



Warfield Church – conglomerate and chalk

Building Stone Atlas of Berkshire

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Berkshire, a county to the west of London, has few common building stones and this is reflected in the materials used and building styles within the county. During 2011 Berkshire Geoconservation Group collected information from villages throughout the county to compile an atlas of building materials used. Whilst note was made of stones from outside the county the main purpose was to document local material. Information was gathered by survey and involved volunteers from across the county. The information can be compared to the bedrock and superficial geology and is available to all and useful when conservation and renovation is taking place. It is becoming increasingly

important to understand the local character of an area and to be able to incorporate this into future developments.

The bedrock geology of the county is Cretaceous Chalk in the west and this is unconformably overlain by Palaeogene sands and clays. Superficial beds include sands and gravels of river terraces associated with the Rivers Kennet, Thames and Blackwater/Lodden.

In compiling the atlas many towns and villages were surveyed across the county and information on these has been added to a GIS map of the area. The resulting atlas shows that in the west of the county chalk and sarsen buildings are common with older ones having a timber frame. In the village of Lambourn this style is particularly common along with highly glazed bricks



Stonehenge, Wiltshire – use of sarsens

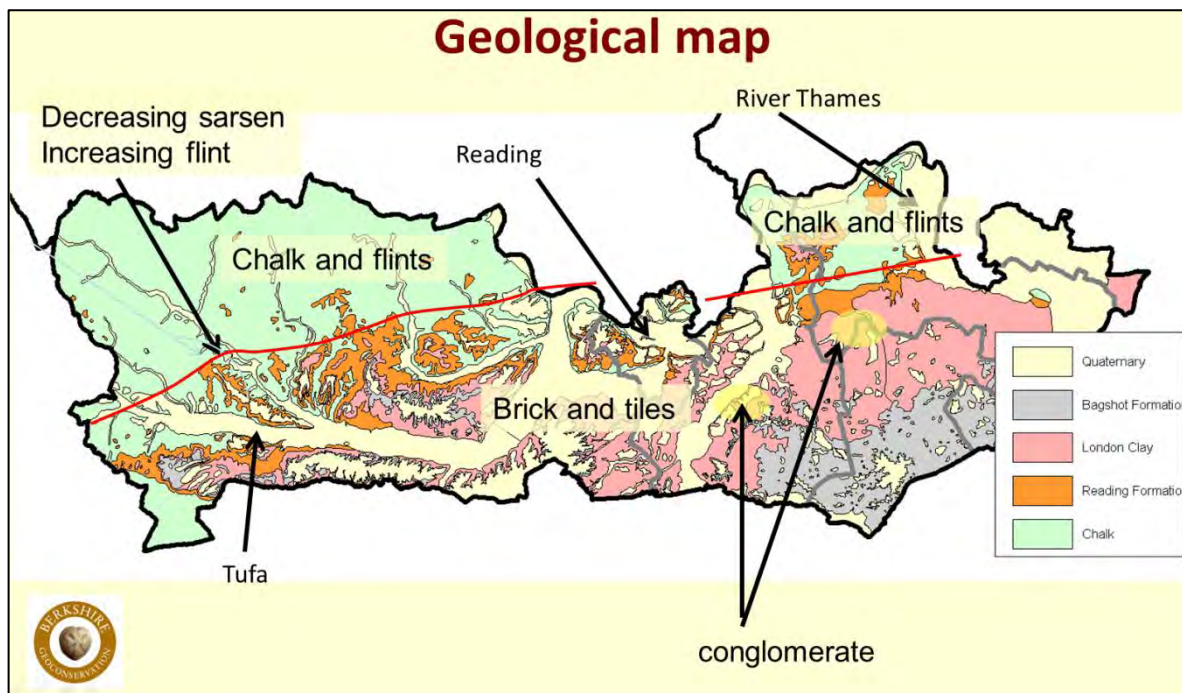
made from local Palaeogene deposits. This is one village where cut sarsens are common in buildings from the late 18th and early 19th century. Moving to the east along the valley of the Lambourn flint is more often used with brick and chalk and sarsen become less common. This coincides with fewer sarsens being available and also moving into upper chalk deposits where flints are prevalent. Once onto the Palaeogene beds around Newbury and across to Reading brick is the material of choice and the last working brickworks in the area closed in 1964.

