

# International Association for Engineering Geology and Environment – IAEG

## Activities' Report - Year 2024

**Daniele Giordan**

### 1. Introduction

**The IAEG (International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment)** was established in 1964 and is affiliated with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The IAEG is a global scientific society with over 4,800 members and approximately 70 national/regional groups (as of December 2024).

The main objectives of the IAEG are as follows:

- to promote and encourage the advancement of applied geology through technological and research activities;
- to enhance education and training in applied geology;
- to collect, evaluate, and disseminate the results of engineering geological activities worldwide.

For further information about the organization, please visit: <https://www.iaeg.info/>

Until 2026, the Executive Committee is composed as follows:

- **President:** Vassilis Marinos (Greece)
- **Secretary General:** Faquan Wu (China)
- **Treasurer:** Jean-Alain Fleurisson (France)

#### **Vice Presidents:**

- Asia: Ranjan Kumar Dahal (Nepal)
- Asia: Shengwen Qui (China)
- Africa: Moshood Niyi Tijani (Nigeria)
- Australasia: Anthony Bowden (Australia)
- Europe: Helen Reeves (UK)
- Europe: Janusz Wasowski – Senior Researcher at CNR (Italy)
- North America: Julien Cohen-Waeber (USA)
- Central and South America: Francisco Nogueira De Jorge (Brazil)

#### **Ex officio members:**

- Stratis Karantanellis, President of the Young Engineering Geology Group
- Ann Williams, President of the Women in Engineering Geology Group
- George Papathanassiou, Web Editor
- Mark Eggers, IAEG Advisory Board
- D. Jean Hutchinson, IAEG Advisory Board
- Daniele Giordan (Senior Researcher at CNR), IAEG Advisory Board
- Arindam Basu, Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment*
- Louis Wong, Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment*

The Italian National Group of the IAEG counted 92 members in 2024. Approximately 20% of the members are researchers from the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). In addition to the past President, three CNR researchers currently serve on the Italian Executive Board.

## 2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2024 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2024, the IAEG celebrated its 55th anniversary with a series of events held in various parts of the world. In Italy, specifically at the CNR Conference Hall, a scientific conference was organized by IAEG Italia and CNR-IRPI to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the International Association.

More broadly, the IAEG plays a crucial role in promoting the culture of applied geology in Italy and in supporting professionals and researchers from CNR and universities, both nationally and internationally, in expanding their knowledge in the field of applied geology through workshops and scientific meetings. Furthermore, the recently established *Young Engineering Geology* (YEG) group organizes a range of activities dedicated to young researchers with the aim of strengthening the culture of engineering geology. In 2024, IAEG Italia appointed Dr. Elisa Mammoliti (researcher at the University of Camerino) as the Italian representative for the YEG group.

In Italy, the activities of the Italian National Group of IAEG have been aimed at fostering high-level scientific dissemination through the organization and sponsorship of scientific conferences and workshops, such as:

- **June 27–29, 2024 – Naples:** 8th AIGAA Congress
- **October 11–12, 2024 – Torrione Martiniano, Fortress of San Leo (Rimini):** Study Day “San Leo, Ten Years After the Landslide of February 27, 2014”
- **December 18, 2024 – Rome, CNR Conference Hall:** Conference titled “*Innovation and Transformation in Landslide Risk Management in Italy*” organized by IAEG Italia in collaboration with CNR-IRPI

In Italy, the third edition of the IAEG Summer School, “*Natural Hazards, Societal Impact and Risk from Theory to Practice: Identification, Assessment, and Remediation*,” was held in July 2024 at the University of Aosta. This Summer School, officially recognized by IAEG at the international level, is the only one of its kind organized globally by the Association. It was carried out with the support of CNR-IRPI and the Universities of Pavia and Milano-Bicocca.

Also in 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and IAEG Italia. ICOMOS, with over 11,000 members worldwide, is an international non-governmental organization affiliated with UNESCO, dedicated to the conservation of the world’s monuments and cultural heritage. It is the only global organization of its kind committed to promoting the application of scientific theories, methodologies, and techniques in the conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage.

