SEQS business meeting report (Castelnuovo del Garda, September 22th, 2026)

INQUA-SEQS Meeting 2026 in Castelnuovo del Garda

The INQUA-SEQS 2026 Meeting was held from 21 to 25 September 2026 in Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy. The meeting was organized by Giovanni Monegato (CNR, Italy) and Giancarlo Scardia (São Paulo State University) in collaboration with the ICDP-DOVE Project and with support from the Municipality of Castelnuovo del Garda. The meeting focused on Quaternary stratigraphy, palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, and human settlement history.

The event was hosted in the Council Hall of the Municipality of Castelnuovo del Garda. The organizing and scientific committee included several members of the SEQS Board and collaborating institutions: Giancarlo Scardia (ICDP-DOVE), Giovanni Monegato (ICDP-DOVE), Pierluigi Pieruccini (SEQS Board), Eva Mencin Gale (SEQS Board), Guzel Danukalova (SEQS Board), Markus Fiebig (SEQS Board), and Sandro Rossato (AIQUA).

The scientific programme consisted of four oral sessions and one poster session, in total 23 oral presentations and 11 posters covering a wide spectrum of Quaternary research. Participants represented eight countries: Italy, Austria, France, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Slovenia, and Mexico.

The meeting started on Sunday, 20 September, with an icebreaker event. Scientific sessions began on Monday, 21 September, with opening remarks followed by a keynote lecture delivered by Markus Fiebig, presenting the goals and progress of the ICDP-DOVE project.

The first session, *"Quaternary Stratigraphy and Palaeoenvironments"* included presentations addressing climatic change and Quaternary successions ranging from the Pliocene to the Holocene in glacial, fluvial, and cave environments. The second session, *"Quaternary Stratigraphic Sections in Regional Reconstruction and Mapping"* focused on palaeosols, stratigraphic correlations, sedimentary archives, and regional reconstructions. The day concluded with a poster session and conference dinner. On Tuesday, 22 September, the scientific programme continued with two sessions. The third session, *"Quaternary Stratigraphy and Archaeology"* presented geoarchaeological studies from karst environments, the Lake Garda region, and archaeological landscape investigations. The fourth session, *"Quaternary Stratigraphy in Active Tectonic Areas"* focused on landscape evolution, environmental change, stratigraphy, and sediment deformation in tectonically active settings. The day concluded with poster presentations and the SEQS Business meeting.

From Wednesday, 23 September, to Friday, 25 September, participants took part in field excursions focusing on the Quaternary geology of the Lake Garda region. On Wednesday, participants visited San Bartolomeo Hill, with outcropping Pliocene deposits, followed by visits to outcrops at Punta del Corno along Lake Garda and the Chiese River section at Torre di Mocasina, where subglacial tills and glaciolacustrine deposits record the onset of Alpine glaciation. Thursday's excursion explored the Sirmione Peninsula and Lucone, focusing on tectonic records, glacial sequences, and lacustrine archives. The final excursion on Friday included visits to the Rivoli Veronese end-moraine system, where participants examined sequences preserved within moraines, kame terraces, and glaciolacustrine deposits.

SEQS Business Meeting, 22 September 2026

Purpose of SEQS and overview of activities in inter-congress period 2023-2027

The Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy (SEQS) is an official working group of INQUA dedicated to research on European Quaternary stratigraphy. The working group functions primarily as an international scientific network, supporting collaboration through meetings and special issues of Quaternary International.

During the current inter-congress period, SEQS has collaborated with several international scientific initiatives, including ICS (International Commission on Stratigraphy), represented by Adele Bertini, IQUAME (International Union for Quaternary Mapping in Europe), represented by Kristine Asch and CDP-DOVE (Drilling Overdeepened Alpine Valleys Project), represented by Flavio S. Anselmetti.

SEQS has successfully organized annual meetings in Gavorrano, Italy (2024), Vienna, Austria (2025); Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy (2026). In addition, SEQS organized the session "Eurasia: One Continent, One Common Past – Cross-Continental Stratigraphic Correlations" during the 2023 INQUA Congress in Rome.

Quaternary International Special Issues

A major activity of SEQS is coordinating special issues of Quaternary International, focusing on Quaternary stratigraphy, palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, and regional to continental-scale correlations.

1. Special Issue 2025-2026

An achievement during 2025-2026 was the publication of the special issue "Eurasia's One Continent, One Common Past: Quaternary Cross-Continental Stratigraphic Correlations."
The guest editors were Guzel Danukalova, Markus Fiebig, Davide Susini and Eva Mencin Gale.
The special issue contains 10 published papers addressing a wide range of topics related to Quaternary stratigraphy and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction across Eurasia.

2. Special Issue 2026

A new special issue is currently under preparation under the title "Quaternary Stratigraphy in the Northern Hemisphere." The issue is expected to include approximately 21 contributions. The guest editorial team consists of Markus Fiebig, Guzel Danukalova Eva Mencin Gale and Kristine Asch.

Upcoming SEQS Activities

Two SEQS-related sessions have been accepted for the upcoming INQUA Congress in India 2027:
"From Europe to Asia – One Big Landmass Shaping Our Climate and Future" (SEQS Session).
"Challenges of Quaternary Mapping, Correlation and Modelling Onshore and Offshore" (Joint IQUAME-SEQS Session).

The next SEQS annual meeting is planned for Portugal in 2028. Local organization will be coordinated by Luca Antonio Dimuccio (University of Coimbra). SEQS plans to prepare a new Quaternary International special issue in 2027 based on contributions presented during the SEQS 2026 meeting in Italy.
The board also agreed to continue applying for INQUA funding and to prepare a proposal for the next inter-congress period (2027-2031). Preliminary ideas were discussed for future meetings in Greece and Croatia in 2029 and 2030.

Final Remarks

The current SEQS Board (2023-2027) consists of Markus Fiebig – President, Guzel Danukalova – Vice-President, Pierluigi Pieruccini – Vice-President, Eva Mencin Gale – Secretary.
The composition of the Board remains unchanged at present, although new nominations and appointments will be considered during preparations for the next inter-congress period. Members were encouraged to propose ideas for future meetings and activities and to consider becoming involved in SEQS board.

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