

Report on the European Young Geomorphologists Meeting

9-11 June 2023, Chamonix-Courmayeur (Mont-Blanc)

Organisation

Representatives of French, Swiss and Italian young geomorphologists organised a European Meeting of Young Geomorphologists on 9, 10 and 11 June 2023 in Chamonix and Courmayeur (Mont-Blanc). It was co-organised by the Swiss Geomorphological Society (SGmS), the French Geomorphology Group (GFG) and the Associazione Italiana di Geografia fisica e Geomorfologia (AIGeo), with the support of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research of the University of Lausanne (CIRM-UNIL) and the Swiss Association of Geography (ASG), under the auspices of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG). The organising committee consisted of Julie Wee (University of Fribourg), Jonathan Bussard (University of Lausanne), Amélie Duquesne (La Rochelle University), Ciro Cerrone (University of Naples Federico II), Mauro Bonasera (University of Turin), Claudia Caporizzo (University of Naples - Parthenope), Anna Masseroli (University of Milan) and Chiara Martinello (Università degli Studi di Palermo).

Organised by:



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Participation

In addition to the four organisers present at the meeting (J. Wee, J. Bussard, A. Duquesne and M. Bonasera) and the four external speakers who led the excursions (Laurent Astrade, Emmanuel Salim, Irene Bollati and Roberto Azzoni), this event brought together **26 participants** from 12 different countries (France, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Croatia, Lithuania, Austria, Germany, United States, China, Norway and Spain). The IAG awarded two young researcher grants, one to Aleksandra Osika (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland) and the other to Philipppes Mbevo Fendoung (University of Douala, Cameroon), the latter unfortunately had to cancel his participation to the event.



Young geomorphologists in Val Ferret (Italy), 11 June 2023. Photo: M. Bonasera

Report of activities

The first half-day (**Friday 9 June**) was dedicated to **scientific presentations**. A total of 18 oral presentations were given in 3 sessions: "Dynamics of glacial and periglacial environments" (8 speakers), "Geoheritage and geodiversity" (3 speakers) and "Methodological advances to innovative case studies" (7 speakers).



The participants presented their research work in 18 high-quality presentations. Chamonix, 9 June 2023. Photo: J. Bussard

Saturday 10 June was dedicated to an **excursion to the Chamonix Valley**. It began with a walk from Chamonix (Gare des Praz) to Montenvers, with a climb of 850m. Along the banks of the Arveyron and on the *roches moutonnées* of Les Mottets, Laurent Astrade, a lecturer at the University of Savoie Mont-Blanc and a member of the EDYTEM laboratory, spoke about the dynamics of proglacial streams in the Chamonix Valley from the end of the Little Ice Age to the present day. The afternoon was devoted to a visit to Montenvers, a remarkable viewpoint over the Mer de Glace. Emmanuel Salim, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Lausanne and member of the CIRM, presented the results of his PhD thesis on the influence of glacier fluctuations on tourism and mountain recreation practices at Montenvers and other glacier sites. The excursion continued with a visit to the Glaciorum and the Temple of Nature. At the end of the afternoon, participants took the Montenvers train back to Chamonix and a bus to Courmayeur.



Laurent Astrade examines the dynamics of proglacial streams (left) and Emmanuel Salim discusses the impact of glacier variations on tourism in Montenvers (right). Chamonix and Montenvers, 10 June 2023. Photos: A. Duquesne et J. Bussard

Sunday 11 June was devoted to an **excursion to Val Ferret in Valle d'Aosta**, on the southern slopes of the Mont Blanc massif, led by Roberto Azzoni, a research fellow at the University of Milan, and Irene Bollati, an associate professor at the University of Milan. The morning session focused on the geological and geomorphological context of Val Veny and Val Ferret, and the particular morphology of the Miage glacier and its proglacial margin, visible from the distance. The afternoon was dedicated to the discovery of the Planpincieux, Triolet and Pré de Bar glaciers, which hang on the southern slopes of the Grandes Jorasses and the Aiguilles de Triolet, and their evolution, as evidenced by the moraine ridges visible at the bottom of the valley. Traces of the rock avalanche that swept down the Triolet glacier in 1717 and the active Saxe landslide that threatens the hamlet of La Palud were also discussed along the way.



The remarkable glacial geomorphology of Val Ferret explained by Irene Bollati and Roberto Azzoni. Moraines of Triolet glacier, 11 June 2023. Photo: J. Bussard

Perspectives

Discussions are underway to publish the proceedings of the conference of the Friday 9 June and the field guide to the excursions of the 10 and 11 June in the Italian journal *Geografia Fisica e Dinamica Quaternaria* or in the French journal *Géomorphologie: Relief, Processus, Environnement*.

The very positive feedback from participants encourages the organisers to consider organising another international meeting of young geomorphologists in a similar format.

The organisers would like to express their sincere thanks to the various sponsors for their financial support, which made it possible to organise this meeting under excellent conditions and ensured that the registration fees were low and accessible to all young researchers.

Sion, La Rochelle, 20 June 2023

For the organising committee,
Amélie Duquesne, Jonathan Bussard, Julie Wee