



International Association for Engineering Geology and Environment – IAEG Activity Report - Year 2021

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1. Introduction

The IAEG was founded in 1964 and is affiliated with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). IAEG is a worldwide scientific society with 4436 members and 69 national/regional groups (as of 31 December 2021).

The objectives of the IAEG are:

- ✓ promote and encourage the advancement of applied geology through technological and research activities
- ✓ improve teaching and training in applied geology
- ✓ collect, evaluate and disseminate the results of geological engineering activities on a worldwide basis.

For more information about the Organization, please refer to the official IAEG website at: <https://www.iaeg.info/>

The Italian National Group of IAEG has 95 members, with 4 new members who joined the Group in 2021. Notably, about 20% members are CNR researchers, including the President of the Group. The Executive Committee of the Group includes two CNR researchers in addition to the President.

2. Main activities carried out by IAEG during 2021 relevant for Italy and for CNR

Due to the persistent Covid-19 pandemic emergency in 2021, a part of the planned activities of IAEG had to be moved online or conducted in a “hybrid” mode (online + on site), or even postponed/canceled. Nevertheless, the initiatives briefly described below demonstrate the dedication of the IAEG to disseminate the engineering geology culture in Italy and thus provide help to practitioners, as well as CNR and university researchers.

In particular, the activity of the IAEG Italian National Group focused on high-level dissemination of scientific and technical information through the organization and promotion of scientific conferences such as the one dedicated to MONITORAGGIO DELLE FRANE PER LA GESTIONE DEI RISCHI NATURALI, held in Milano on 10 November, 2021.

Patronage was also provided to the V National Conference of Hydrogeology Flowpath (Flowpath 2021), held in Naples from 16 to 18 June 2021.

A large representation of the Italian National Group of the IAEG (including several researchers of the CNR-IRPI) also supported the organization of the EuroEngeo congress of the IAEG that was held in Athens in September 2021; some of them have been engaged in the Scientific Committee and contributed as Keynote Speakers and Conveners. Finally, several CNR-IRPI delivered oral presentations in online mode.



The Italian National Group has also supported its members by promoting international activities such as the collection of abstracts at the Annual Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU). The Summer School on Natural Hazards and Engineering Geology Applications, which originated in 2017 from an initiative of the Italian National Group of IAEG, was cancelled in 2021, but its new edition is planned for 2022. The Summer School is dedicated to Italian and international PhD and master students in Earth Sciences and Engineering Geology. The School enjoys an official IAEG International endorsement and support. For more information, see <https://www.iaeg.info/summer-school-of-iaeg-and-the-environment/>

3. Activities carried out by Janusz Wasowski within the Union during 2021 and impact on the Italian scientific community

The most important international event to which the CNR Representative contributed, as a member of the International Scientific Committee and chairperson of a session, was the 3rd European Regional Conference of the IAEG – <https://euroengeo2020.org/>, originally scheduled for 2020. The conference, organized by the Greek National Group of the IAEG, was held in Athens on October 6-10, 2021. The unifying theme of the event was “Leading to Innovative Engineering Geology Practices”.

The Conference, held in a "hybrid" way (in presence and online), was attended by 244 researchers and professionals from all over the world (33 countries), of which 55 participants connected via Web. The program included 6 keynote lectures delivered on site. A Keynote, on the theme "Recent advances in Remote Sensing for use in Engineering Geology", was presented (in presence) by the CNR Representative.

During the aforementioned Conference the CNR Representative had business meetings both in presence and online with many members of the IAEG (Executive Committee and IAEG Council), including the current President of the IAEG (Prof. Rafiq Azzam), the Secretary General, Prof. Faquan Wu and the Vice-Presidents for Europe of the IAEG, Prof. Vassilis P. Marinos and Prof. Eugene Voznesensky.

The CNR Representative had also online meetings and discussions with the President of the Italian National Group of IAEG (Dr. Daniele Giordan) and the head of the IAEG International website (Web editor, Eng. G. Lollino).

The aforementioned activities are useful to promote Italian interests within the Organization and to increase the importance of the role played by the Italian scientists in the management of IAEG. All this helps obtaining the approval and support of the IAEG for scientific and educational initiatives in the field of applied geology, e.g., organization of national/international courses, as well as conferences or workshops in Italy. Moreover, the scientific-organizational contributions to the main international events of IAEG facilitate establishing new collaborations between the Italian research groups and those of other countries, thereby fostering the internationalization of the Italian scientific community.

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

The cost-benefit ratio seems extremely favorable to the CNR. Unfortunately, as of 2021, CNR no longer reimburses the travel and accommodation costs to facilitate the participation of the CNR Representative one international meeting of IAEG per year. The CNR does not directly finance any other activity of the CNR researchers within the IAEG. The advantages are numerous, as listed above in points 2 and 3.



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

Since 2019, the President of the IAEG National Group has been the CNR-IRPI researcher Dr. Daniele Giordan, who, together with the Representative, participates in the IAEG Council meetings. There are conditions for greater involvement of CNR researchers in the IAEG in general and in the governing bodies in particular. With the overcoming of the restrictions related to Covid-19, the return to a more continuous activity is expected through the presence of CNR researchers at more IAEG meetings. All this implies greater expenses and financial support from the CNR is desirable. In addition, it could be useful to provide help to cover at least part of the registration fee for the IAEG membership (currently 50 euros/year).

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

Eng. Giorgio Lollino, an associate researcher of CNR-IRPI, is one of the IAEG Board members (Ex Officio Member). He is also the President of the Information Technology (IT) Board Committee of IAEG, as well as responsible for the IAEG International website (Web Editor).

As the President of the Italian National Group of IAEG, Dr. Daniele Giordan, a CNR-IRPI researcher, participates at the IAEG Council meetings. He is also the President of the IAEG Commission 35: Monitoring methods and approaches in engineering geology applications.

Finally, Eng. Paolo Allasia (CNR-IRPI) serves at IAEG International as a responsible for the EUROPEAN GDPR DATA PROCESSOR (General Data Protection Regulation).

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2021 CNR Commission activities N/A

8. Notes (if any)

For more information about the Italian National Group of IAEG see <https://www.iaeg.it/>

9. Conclusions

CNR is an active player at different levels within IAEG. A number of CNR researchers currently have important positions in IAEG. Moreover, the current President of the Italian National Group of IAEG is a CNR researcher. Given this context, and considering the upcoming elections of the IAEG Board in 2022, CNR has now a good opportunity to strengthen its role in IAEG. The possible electoral success would imply, starting from 2023, greater investments in terms of time and funds in order to ensure at least attendance at important IAEG meetings (typically two meetings per year).

Janusz Wasowski

Rappresentante CNR

Bari, 29 aprile 2021