In the north east of the county close to Maidenhead chalk again is used but with additional flint, as sarsens are less common in this area. There are some buildings here where chalk from the Chalk Rock horizon is the only material used. Again bricks from locally



sourced material are found. Historically there were many brickworks in this area. In the extreme east of the county there is very little in the way of natural building stone as the Palaeogene beds are unconsolidated. During the survey two uncommon building stones for the area were found and these are tufa in association with brick and stone in the Kennet valley west of Newbury where tufa was deposited as part of the Holocene gravels. The other is an iron rich Quaternary conglomerate around Wokingham in the east. This conglomerate is found only in some church buildings now, along with chalk, and due to its fragmental nature it is often rendered to prevent decay. Having completed the survey the published material is used to raise awareness of the geodiversity of the county and to assist with conservation of these in the future.

(Presentation from the ProGEO Working Group for Northern Europe in Oslo 2011)





ProGEO-Albania Annual Geotrip – 2012

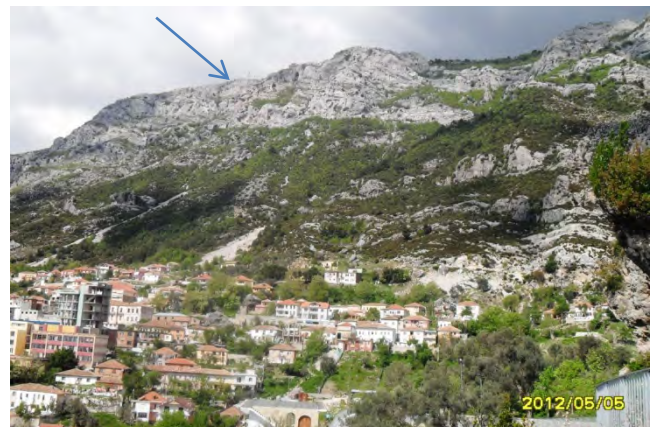
Participants of Geotrip on the Sari-Salltik Mountain.

Afat Serjani & Merita Dollma (Photos by A. SERJANI)

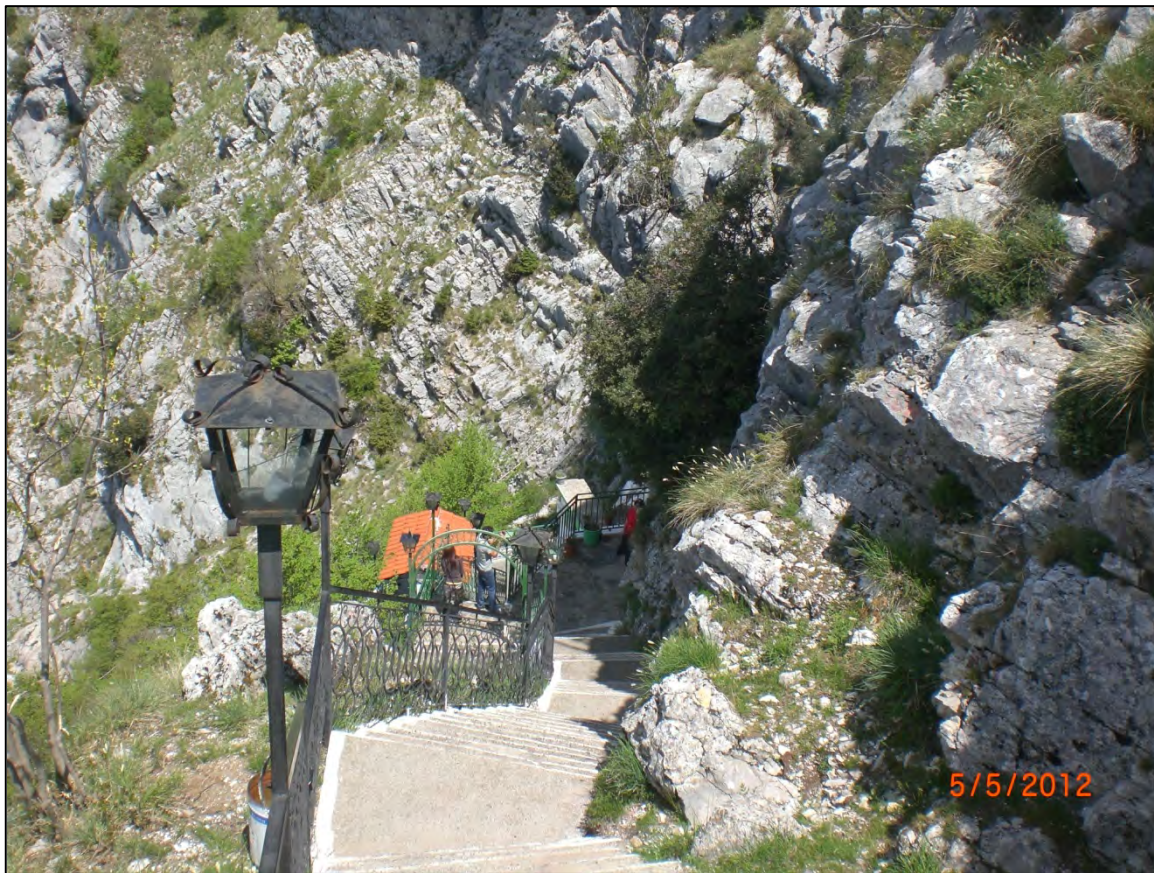
Forty persons from Tirana University, Dept. of Geography and the Geological and Mining Faculty of Tirana Polytechnical University participated in this geotrip arranged by ProGEO Albania for one day in May this year. Four participants from ProGEO-Kosovo were also present.

