



ISSMGE EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT MAY '22 – APRIL '23

Vice President – Professor Lyesse Laloui

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ISSMGE EUROPE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

I. A Word From The Vice President

2022 is a particularly important and humbling year for me as I began my tenure as Vice President of ISSMGE Europe. While we are in many ways a disparate group, it quickly became apparent that there is a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm amongst our European National Societies and a desire to expand and grow our members and share our knowledge and passion for our profession. This has been reflected in an active year for ISSMGE National Societies throughout Europe, with numerous engagements and events taking place across our 38 countries following the lifting of restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conjunction, we have begun to develop a more unified and shared identity as members of Europe through the development of a European Support Group and the inaugural European General Assembly in Lausanne, which are presented in the following chapters. Spurred on by the successes of 2022, the report also presents the future activities of our members for 2023, which looks to be an even busier year than 2022.

Despite the global challenges we all face, I'm proud and extremely honored to be Vice President in a time of optimism and growth as we look to explore, develop and build a Europe for the 21st Century.

II. European National Societies Input

Austria

2022

The Austrian Geotechnical Society (AGS) organized the following conferences and activities:

- *13th Austrian Geotechnical Conference (ÖGT) & VÖBU Fair, Vienna*
 - postponed from January 2021 to 19.-20.04.2022 due to pandemic
 - about 800 participants (including fair)
 - Vienna Terzaghi Lecture delivered by Prof. Lyesse Laloui (EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland)
- *36th Christian Veder Colloquy (CVK), TU Graz*
 - 28.-29.06.2022
 - about 400 participants
- *Joint Young Members Austria (ISSMGE – ISRM – ITA)*
 - Guest lecture STUVA YEPs by Christian Rhein (Ruhr Universität Bochum) and Robert Lutz (Vössing Ingenieures.mbH)
 - 1st J-YMA Symposium at TU Wien, 19.05.2022
 - Participation at WTC in Copenhagen, 02-08.09.2022
 - Get-Together at 71st Geomechanics Colloquy in Salzburg, 12.10.2022
 - J-YMA Field trips / A26 Linzer Autobahn / Tencate Geosynthetics Linz, 15.11.2022
 - Expert lecture “Planungstechnische Aspekte aus dem Tunnelbau” by Dietmar Bach (IGT Geotechnik & Tunnelbau), 01.12.2022

- Online Presentation at World Tunnel Day 2022 of ITA AITES / ITAym, 05.12.2022
- Close cooperation and exchange with colleagues from neighboring societies
- Summer schools, seminars, and presentations given by colleagues from abroad
- International invitations to deliver keynote and special lectures by members of AGS.

Rest of 2023

The Austrian Geotechnical Society (AGS) organized the following conferences and activities:

- *14th Austrian Geotechnical Conference (ÖGT) & VÖBU Fair, Vienna*
 - 01-02.02.2024 ... preparations are well underway
 - about 800 participants expected (including fair)
 - Vienna Terzaghi Lecture delivered by Dr. Peter Day (South Africa).
- *37th Christian Veder Colloquy (CVK), TU Graz*
 - 13-14.04.2023
 - about 400 participants
- Joint Young Members Austria (ISSMGE – ISRM – ITA)
 - Event & Strategic planning of J-YMA Steering Committees, Innsbruck, 13.01.2023
 - Participation of J-YMA Steering Committees at EUTF YM Meeting in Genua / ITA, 10-11.03.2023
 - 2nd J-YMA Symposium an der TU Graz, 12.04.2023
- Close cooperation and exchange with colleagues from neighboring societies
- International invitations to deliver keynote and special lectures by members of AGS

Planning is well underway for the 21st ICSMGE in 2026. Austria has signed the contract with the venue (Austria Center Vienna, 14-19 June 2026), including facilities for a Board Meeting on Saturday and the Council Meeting on Sunday.

Bulgaria

2022

Bulgarian SSMGE was the organizer or co-organizer of the conferences:

- Scientific and Technical Conference with International Participation celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Sofia Metro, 26-27.01.2023, Sofia – with a keynote lecture by Dr. Marc Ballouz.
- *International Jubilee Scientific Conference "80th Anniversary Of Uaceg"*, November 9-11, Sofia
- National transport infrastructure conference, Nessebar, 10-12.10.2022
- organizing two live and one online lectures with international guests.



Fig. 1. Dr. Marc Ballouz in conference in Sofia and in Bansko.

Rest of 2023

For the rest of 2023 we expected:

- National transport infrastructure conference, Nessebar, 5-7.10.2023, with a keynote lecture Prof. Lyesse Laloui.
- First Balushev Lecture Award in May 2023.
- Organizing minimum of three live or online lectures with interesting guests.

