

European Geosciences Student Network meeting in Slovenia, August 2023, Zavrh pri Borovnici

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This year we organized the 26th European Geosciences Student Network (EUGEN) meeting from 7 – 13th of August in Zavrh pri Borovnici.

Originally, the EUGEN was to happen in Ljubno ob Savinji. During the last year we were preparing for the event and spent a productive weekend at the Kamp na Otoku in Ljubno ob Savinji. Previous two EUGEN meetings in Slovenia happened in 2003 and 2014, both located in western Slovenia. Therefore, we focused on eastern Slovenia, where we prepared field trips to present mining in this part of Slovenia, igneous and metamorphic rocks of Pohorje massive, as well as karst geology and geomorphology in Logar valley and Snežna cave.

Unfortunately, due to the heavy flooding in the beginning of August we had to change locations on very short notice. With great help of the local

fire department (PGD Zavrh, Pokojišče, Padež) we moved to Zavrh pri Borovnici. With quick thinking we provided and arranged food, drinks and transport. With help from field trip organizers there was also no lack of interesting and diverse field trips, more focused on the Central Slovenia.

Even with news of the floods spreading to other countries, there were still more than 90 participants from 16 different countries (Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland).

During the week we organized three field trip days with total of six different topics. The participants had the option to learn about the local geology of Borovnica and its surroundings and paleontology of central Slovenia, as they visited outcrops



Fig. 1. Palaeontology field trip.

for the Toarcian anoxic event. They also had the option to learn about the tunnel construction sites in Slovenia and flysch deposits as part of the field trip to the Slovenian coast. To learn more about the karst in Slovenia, we visited a karst cave (Križna jama), followed by a visit to Cerknica lake. As mining is an important part of Slovenian heritage, we organized visits to Sitarjevec mine and Velenje coal mine. Additionally, the participants learned more about geothermal water in Slovenia and operation of the Slovenian thermal baths in Dobrna. We also visited the Ljubljana Marshes nature park. Many researchers and professors from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering and the Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS) showed great help in performing and execution Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS) showed great help in performing and executing the field trips.

During the week, various lectures were held in the evenings, where the participants learned about the geology of the whole of Slovenia, the operation of GeoZS and PhD Baltic Teach project. The participants also had the opportunity to participate and present their works in the field of geology. We had the opportunity to learn about *Kyrgyzstan*

summer school and Diagenesis, porosity and reservoir potential of the Karchowice and Diplopora Beds in Upper Silesia. As part of the last lecture, EUGEN e.V. presented their organization and their international cooperation.

Of course, there was no shortage of fun during EUGEN's time. Wednesday was dedicated to the Geolympic games, where participants get to mingle and compete with each other. On Saturday 12.8. we concluded the event with a cultural and geological tour of Ljubljana.

Even though we struggled with reorganization of the event, facing the possibility of cancelation, we managed to organize a successful event, that attracted many new student participants from all over Europe. At the end of EUGEN week, the participants decided that the 27th EUGEN meeting in 2024 will happen in France.

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Fig. 2. Participants of EUGEN 2023 (photo: Jernej Loboda).