From Tirana to Kamza and Fushe-Kruja Neogene molasses of Tirana Syncline were crossed. These are a part of the Pre-Adriatic Depression (PAD), where coal deposits have been prospected. The biggest is the Valias coal deposit, which was exploited by mine up to 1992. In the molasse sequences there are a lot of fossil beds, quartz sandstone packets, and buried placers of heavy metals and rare minerals. To the east of the road we had the Kruja-Dajti Mountain Chain, crossed by many rivers and torrentes which have formed narrow, deep canyons and gorges. The Kruja-Dajti and Makaresh-Borizan anticlines found there are built up by carbonate rocks from a shallow water platform in their upper levels, while valleys are filled by flysch. Pine forests and open quarries in limestone

rocks was a major part of the view on both sides of the road. In the limestone sequences there are a lot of beds and packets full of gastropods and rudists. A transgression with bauxite mineralisation is outcropped to the south side of road.



Upper part of Kruja City and Sari-Salltik Mountain above. Sari-Salltik Cave and Cold water spring shown by arrow.



Steps down to "Tyrbe", Cave and water spring.

A couple of hours was spent in Kruja Historical City of Kruja has been a main center of the Arbri Principate, and was famous from 1443 to 1468, when our National Hero Gjergj Katriot, Skenderbeg (1405-1468), was confronted with attacks of Osman invaders and defended Kruja Castle against four sieges of a Turkish army. The Castle is built on the ridge south of City and has a great view. Inside the castle there are established Historical and Ethnographical museums. Remains of old catholic and orthodox churches, mosques and tekkes are also present. Kruja City and the Castle preserve important architectural values and the Kruja Bazar along the road from the city center to the castle is unique in Albania concerning the old and handcrafted products.

Carbonate sequences of Upper Cretaceous limestones was crossed from Kruja City to the Sari-Salltik Mountain. Climbing the south slope of Droja River Canyon the "Girl's Rock" could be seen. Here, according to the old legend, a lot of girls from Kruja, in danger to be caught by the enemy, were thrown down into the abyss. On both slopes of the Droja Gorge outcrops of intercalated, bedded limestone and dolomite packets were demonstrated. On the northern slope thrust regional faults of the Krasts tectonic zone was observed.

