

2018

Report from the Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy (SEQS) with special attention to the IFG Project 1612F (DATESTRA)

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The SEQS-project DATESTRA for the 2016-2019 intercongress period will aim to build a Database of Terrestrial European Stratigraphy (DATESTRA). This is seen as an European Geographic Database of the key-sites of Quaternary importance across Europe following the activities carried out by SEQS during the previous Intra-Congress periods.

After launch of the SEQS project DATESTRA, occurred at the INQUA-SEQS 2016 Meeting in Armenia, a prototype (25 specially compiled Quaternary sites for Italy) was presented by the an Italian team (P.Pieruccini, M.Coltoiti, M. Palombo, A. Bertini, B. Sala, D. Magri, C. Ravazzi) to the SEQS audience at the 2017 SEQS-DATESTRA workshop and meeting held in Tautavel, France, 9-15 of September. About 30 participants joined this meeting, organized by Vincenzo Celiberti and his collaborators and hosted by EPCC CERP Centre Européen de Recherches Préhistoriques de Tautavel in collaboration with UMR 7194 “HNHP” du CNRS, MNHN-UPVD-CERP de Tautavel and UPVD Université de Perpignan. A extra DATESTRA workshop was held on Sunday the 10th of September. 35 oral and poster contributions authored by 125 scientists were presented during the meeting. Thijs Van Kolfschoten gave a touching speech in memoriam of Wim Westerhoff, past SEQS President and Secretary who passed away last May 2017. The scientific presentations focused on cross-disciplinary and cross-regional correlation of geological, paleontological, geochronological, geomorphological, archaeological, and environmental records in order to develop Quaternary stratigraphy all over the Europe and adjacent territories. Mauro Coltoiti presented advances of the INQUA-Project CROSSSTRAT pointed on the reliability of radiometric dating in a test-region like Sardinia, in Italy. A dedicated DATESTRA session was held as well, including contribution from Italy, Russia and Poland. Contributions will be published in a Special Issue of Quaternary International (already accepted, see ANNEX 2) titled “Quaternary stratigraphy and hominids around Europe: SEQS 2017 meeting”. The meeting continued with a 3-days fieldtrip that allowed participants to visit the well known Caune de l'Arago where, within a complex but well-exposed Middle Pleistocene sequence, the remnants of *Homo Heidelbergensis* (Arago XXI) were found. Christian Perrenoud, Anne Marie Moigne and Vincenzo Celiberti presented the geological, lithostratigraphical, biostratigraphical, morphostratigraphical, chronostratigraphical, palaeoanthropological and archaeological setting of the site and the participants were allowed to observe in detail the stratigraphical section opened on the excavations. The fieldtrip continued with the visit of the Prehistory Museum of Tautavel and the European Research Centre of Tautavel, where Marie-Antoinette de Lumley showed the famous original palaeoanthropological collection. Afterwards the fieldtrip moved to Les Orgues-Ille sur Tet where Marc Calvet and Magali Delmas (Université de Perpignan) showed us the litho-, morpho- and chronostratigraphical setting of the Pleistocene continental successions and their relationships with the coastal marine Pliocene record. Moreover, the staircase of alluvial terraces along the Roussillon, the Ramaldis cave were visited and the field trip ended at the Grottes Canalettes, in the Pyrenees.

The 2018 SEQS meeting was held under the organization of Andrej Mihevc and Nadja Zupan at the Karst Research Institute, Postojna, Slovenia, 12-18 September. On the first day of the meeting, 14

talks were presented. Topics comprise local geology in Slovenia, especially including karst features and tectonic developments, and contributions from British, Croatian, Russian, Polish and Ukrainian colleagues. On the early afternoon of the first day, participants took, in the frame of a 3 hours field trip, a train into the amazing Postojna cave. Andrej Mihevic introduced the group to fascinating outcrops and supplied all kind of interesting facts around the previously called “Adelsberger Grotte”. After the exciting field trip another 7 talks with focus on palaeontology were offered. During the next morning again a very international set of field studies from Italy, Turkey, France and Poland to the Transbaikal region were performed. In the afternoon the Datestra session showed advances in the project from the countries Ukraine, Lithuania, Russia and Poland. In the final poster session again 9 scientific inputs were display and in short notices announced. During the field trips of the following days, the SEQS group got new knowledge about classical Karst systems including the UNESCO site Skocjanske Jame, blind valleys, the amazing Alpine cave Snezna jama and the Ljubljana basin. The 2018 meeting brought to all participants valuable informations about Quaternary stratigraphy in cave and karst environments.

We are looking forward to the next SEQS meeting in 2019 during the INQUA congress in Dublin, where a session with the name: The Quaternary of Europe: stratigraphical perspectives and tools for correlations is scheduled. Please submit abstracts participate!