Croatia

Rest of 2023

The Croatian Geotechnical Society is organizing its 9th conference with international participation and under the auspices of ISSMGE,

- Held between the 4 - 6 May 2023, it will be primarily dedicated to the 2020 M6.2 Petrinja earthquake and, therefore, will be held in Sisak, 50 km from Zagreb,
- Guest lecturers are Dr. Marc Ballouz, Prof. Carlo Lai, and Prof. Dietmar Adam.
- The conference fee is 200 Euro with discounts for ISSMGE members, young engineers, and students.
- Many details are already on their website: <https://www.hgd-cgs.hr/savjetovanja/sisak-2023>

Denmark

2022

The Danish Geotechnical Society organized a series of workshops and seminars for its members:

- “What did we learn?”. Knowledge sharing with focus on challenging geotechnical projects
- “Introduction to the new Bulletin 1 – a guide to engineering geological soil description”. Presented by the authors of the DGF Bulletin 1.
- “Meet the Technical Committees”. Presentations from the Danish members of TC104, TC105, TC205, TC209.
- “Presentations of geotechnical field equipment”. Exhibition and demonstrations of drill rigs and CPT rigs from five different Danish geotechnical companies.
- “Sustainability in geotechnical engineering”. Which role does the geotechnical industry play in the green transition?
- “Research seminar at The Danish Technical University”. Presentation of recent and ongoing geotechnical research from academic researchers and the industry.
- “Digitalisation in geotechnical engineering”. One-day seminar.

2023

Workshops and seminars:

- “The raw material situation in Denmark with focus on the use of lime stabilized soil in infrastructure and building projects”.
- “Legal Conditions for geotechnical practitioners”. Presentation of relevant law from jurists and lawyers.
- “Research seminar at Aarhus University”. Presentation of recent and ongoing geotechnical research from academic researchers and the industry.
- “Status of pile foundations in Denmark”. An overview of recent advances within pile foundation techniques.
- “Theory vs. practice”. One-day seminar.

Furthermore, Denmark is planning:

- DFI Seminar – Geotechnical challenges and solutions. In collaboration with Deep Foundation Institute Europe. To be held in Copenhagen in April 2024.
- A foundation with the aim of granting financial support to research within sustainable geotechnical methods.

France

Rest of 2023

Le Comité Français de la Mécanique des Sols et de Géotechnique is preparing for the 250th anniversary of the publication of Coulomb's memoir on September 25 and 26. More details can be found at <https://www.cfms-sols.org/organisees-par-le-cfms/charles-augustin-coulomb-geotechnical-tribute>

Greece

2022

Greece (Hellenic Society for Soils Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, HSSMGE) has had an incredibly busy 2022:

- organizing a total of 4 online lectures by distinguished guests,
- its most prestigious Honorary Lecture, the *13th Athenian Lecture on Geotechnical Engineering* by Professor Emeritus of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Kyriazis Pitilakis, and
- a one-day workshop, *Geotechnical Engineering and Pavement Design*, with 14 presenters and a 250-page printed proceedings volume distributed for free to all delegates present at the workshop.

Rest of 2023

2023 is expected to be even busier. Already one online lecture has been presented, and one more is scheduled. The Executive Committee and its members are also working frantically on three major conferences taking place in Greece:

- *The 8th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils* (www.unsat2023.org)
 - 3rd and 5th of May 2023
 - the island of Milos
 - a workshop and short course on the 2nd of May, and technical and cultural visits on 6th of May.
- *The 9th International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics* (www.iceg2023.org)
 - 25-28 of June 2023
 - Chania, Crete.
- *The 9th Hellenic Conference on Geotechnical Engineering* (<https://www.erasmus.gr/microsites/1272>)
 - 4-6 of October 2023
 - in Athens
 - currently has an open call-for-abstracts and
 - will also include the General Assembly of HSSMGE and the election for its new Executive Committee.

HSSMGE is also very active on its LinkedIn and Youtube profiles which they encourage you to explore.

- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hssmge-greece-5294a013b/>
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMea2r1it0KBK-solr_q9g

Hungary

2022

The Hungarian Geotechnical Society elected a new board on 19th of October 2022.

- President: Edina Koch, Széchenyi István University,
- Vice-president: Zsolt Szilvályi, Geoplan Ltd.
- Secretary: Benedek Nagy, HBM Ltd.

The new board's first task was to organize the *28th Annual Széchy Károly Memorial Lecture* at the Hungarian Academic Sciences in Budapest on the 10th of February, 2023. According to tradition, three speakers were invited: – a well-known International, a well-known Hungarian, and a young Hungarian engineer. The speakers were:

- Prof. Dietmar Adam, Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien) – Applied soil dynamics in geotechnical engineering.
- Prof. Géza Hajnal, Budapest University of Technology and Economics – Case studies in urban hydrogeology
- Kristóf Lődör, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Ph.D. student - Application possibilities and advantages of rigid inclusion

145 Hungarian participants were registered, and 21 international guests attended the Memorial Lecture (Romania, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Serbia, and Italy). Some photos of the event follow:



Fig.2. Pictures from the 28th Annual Széchy Károly Memorial Lecture

Rest of 2023

A key priority is to strengthen cooperation with neighboring country societies.