In the upper part of the Sari-Salltik Mountain at 1000-1200m altitudes it was a magnificent view. A karst field

covered by mixed forest was visible all around. Karst forms in carbonate rocks were seen everywhere. Here we visited the most interesting geotop: a cave and spring, found at the upper part of the slope. The Cave is developed in levels. In the upper level a "Tyrbe" (a small mausoleum over a muslim grave) was built in 1692. To enter the cave and the spring at the lowest level of the Cave, people of Kruja build numerous cement steps in 1773. This is one of the important religious places in the region. Other geosites such as the Midani karst field, Kulari Cave, Skeanderbeg stone, bauxite outcrop etc. were also visited. From the top of the mountain the Adriatic Sea could be seen in the far west, while to the east a ultrabasic massif and the Qafe Shtama National Park of pine forest dominated the view.



Part of Old, Antique Kruja Bazar.

Geotour 2012 & IRSE 2012

04. to 06. October 2012, Salgótarján, Hungary

The subjects of the GEOTOUR and IRSE 2012 Conference, Salgótarján, Hungary) are the geoparks, geoheritage and geoconservation (GEOTOUR) and the history of Central European mining (IRSE). These topics represent different segments of geotourism. When we speak about mining heritage, we have to consider also the cultural impact of mining of the Central European region.

These days, geoparks provide a well established way and strategy to show natural beauties of a given geomorphological or geological unit. Examining its carrying capacity, determining limits of acceptable change, assuring sustainability, providing experiences to visitors, its management, etc., are real challenges for the geopark managing team or consortium. The aim of the conference is to help geoparks and related organizations in solving and managing similar problems.

The conference CE mining history deals with people involved in mining, their origin and culture and the strategies of the effective presentation of their mining heritage. It includes geology, artefacts of various types, cultural processes and the setting of their time and place. Its management usually includes a synergic cooperation of a number of people and institutions. Legal aspects are important when e.g. earlier political decisions result in a need for certain cultural artefacts to be adapted to a new cultural environment without being disowned from the old cultural environment. As mining occurred in various rural, urban or larger districts and within CE also across borders, necessary service level, comfort and safety that have to be warranted may need more effort to achieve. All these and related issues provide a wide platform for contributions and discussions coming from around the globe.

Conference details are given at www.kgptour.tuke.sk. Full text of the papers should be mailed in electronic form to lubomir.strba@tuke.sk before the end of July 2012.



Geoconservation-related activities at the IUCN congress in September

Enrique Diaz-Martinez, mail: e.diaz@igme.es

The upcoming IUCN 5th World Conservation Congress that will take place this coming month of September in Jeju (South Korea) and includes several geoconservation-related activities:

- Saturday, September 8th:
Intensive course ("conservation campus") on **"Geoheritage and geodiversity: new concepts and applications in nature conservation"**, session 11:
<http://portals.iucn.org/2012forum/?q=0011>,
- Tuesday, September 11th:
round table ("knowledge café") on **"Contribution of geoconservation to nature resilience"**, session 13
<http://portals.iucn.org/2012forum/?q=0013>
- Wednesday, September 12th:
social event with a documentary on the geological heritage of the Basque Coast Geopark, session 1071,
<http://portals.iucn.org/2012forum/?q=1071>,
- **poster** session 280,
<http://portals.iucn.org/2012forum/?q=0280>
- **motion 056 towards geoconservation**, to be voted during the IUCN general assembly
<http://portals.iucn.org/2012motions/?q=node/462>.

The registration system is now open
<http://events.iucn.org/wcc2012>,
so **please promote these events** in your web pages or bulletins, and also send by e-mail to your contacts.

ProGEO activities and development over the last four years

*Lars Erikstad, executive secretary of ProGEO
mail: lars.erikstad@nina.no*

The Fifth General Assembly of ProGEO was held in Rab, Croatia in 2008 on the 5th International ProGEO Symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage. On this general assembly WAP Wimbledon (UK) was elected president of ProGEO. On the council meeting at Rab an executive committee was also elected: Gunnel Ransed (Sweden), Irimi Theodossiou-Drandaki (Greece) (second secretary), Gerardo Brancucci (Italy), Jose Brilha (Portugal), Lars Erikstad (Norway) (executive secretary), Sven Lundqvist (Sweden) (treasurer), Dusan Mijovic (Serbia), Radoslav Nakov (Bulgaria), Rein Raudsep (Estonia), and Jan Urban (Poland).