## 3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2024 and impact on the Italian scientific community

The CNR Representative was appointed by the IAEG President as a member of the Advisory Board for the period 2023–2026. As a result, two CNR members currently serve on the Executive Committee.

In 2024, the CNR Representative attended the following meetings of the Executive Committee:

- **May 8–10, Athens, Greece**
- **October 7, Dobrovnik, Croatia,** during the 4th EUROENGEO Congress

On these occasions, the CNR Representative, in close coordination with fellow CNR researcher Janusz Wasowski, had the opportunity to engage with several members of the IAEG leadership (Executive Committee and Council), including the IAEG President, Prof. Vassilis Marinos, the Secretary General, Prof. Faquan Wu, and the Second Vice President for Europe, Dr. Helen Reeves. These meetings enabled direct dialogue with senior IAEG officials, providing the opportunity to promote Italian interests within the Association—for example, advocating for increased representation of CNR researchers in IAEG leadership positions and commissions.

Furthermore, throughout 2024, the CNR Representative held numerous online meetings with the President of the Italian National Group of IAEG, Dr. Claudio Margottini.

These efforts were aimed at securing IAEG sponsorship and support for scientific and educational initiatives in the field of applied geology in Italy, such as the organization of national and international courses, conferences, and workshops. Additionally, the CNR Representative’s scientific and organizational contributions to major IAEG conferences facilitated collaborations between Italian research groups and their counterparts in other countries, thus contributing to the internationalization of Italy’s applied geology research community.

## 4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

In the opinion of the undersigned, the cost-benefit ratio is highly favourable for the CNR, as outlined in points 2 and 3.

## **5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement**

The Vice President for Europe, Janusz Wasowski, Senior Researcher affiliated with the CNR, and the undersigned have participated in the IAEG Council Meetings and Executive Committee sessions. Therefore, the foundations have been laid for greater involvement of CNR researchers in the IAEG in general, and in its governing bodies in particular, through participation in the currently active Research Commissions or through the establishment of new ones.

Activities related to the organization of meetings and conferences are gradually returning to normal after the COVID period. CNR researchers in the field of engineering geology are particularly active both nationally and internationally through their participation in conferences (including several directly organized by the IAEG), the proposal of thematic sessions, and dedicated study days. This involvement could certainly be further strengthened; however, such an expansion would naturally entail higher costs and would require greater support from the CNR.

## **6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)**

The undersigned is a member of the IAEG Advisory Board, a member of the Scientific Committee of the IAEG Summer School, Chairman of IAEG Commission C35 "*Monitoring Methods and Approaches in Engineering Geology Applications*", and a member of the Executive Board of the Italian Section of IAEG.

Dr. Janusz Wasowski, Senior Researcher affiliated with the CNR, was elected Vice President of IAEG for Europe, with a four-year term starting in January 2023.

Engineer Giorgio Lollino, Senior Researcher at CNR-IRPI, is an *ex officio* member of the IAEG Council, Chairman of the IAEG IT Board, and Web Editor responsible for the official IAEG international website.

Engineer Giulia Bossi (Researcher at CNR-IRPI), Dr. Martina Cignetti (Researcher at CNR-IRPI), and Dr. Davide Notti (Researcher at CNR-IRPI) are all members, in various capacities, of the Executive Board of the Italian Section of IAEG.

## **7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2024 CNR Commission activities**

N/A

## **8. Notes (if any)**

For further information about the Italian National Group of IAEG, please visit the website: <https://www.iaeg.it/>

## **9. Conclusions**

The CNR continues to be active at various levels within the IAEG. Several CNR researchers currently hold prominent positions within the Association. Since January 2023, the undersigned has been a member of the IAEG Advisory Board, and the IAEG Vice President for Europe is a Senior Researcher affiliated with the CNR. Within this favourable context, the CNR has a valuable opportunity to further strengthen its role within the IAEG.

Torino, June 11 2025

Dott. Daniele Giordan