Italy

2022

The Italian Geotechnical Society elected a new board and a new President on 22nd of May 2022.

- President: Prof. Sebastiano Rampello – Sapienza University of Rome

After the long period of difficulties for the pandemic outbreak, 2022 has been a very challenging period for AGI, full of international and national events.

From 8 to 10 June 2022, AGI held the 5th International Symposium on Cone Penetration Testing, CPT'22, in Bologna, Italy. The Symposium has been organized under the auspices of the ISSMGE Technical Committee TC102 and follows the successful symposia held in Delft, The Netherlands (2018), Las Vegas, Nevada, USA (2014), Huntington Beach, California USA (2010) and Linköping, Sweden (1995). It has been a great success with the following numbers

- 340 participants from all over the world
- 170 published papers from more than 450 Authors
- 5 Keynote Lectures
- 5 Discussion Sessions
- 48 Oral Presentations
- 90 Posters on Display
- Indoor & Outdoor Exhibitions

Some photos of the event follow:



Fig.3. Pictures from the 5th International Symposium on Cone Penetration Testing, CPT'22 in Bologna.

From 22 to 24 June 2022, AGI held the 3rd IS on Geotechnical Engineering for the Preservation of Monuments and Historic Sites - TC301 Napoli, Italy. The Symposium has been organized under the auspices of the ISSMGE Technical Committee TC301 Preservation of Historic Sites chaired by the Italian AGI member Prof. Lancellotta.

The true success of a symposium has been determined by the quality of the scientific contributions, written by more than 250 authors coming from all over the world, and the fruitful and stimulating discussions taken part to contribute to the advancement of our disciplines.

- 139 attendees from 18 countries
- 100 papers from more than 250 Authors
- Printed volume with the 15 invited lectures
- Kerisel Lecture
- 4 Keynote Lectures
- 11 Panel Lectures
- 38 Floor Presentations
- 10 Posters on Display



Fig.4. Pictures from the 3rd IS on Geotechnical Engineering for the Preservation of Monuments and Historic Sites - TC301 Napoli, Italy.

From 13 to 15 July 2022, the XXVII National Conference was held in Reggio Calabria, and AGI had the honor to have the presence of Dr. Marc Ballouz, ISSMGE President. For this edition, the Conference has been preceded by the Young National Conference held yearly and now in its eleventh edition.

On 15th December 2022 the XX Croce Lecture was held in Rome and Prof. Guy Houlsby, emeritus University of Oxford (UK), presented an excellent Lecture on “Recent developments in design for cyclic loading.”

Rest of 2023

Preparations for the 12th International Conference on Geosynthetics are underway. The conference will be held in the prestigious Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome. <https://12icg-roma.org/>

85 exhibition areas have already been reserved, and the expected attendance is of about 800 participants.

Norway

2022

The Norsk Geoteknisk Forening held 10 meetings in 2022 and sent 8 newsletters to its 792 members (44 more than in 2021). The society organized several events throughout the year, including the following:

Date	Theme	Partisipants (physical+digital)
2022-03-08	Third-party control	Ca. 260
2022-04-05	General Assembly	Ca. 24+45
2022-04-28	Sharing of ground investigation data	Ca. 85
2022-10-19	Securing of sheet pile wall to bedrock	Ca. 30+130
2022-11-01	Earthquake	Ca. 40+90
2022-11-09	The Youths Day	Ca. 40 + x
2022-11-24	Frost day	Ca. 16+16
2022-12-06	Handling of material from excavation pits	Ca. 100

In addition to the meetings, a Stability course was held on the 24th-25th of March, courses on practical ground investigation technics on the 12th -13th and 14th-15th of September, and the "Pile day" was held on the 28th of September. The Geotechnics Day was held in November 2022.

The diploma prize (NOK 10 000) was awarded to Magnus Moe Wahl in 2022. NGF remains in regular contact with the other Nordic Geotechnical Societies

Information about the Society and our future meetings are published on the Society's web pages, www.ngf.no.

North Macedonia

2022

North Macedonia (Macedonian Association for Geotechnics (MAG)) had a very active 2022, starting with their 2021 Annual Meeting held in February. In March, members of MAG took part in the *5th Regional Symposium on Landslides* in the Adriatic-Balkan Region in Rijeka, Croatia, where they received an award for best paper.

April and May were months for the younger members of the society with successful debates at the *7th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (7iYGEC)* as part of a wider presence at ISSMGE 2022 in Sydney and a study visit by members to the GEOLAB project in Slovenia.

June saw the holding of the *5th Symposium of Macedonian Association for Geotechnics*, supported by ISRM in Orid, 23-25.6.2022. Both presidents of ISRM and ISSMGE presented lectures.