On the sixth international symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage in Hagen, Germany in 2010 a general assembly was not arranged due to practical reasons. This means that it will be a four year period between the 5th and the 6th general assembly which is the maximum period accepted by our articles. A council meeting was held in Hagen and a new executive committee was elected: Gerardo Brancucci (Ita-

ly), José Brilha (Portugal), Lars Erikstad (Norway, Executive Secretary), Sven Lundqvist (Sweden, Treasurer), Dusan Mijovic (Serbia), Radoslav Nakov (Bulgaria), Gunnel Ransed (Sweden), Irimi Theodossiou-Drandaki (Greece), Jan Urban (Poland) and E. Díaz-Martínez (Spain). The chairmen of the regional groups of ProGEO were given the positions as Vice Presidents of the association.

A new regional working group of ProGEO for southwestern Europe was established in 2011 with Enrique Diaz-Martinez as leader.

ProGEO members of Kosovo have applied for recognition of a national ProGEO group. This have made it necessary to do some discussion about our own rules, as they state that all nations that have full diplomatic recognition from EC can have the status of national ProGEO group. EC has made it up to each member state to recognise Kosovo and a large majority has done so. The discussion of the status of ProGEO Kosovo has been difficult. We are glad and proud of having ProGEO Kosovo as a ProGEO member, but the rules of national representatives in ProGEO states that ProGEO follow full recognition from EU as the criteria to be recognised as a country. Kosovo is not there, but, we will integrate our member ProGEO Kosovo in our activities even if this issue of formal national recognition is not fulfilled.



Publication of information of the understanding of the basic concepts of geoconservation is important and last year we published a protocol as a reference within this field (*ProGEO, 2011: Conserving our shared geoheritage – a protocol on geoconservation principles, sustainable site use, management, fieldwork, fossil and mineral collecting: 10 pp.* (<http://www.progeo.se/progeo-protocol-definitions-20110915.pdf>))

The Manual, a comprehensive overview over Geoconservation in all countries in Europe is a project that has taken much more time than planned. It is now about to be finished and will be presented at the Bari conference 2012 and published soon thereafter.

ProGEO has got several members from outside Europe and especially the cooperation with our Australian members linked to the planning of IGC 2012 in Brisbane have been fruitful and promising.

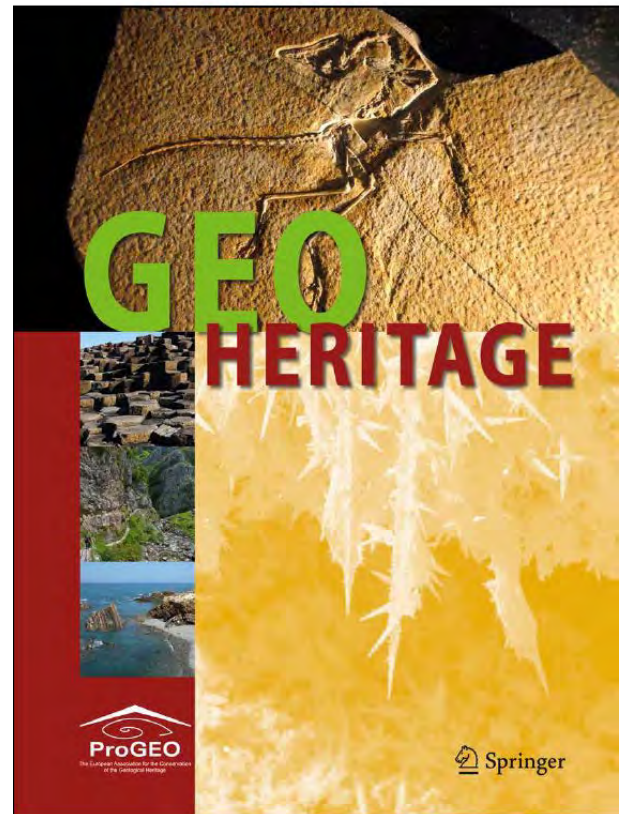
Contacts within the executive committee have been frequent and over the last years 1-2 tronic meetings have been arranged meetings at conferences. A strategy has been developed as a tool in the daily association. This was approved by the IGC 2010 and has been updated as a result of the executive committee.

