, (3) networking of young researchers active in géohéritage studies and (4) exchange of experiences in various mountain ranges.

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