September and October were months of MAG travel, with members participating and presenting at Eurock 2022. Others joined two weeks of training on dynamic testing of soil samples in triaxial conditions conducted by the Rock and Fracture Mechanics in Rock Engineering and Mining at the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (IZIIS). MAG members also took part in the 2nd Conference for Tailings Dams and a landslide webinar *Landslide Scientific Assessment conference: Landslide hazard*, LandScient; In the Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers of Macedonia (KOAOL) and in November, MAG members took part

in the *Second Macedonian Road Congress*, organized by the Macedonian Association of Road Engineers (MARE)

Other activities were related to:

- Work in the technical committee for geotechnics TC-11 in frames of the National Standardization Institution of North Macedonia.
- Preparation of a pricelist for engineering services in geotechnics as part of KOAOI.
- Work on the reaccreditation documents for the geotechnical engineering study programs for 2023-onwards at the Faculty of civil engineering in Skopje.
- Sharing circulars and bulletins from ISSMGE and ISRM with the members of MAG, as well as the information received by national societies from the region.
- Activities for publishing the Proceedings of the 5th Symposium of MAG on the OnePetro platform.
- Recording of promotional scientific programs for geotechnics on the North Macedonian National Television Channel.
- Promotional activities for the study program for geotechnics in order to attract a young population.

Rest of 2023

- Taking part in preparing an upcoming law on construction and cooperation with various relative entities and institutions of the government related to the law.
- The Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers of Macedonia (KOAOI), will be hosting “Geotechnical days in the Chamber” as well as courses on Eurocode 7 (on its technical and administrative implementation), in Serbia and North Macedonia.
- Work in TC-11 of the National Standardization Institution of North Macedonia.
- MAG will actively participate in and support the 3rd conference of regional geotechnical societies in Vrnjacka Banja in Serbia in November.
- Participation in events marking 60 years since the Skopje earthquake organized by IZIS.
- Promoting activities of the geotechnical engineering study programs through the Faculty of Civil Engineering and individual members of MAG.
- Organisation of the *European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference* hosted by MAG in 2024.
- Finances for the functioning of MAG will be collected through performing educational services for domestic and foreign persons and legal entities, performing high-level services (designs, strategies, studies, reviews, opinions, expertise, participation from national corporate members, and other sources.

Poland

2022

The Polish Committee on Geotechnics had a quiet 2022; however, it would like to provide information on two international conferences organized by them in 2021 which have not previously been reported:

DFI Deep Mixing Conference 2021

- 1-17 June 2021, Gdańsk, Poland
- Organisers: The European Federation of Foundation Contractors, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Gdańsk University of Technology, ASCE Geo-Institute

- Place: Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland (online)
- Organizing Committee Chair: Michał TOPOLNICKI, Keller, Poland
- Deep Mixing 2021 was presented in an all-online workshop focused on the latest technical findings, trends, and future deep mixing industry challenges:
 - The 1st of June 2021 - Workshop 1 - State of Practice Internationally and Lessons Learned
 - The 3rd of June 2021 - Workshop 2 - Material Properties
 - The 8 of the 8th of June, 2021 – Workshop 3 – Field Performance
 - The 10th of June 2021 – Workshop 4 – Design Analyses
 - The 15th of June 2021 – Workshop 5 – Liquefaction Mitigation
 - The 17th of June 2021 – Workshop 6 – Environmental Soil Mixing

Machine Learning & Risk Assessment in Geoengineering (MLRA2021)

- 25-27 October 2021, Wrocław, Poland
- Organizers: Technical Committee “Machine Learning and BigData TC309”, “Engineering Practice of Risk Assessment & Management C304” of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), and Wrocław University of Science and Technology.
- Place: Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Wrocław, Poland (online)
- Organizing Committee Chairs:
 - Wojciech PUŁA, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Poland
 - Isam SHAHROUR, Lille University, France
 - Giovanna VESSIA, University “G.d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy
- The MLRA2021 was a joint conference of the 3rd International Symposium on Machine Learning and Big Data in Geosciences & TC304 Workshop on Risk Assessment in Geoengineering (3ISMLG & TCWW).

Rest of 2023

The Polish Committee of Geotechnics is organizing the 19th National Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and the 8th National Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference. These events will take place on 4 – 7 July 2023 in Gliwice in Upper Silesia.

Portugal

2022

In 2022, the Portuguese Geotechnical Society (SPG) celebrated 50 years of its official constitution. However, it is fair to point out that its beginning dates back 70 years since it was following the establishment, in 1951, of the Portuguese Society of Soil Mechanics, which developed its activity under the Committee of Soil Mechanics of the Association of Engineers, led by Manuel Rocha. A course on Soil Mechanics was promoted in 1952, having a great impact on the national technical community, and it can be considered a milestone in the implementation of Soil Mechanics in Portugal.

Geotechnics started then its journey in Portugal as an autonomous area of knowledge four years after 1948, considered the year of formal recognition of Geotechnics as an autonomous area in Civil Engineering when the journal Geotechnique started its publication in London.