Excursion on the sixth international symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage in Hagen, Germany in 2010. See ProGEO NEWS 3 -2010

GEOHERITAGE

Over the last years, a very great deal of effort has gone into the development of the new journal *Geoheritage* (<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences/geology/journal/12371>). Through a major amount of work from ProGEO members in cooperation with the journal consortium of participating partners, including : the IUGS Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM), the IUGS Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) and sub-commissions, INHIGEO (IUGS International Commission on History of Geological Sciences), the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), the International Association of Palaeontologists (IPA), the European Association of Geological Societies (AEGS) and the Geological Society of Africa (GSA), as well as national bodies and many respected colleagues in many fields, this Journal is now a reality and have been issued with two numbers (no 1-2 and 3-4) in 2009 and 2010 and 4 numbers in 2011. We hope we will be able to secure the journal for the future and hope for many contributions worldwide! Editors-in-Chief are J. Brilha; W.A.P. Wimbledon.

ProGEO members can get the journal included in their ProGEO subscription.



IUCN

After adopting geoconservation, geoheritage and geodiversity in its policy document (see ProGEO NEWS 1/2009) ProGEO applied IUCN for membership and got that in 2011. ProGEO Spain and Enrique Diaz-Martinez have been the driving force in this development. At present IUCN has a resolution accepting geoconservation as one of its tasks, ProGEO is an IUCN member and will be represented in the IUCN world congress in Korea in September 2012 contributing to a one day Intensive course on “geoheritage and geodiversity: new concepts and applications in nature conservation” and a motion on conservation of geoheritage within the IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016.

IUGS

ProGEO is also affiliated organisation to IUGS. We contributed strongly to the last international congress in Oslo in 2008 and will do so in 2012 in Brisbane as well. We have members within the IUGS task force on geoheritage. We have asked also to have an official representation in this committee, appointed by ProGEO. ProGEO, the oldest and probably the unique European Association on geological heritage conservation has a long experience and is fully dedicated in these matters and we find it reasonable with a closer connection between ProGEO and the task force. This issue has not reached a conclusion yet.

UNESCO

ProGEO has good relationship and contacts with UNESCO and the GEOPARK movement. This is important and we hope to develop this relationship in the future.

EU

Meetings between ProGEO and representatives of the commission in EU with the aim to explore better integration of ProGEO aims in EU policies have been held. Geoheritage is named in the new soil strategy of EU, but as the strategy up to now has failed to be developed into a directive, Geoheritage has no defined place within EU policies and the impact of ProGEO on EU policies is therefore slim.

ProGEO NEWS and the ProGEO website

ProGEO NEWS is published as an electronic newsletter to all members. 4 issues were published in 2008, 2009 and 2011 and 3 in 2010. After half a year the newsletter is made generally accessible on our website (<http://www.progeo.se/news.html>). The newsletter is now also distributed to the IUGS board, to IUCN officials and to EU officials. Editor: Lars Erikstad.

The ProGEO website is situated on the SGU server in Sweden and contains all relevant information about ProGEO, its activities and history. Webmaster: Sven Lundquist.

Meetings

The major meeting within the period was the 6th symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage in Hagen, Germany, 2010. The symposium was held simultaneously with the 14th Annual Meeting of the Geoheritage section of the German Society for Geosciences under the theme "Geosites: Resources for the Public" aspects such as e.g., the interaction of mining and the protection of geosites, conservation of industrial and mining heritage and their geological background, and the impact of georesources on regional economic and cultural development was discussed. "Palaeontology and Conservation of Geosites" was the second theme for the conference, focusing both on the protection of fossil sites and the presentation of palaeontological heritage to the public.

It has also been arranged several regional ProGEO meetings during the period:

- 2009: Regional working group of ProGEO for Northern Europe arranged in Drenthe, the Netherlands.
- 2010: The first meeting of the working group for South-western Europe was organized in conjunction and within the International Conference on Geoevents, Geological Heritage, and the Role of

the IGCP to be held in Caravaca de la Cruz, southeastern Spain 2010.

