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Session

S29

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S29 Promoting geoconservation in South-Eastern Europe – Geoparks

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This session accepts both full papers and abstracts

South-Eastern Europe is geologically a much diversified area where processes, rock types and minerals have interacted through time to create exceptional environments and life forms. Individual sites, landscapes and outcrops host the great diversity of this geological heritage. Many efforts have been undertaken by geoscientists to identify, map and assess the value of this geodiversity and to raise the awareness of society for the need of its conservation and enhancement. Special projects have been implemented by international organizations and institutions on the recognition and promotion of geological heritage incorporating all existing scientific knowledge, whereas other initiatives have engaged local development as a crucial factor for geoconservation. Recently a new initiative aiming at the protection, promotion and rational management of geosites as well as the sustainable development of their hosting territories through the creation of Geoparks was established in Europe in close synergy with UNESCO. However, the level of geoconservation in many countries is still quite degraded compared to living environment, and funding of such activities is very limited. Geoscientists have thus to identify the best practices and tools for the promotion of geological heritage and conservation of geodiversity in a sustainable way, useful for local and scientific societies. Studies focused on the identification, assessment and promotion of geodiversity, geoparks creation and management as well as on the geo-education and sustainable use of geoheritage for the benefit of both scientific and local communities are welcomed under this session.