The 50th anniversary celebration of the official establishment of the Portuguese Geotechnical Society took place at the National Civil Engineering Laboratory (LNEC) between November 24 and 26. For this event, it was considered appropriate, due to its importance and timeliness, to choose the theme "Geotechnics as a reference

of Portuguese Engineering", in order to disseminate the work already developed during the past of Portuguese Geotechnics, to collect contributions on geotechnical works in progress and, above all, to look ahead to the near future, mainly to the impact of recent technological developments in modern geotechnics. This event was part of the program of celebrations of LNEC's 75th anniversary (Figure 5).



Fig.5. Logo created for the joint celebration of the 50th year of SPG and the 75th year of LNEC

This evocative seminar, which was attended by more than 200 participants, was sponsored by 60 companies, 15 of which were present in the technical exhibition.

Ricardo Oliveira and Manuel Matos Fernandes were the invited speakers to deliver a presentation on the theme "Research and Teaching of Geotechnics: past, present and future" in which a very important summary of the evolution of Engineering Geology, Soil Mechanics, and Rock Mechanics in the last five decades in Portugal was presented (Figure 3).

The first day of the seminar included 8 of the 10 Technical Sessions, ending with a commemorative dinner that took place at the Electricity Museum - Central Tejo.

The second day included presentations of two of the most relevant geotechnical projects under construction in the new Metro lines of Lisbon and Porto and a technical session on "The contributions of technological evolution to Modern Geotechnics". A Roundtable discussion, in the afternoon, brought together the main players in the geotechnical and construction industry and was followed by the Evocative Session of the 50 Years of SPG in which a tribute was paid to notable colleagues who recently passed away, namely António Gomes Coelho and António Silva Cardoso.



Fig.6. Image of the Opening Ceremony showing the sponsors of the event (left) and Manuel Matos Fernandes (right), invited speaker for Session 2: Research and Teaching of Geotechnics: past, present and future.

In the Evocative Session of the 50th Anniversary of SPG, medals were delivered to six new Honorary Members of SPG: António Mineiro, Ricardo Oliveira, Pedro Sêco e Pinto, António Gomes Correia e Rui Correia (Figure 7).



Fig.7. Honorary Members of SPG receiving the Medal. From left to right: António Mineiro, Ricardo Oliveira, Pedro Sêco e Pinto, António Gomes Correia and Rui Correia. In the pictures Laura Caldeira (President of LNEC) and Alexandre Pinto (President of SPG).

In the morning of November 26, a technical visit to the works on the Lisbon Underground's Circular Line, Lot 1, took place (Figura 8).



Fig.8. Image of the excavation of the Lisbon metro lines.

Rest of 2023

Portugal is preparing for the upcoming XVIII European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (Figure 9) (ECSMGE 2024, <https://www.ecsmge-2024.com/abstracts/important-dates>).



Fig.9. Image of the excavation of the Lisbon metro lines.

- A presentation of their site and welcome video (<https://www.ecsmge-2024.com/v>) is now available.
- The abstracts submission period is open until the 15th of May, 2023 (<https://www.ecsmge-2024.com/abstracts/important-dates>)
- Submissions for workshops/courses are also being sought and are to be held in “Altice Arena” on Sunday, the 25th of August 2024. Application forms etc. can be provided upon request.

Romania

2022

The Romanian Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (SRGF) organized the seminar *Geotechnical Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World – 9 - 10.11.2022*, Cluj-Napoca - with international attendance.

Rest of 2023

- SRGF organized a Bilateral webinar between Romania (SRGF) and France CFMS *Regards croisés sur la pratique de la géotechnique entre la Roumanie et la France* on the 4.03.2023
- The Romanian Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering is organizing on 7th -9th June 2023, the *17th Danube Conference* in Bucharest, Romania (<https://17decge.ro/>). The theme of the Conference is: European Geotechnical Engineering – Unity and Diversity. It aims to bring together Danube – European countries, and despite each one having its own specific approach and issues, exploring ways to develop unified practices within a European regional context. The general objectives of 17DECGE are to disseminate knowledge and national practices to all stakeholders in the field, to approach not only research and practical topics but also trans-disciplinary ones, and to ensure a forum of discussion for all.

- In partnership with the European ISSMGE Vice-Presidency, SRGF also requests expressions of interest in hosting the 18th Danube Conference in 2027. The successful bidder will be announced at the conclusion of the 17th Danube Conference in June.
- SRGF, together with APPFE – Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest (UTCB) is organizing the International Sewers & Climate Change Conference, April 26-27, 2023.

Russia

Rest of 2023

Russia is planning to organize the 28th European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference and GeoGames since 2019. The pandemic and now the war have made this a very challenging task, with very low numbers signing up to participate. The RSSMGFE is seeking ISSMGE assistance in determining the next steps for the struggling event (<https://www.eygec28.com/>).

Serbia

Rest of 2023

The Serbian Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and the Serbian Association for Earthquake Engineering have organized an international scientific conference *Geotechnical Aspects Of Civil Engineering And Earthquake Engineering*, 1 - 3 of November 2023. This event will also be the *Third Conference of Regional Geotechnical Societies* (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia).