- 2010: The regional group of South-eastern Europe had a meeting at Firat University, Elazig, Turkey. On this meeting a new leader of this working group was elected. The new leader is Alexandru Andrasanu from Romania..
- 2010: The regional group of Northern Europe had a meeting in Gdansk, Poland. Poland has traditionally been linked to the ProGEO working group for central Europe, but it has been a need for polish colleagues in the northern parts of the country to strengthen links with the working group of Northern Europe and see their activities especially linked to their Quaternary geological heritage in this context.
- 2011: ProGEO regional working group for South-west Europe within the framework of the regional conference GeoREG in Lille, France.
- 2011: ProGEO regional working group for northern Europe in Oslo, Norway.
- The regional group of Russia had its last meeting in 2011 (VSEGEI, Saint Petersburg).

In addition it has been several national events (excursions, day of geology, meetings etc.).

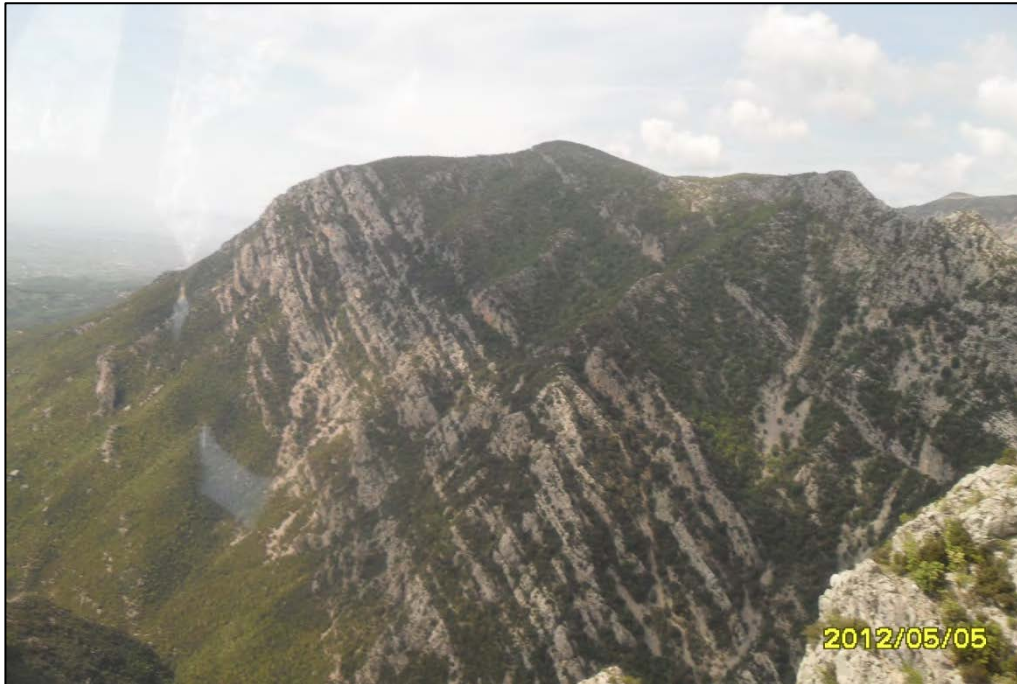
The regional group of central Europe has a low level of activity at the moment and it will be a task to find a new leader for this group.



Invitation to the first ProGEO Regional Working SW Europe meeting in Spain 2010

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*The Girl's Stone (the nearest plane right) and upper level of Droja Canyon. From ProGEO Albanias geotrip 2012.
Photo: Afat Serjani.*

Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS: October 25th 2012

Please do not forget to send contributions to ProGEO NEWS. Members are interested in things that happen all over the world, your experiences, geosites, everyday geotopes and landscapes, geoconservation and geotourism efforts! ProGEO news is published on the internet

www.progeo.se

Please send your contributions 500 – 2000 words with photographs, maps and figures clearly marked as a ProGEO NEWS contribution to:

lars.erikstad@nina.no

If longer texts are needed. please contact the editor

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