Slovenia

2022

The Slovenian Geotechnical Society associates members from engineering geology, soil and rock mechanics, geotechnical engineering, and geosynthetics. In September 2022, the general assembly elected the new board:

- President: Suzana Svetličič – DRI, Ljubljana
- Vice-president: Borut Macuh – University of Maribor
- Secretary: Sebastjan Kuder – University of Ljubljana

Rest of 2023

Planned activities in 2023:

- A field trip to a major infrastructural project in Slovenia: 2nd railway track Divača – Koper (March 2023)
- Workshop on soil nails and rock bolts with emphasis on their durability (May or June 2023)
- Two workshops on geosynthetics:
 - Design of geosynthetics for filter, drainage, and hydraulic barriers (in the first half of 2023)
 - Use of geosynthetics for ground stabilization and soil reinforcement (in the second half of 2023)
- Traditional Šuklje Day (November 2023).
- Cooperation with neighboring societies (we have recently visited our Croatian and Hungarian colleagues during the *Nonveiller Lecture* in Zagreb and *Szechy Memorial Lecture* in Budapest).

Spain

2022

The Spanish Society elected a new Governing Board for the period 2022—2026 that, in turn, elected the following officials:

- President: Antonio Gens
- Vice-president: José Estaire
- Secretary/Treasure: Herminia Cano

Main activities:

- 22nd Joint Session SEMSIG-AETESS on “Ground Anchors”
- Annual SEMSIG Lecture by Fernando Roman on “The responsibility in the geotechnical site investigation study”.
- Holding the 11th National Symposium of Geotechnical Engineering and the 7th Spanish-Portuguese geotechnical days in Mieres, Asturias
- Delivery of the 5th Jiménez Salas Lecture by Prof. Eduardo Alonso
- Professor César Sagaseta proclaimed Distinguished Honorary Member of the Spanish Society of SMGE

Rest of 2023

- Award of the Carlos Oteo Prize to the best paper written in Spanish and of the Antonio Soriano Prize to the best Ph.D. Thesis in geotechnical engineering.
- 23rd Joint Session SEMSIG-AETESS on “Piles and diaphragm walls”
- Annual SEMSIG Lecture by Marcelo Sánchez (Texas A&M) on “Energy Geotechnics: Challenges and Opportunities”.
- Sponsoring the Seventh International Conference on Geotechnical and Geophysical Site Characterization (ISC7 2024) to be held in Barcelona, 18th to the 21st of June 2024, under the auspices of TC-102 on In Situ Testing.

Sweden

Rest of 2023

Preparations for the *Nordic Geotechnical Meeting in 2024* are underway: <https://sgy.fi/save-the-date-ngm2024-18-20-9-2024-goteborg-ruotsi/>

Switzerland

2022

The Swiss Geotechnical Society organized a conference on May 12 on “Geotechnical Challenges in Soft Soils” in Basel-Muttenz, Switzerland. The fall conference 2022 was a technical excursion to the construction sites of the second suburban railroad crossing in Munich (Germany). The Young Members were set a Design Challenge and their results were presented at the “Swiss Geotech Abroad,” a meeting enabled by young Swiss geotechnical engineers where mega-projects in Europe, Asia and the Middle East were also shown.

2023

The spring conference on March 29 was held in Biel, Switzerland and dealt with the topic “Dewatering, Drainage and Waterproofing”.

Rest of 2023

Planned activities in 2023:

- A field trip to a major infrastructural project in Slovenia: 2nd railway track Divača – Koper (March 2023)
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Turkey

2022

In May our young geotechnical engineers attended the *7th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference* (7iYGEC) as part of ISSMGE 2022 in Sydney. Financial support was provided to two young academicians to attend the 7th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference.

In May many delegates from Turkey attended the ICSMGE 2022: 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering online, as the ban on entry to Australia was lifted in a short time before the starting date of the conference.

In May 2022, the evaluation report and the poster format of a survey study, “Assessment of Geotechnical Sector in Turkey Survey Study”; a part of the Time Capsule Project prepared by Turkish TCP Team was delivered to all society members.

On June 30 – July 2, 2022, the “5th International Conference on New Developments in Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering” was held online at Cyprus Near East University was held under the auspices of our Association and under the chairmanship of the organizing committee of Prof. Dr. Feyza Çinicioğlu and Prof. Dr. Cavit Atalar. The conference was postponed to 2022 due to pandemic. The conference, whose opening speech was made by ISSMGE President Marc Ballouz, was successfully held with wide participation and the content of the presented papers.

In September 2022, the 18th “National Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering Conference”, which was planned to be held last year but postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic, was held on September 29-30, 2022. The 2nd National Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference, organized in parallel with this conference, was held on September 28, 2022 by the Turkish Society of ISSMGE and Erciyes University (ERU) Civil Engineering Department. Opening speech of the conference was made by the President of Turkish National Society Dr. Rasin Düzceer.

In November, the 18th Turkish Civil Engineering Technical Congress and Exhibition, organized by the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers, was held on 7-9 November 2022, hosted by Istanbul Technical University. Within the scope of the event, "The Role of Geotechnical Engineers in Civil Engineering Practice" panel moderated by Prof. Dr. Feyza Çinicioğlu, panelists Prof. Dr. Nurdan Memişoğlu, Prof. Dr. Cenk Alhan, M.Sc. C. E. Ahmet Arslan and Dr. Rasin Duzceer made their presentations.

In December 2022, one-day workshop organized by Turkish Society of SMGE about “Regulation for the Design and Implementation Principles of Excavation Support Structures” was held on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at Boğaziçi University with intense participation of the Society members. Upon request of General Directorate of Construction Works of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the new regulation prepared by the committee composed of academicians, representatives of geotechnical contractors and the designers. The new regulation was published in the Official Gazette as of December 18, 2022 and shall be used in deep excavations for the construction of foundations and/or basements of all kinds of structures to be built in all planned and unplanned areas for a temporary period of one year. After that, the final version of the regulation shall be released and the following the design and construction rules stipulated in this document shall be compulsory.

2023

In March 2023, a webinar series on “Geotechnical Observations and Evaluations of February 6, 2023 Earthquakes” was held on three separate meetings; dated March 14, 2023; March 21, 2023 and March 28, 2023. The opening

speech was made by Dr. Rasin Duzceer, the President of the Turkish Society of ISSMGE. In the first webinar, presentations were made by academicians and geotechnical engineering professionals.

Rest of 2023

- Organization of a one-day meeting with the representatives our Corporate members of Turkish Geotechnical Society to discuss and exchange ideas to improve activities to serve best to our Society members in May 2023.
- Organization of a 3-day seminar jointly by Turkish Geotechnical Society and Chamber of Civil Engineers regarding “Regulation for Design and Implementation Principles of Excavation Support Structures” in May 2023.
- 9th Geotechnical Symposium with International Participation will be held in İstanbul by the Chamber of Civil Engineering of TMMOB and with the support of Turkish Geotechnical Society on 22-24 November 2023.
- Organization of a special workshop on “Earthquake Hazard and Soil Behavior Analysis Workshop” planned to be held in Istanbul in December 2023. The workshop will be one-day event with a scope of soil-structure interaction of the earthquake code.
- Organization of the ZMGM-19 National Conference hosted by Hacettepe University, Civil Engineering Department in Ankara in 2024.

United Kingdom

Rest of 2023

The British Geotechnical Association continues with a very active program and has several important events in 2023:

- The 2023 *John Mitchell Lecture* was delivered by Professor Michael Winter on “Road Asset, Socioeconomic and Fatality Risk from Debris Flow” in London in January 2023
- The 61st *Rankine Lecture* was delivered by Professor John Carter of the University of Newcastle, Australia, on “Constitutive Modelling in Computational Geomechanics” at Imperial College, London, on the 15th of March 2023
- The *BGA Touring Lecture* on “Practical Use of Shear Wave Velocity Measurements in Clays with a Focus on UK and Irish Clays” will be presented by Dr. Mike Long of University College, Dublin, and was delivered in Glasgow (February), Belfast (March) and Leeds
- The 54th *Cooling Prize Competition* for Early Career Geotechnical Engineers was held at Cardiff University on the 27th of March, 2023
- *Geo-Resilience 2023* is the third in a series of biennial conferences organized by the British Geotechnical Association. It took place in Cardiff on 28-29 March 2023. The programme is available at <https://georesilience2023.org/>
- The *BGA Annual Conference* will be held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, London on the 21st of June 2023.

III. European Support Group (ESG)

Europe continues to be a very active region of the ISSMGE community. 2022 saw several big events and the establishment of the ISSMGE European Support Group (ESG), founded by the ISSMGE Vice President of Europe, Prof. Lyesse Laloui. The ESG was established with five key objectives/pillars:

- 1 Supporting the European geotechnical engineering industry**
- 2 Connecting with the Mediterranean and the Middle East for the dissemination of European technologies**
- 3 Supporting innovation and creating a framework to accelerate the transfer of technology from the laboratory to the market**
- 4 Creating European communication channels for the geotechnical engineering community**
- 5 Supporting research forums and continuing education at the European level**

The Group consists of representatives from across Europe, including Lyesse Laloui – ISSMGE President for Europe, Lars Andersen (Norway), Nicolas Utter (France), Stephen Thomas (UK), Feyza Cinicioglu (Turkey), Iulia Prodan (Romania) and Brendan Smith (Switzerland).

The Group's inaugural meeting was in April 2022 in Lausanne, Switzerland, where they discussed the five objectives with the ambition to hold a meeting of the national societies of ISSMGE Europe later in the year.



Fig.10. Kick-off Meeting of the European Support Group – ESG – Lausanne, April 2022

A follow-up meeting was held in September in Istanbul, Turkey, where progress on the objectives was discussed, and planning for the national society event commenced.

IV. European General Assembly

The year culminated in the inaugural Meeting of The National Societies of ISSMGE Europe on the 23rd of November 2022 in Lausanne, Switzerland. The main objectives of the meeting were:

1. For country representatives to get to know each other and explore common interests in the spirit of a united community,
2. Coordinate Efforts
3. Identify the main challenges of our profession in Europe

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – 2022 MEETING OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL SOCIETES ISSMGE

Name	Country	Online/On-site
1. Dietmar Adam	Austria	Online
2. Helmut F. Schweiger	Austria	Online
3. Sabid Zekan	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Online
4. Elena Sophocleous	Cyprus	Online
5. Aivo Lokotar	Estonia	Online
6. Wojciech Solowski	Finland	Online
7. Nicolas Utter	France	In person
8. Giogios Belokas	Greece	Online
9. Christian Moormann	Germany	In person
10. Edina Koch	Hungary	In person
11. Mario Manassero	Italy	In person
12. Kaspars Bondars	Latvia	Online
13. Jovan Papic	Macedonia	Online
14. Igor Peshevski	Macedonia	Online
15. Trude Ørbech	Norway	Online
16. Katarzyna Zabielska-Adamska	Poland	In person
17. Isabel Fernandes	Portugal	Online
18. Alexandre Pinto	Portugal	Online
19. Loretta Batali	Romania	In person
20. Alexandra Ene	Romania	Online
21. Iulia Prodan	Romania	In person
22. Rafael Sharafutdinov	Russia	Online
23. Jana Frankovská	Slovakia	In person
24. Janko Logar	Slovenia	Online
25. Jose Estaire	Spain	Online
26. Antonio Gens	Spain	Online
27. Erika Prina Howald	Switzerland	In person
28. Lyesse Laloui	Switzerland	In person
29. Laurent Pitteloud	Switzerland	In person
30. Brendan Smith	Switzerland	In person
31. Dimitrios Terzis	Switzerland	In person
32. Safiye Feyza Cinicioğlu	Turkey	In person
33. Rasin Duzceer	Turkey	In person
34. Ozer Cinicioglu	Turkey	In person
35. Chaido Doulala-Rigby	United Kingdom	Online
36. Stephen Thomas	United Kingdom	In person
37. Haraldur Sigursteinsson	Iceland	Online

The hybrid event saw strong engagement from the societies, with **37 participants** representing 70% of the total number of Affiliated Countries in Europe.

A broad range of topics was discussed, including:

- Introducing the 5 key Pillars
- Upcoming events
- Industry-related engagement
- Innovation and start-ups
- Research and funding
- Promotion, engagement, and communication
- Introductions and presentations from member societies
- National society challenges

The ESG is looking to build on the event’s success with the intention of organizing the next assembly later this year.



Fig.11. Morning Session of the European National Societies Meeting – Lausanne, November 2022



Fig.12. On-site Participants to the European National Societies Meeting – Lausanne, November 2022

V. Innovations in Geotechnical Engineering Seminar

The afternoon was dedicated to a hybrid in person / online seminar on European innovation in geotechnical engineering open to all ISSMGE members. The event commenced with an introduction from Professor Laloui, followed by four presentations from guest speakers experienced in developing and delivering innovative technologies and techniques from across Europe. These included

- “A Framework for Accelerating Innovation” by Dr. Stephen Thomas (Founder: OGI) and ESG member,
- “How to harness value through the newest and upcoming geotechnical innovations” by Dr. Dimitrios Terzis (Founder: Medusoil),
- “Big - Open - BIM - perspective from the Swiss Railways and various involved stakeholders” by Mr. Luca Borio (Swiss National Railway), and

- “A Framework for Accelerating Innovation” by Prof. Gabriela Medero (Founder: Kenoteq).

The seminar concluded with a round table discussion and questions from the audience.



Fig.13. Afternoon Session – Hybrid Event dedicated to Innovation in Geotechnical Engineering – Lausanne, November 2022

VI. Perspectives

ISSMGE Europe is bustling with events, ideas, and collaborative approaches across our diverse political and geological landscape. Whether celebrating some of the founding figures of our field, bringing regions together to explore common interests and share knowhow, or introducing and mentoring our younger members as they begin their journey through our profession, as this report shows, Europe is unique in its approaches to our planet’s and society’s geotechnical engineering challenges.

This report also demonstrates that not all goals are common, and some regions engage with a broader identity than others. Similarly, the challenges of geology, society, politics, and economy will always ensure that each of the 38 countries comprising ISSMGE Europe remains unique, yet there can be no doubt that the share of ideas, knowledge, resources, and opportunities can only benefit us all.

For the first time, we are also bringing our national societies together through national assemblies and support groups to ensure all societies benefit from their membership to ISSMGE through sharing knowledge and ideas, promoting events and resources, and building the building of friendships and understanding. 2022 was a great success as we adjusted to our liberation from the pandemic. Building on that success, 2023 looks to be even stronger.