



The Fourth Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS, Odessa, Ukraine, and Tiraspol, Moldova, Pridnesrovie, 5-14 July 2020

First Circular

Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Odessa, Ukraine
Shevchenko State University of Pridnesrovie, Tiraspol, Moldova, Pridnesrovie

INQUA Focus Group SACCOM: 1709F “Ponto-Caspian Stratigraphy and
Geochronology (POCAS)”

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FIELD TRIP GUIDE

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AIMS AND SCOPE

The INQUA IFC (International Focus Group) POCAS continues a series of projects (UNESCO-IUGS-IGCP 521, 610; INQUA 501 - <http://avalon-institute.ca/projects/>) devoted to the Environmental Change and Human Response in the Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor (CORRIDOR) during the Quaternary. The CORRIDOR is considered as a single geographic entity (Fig. 1).

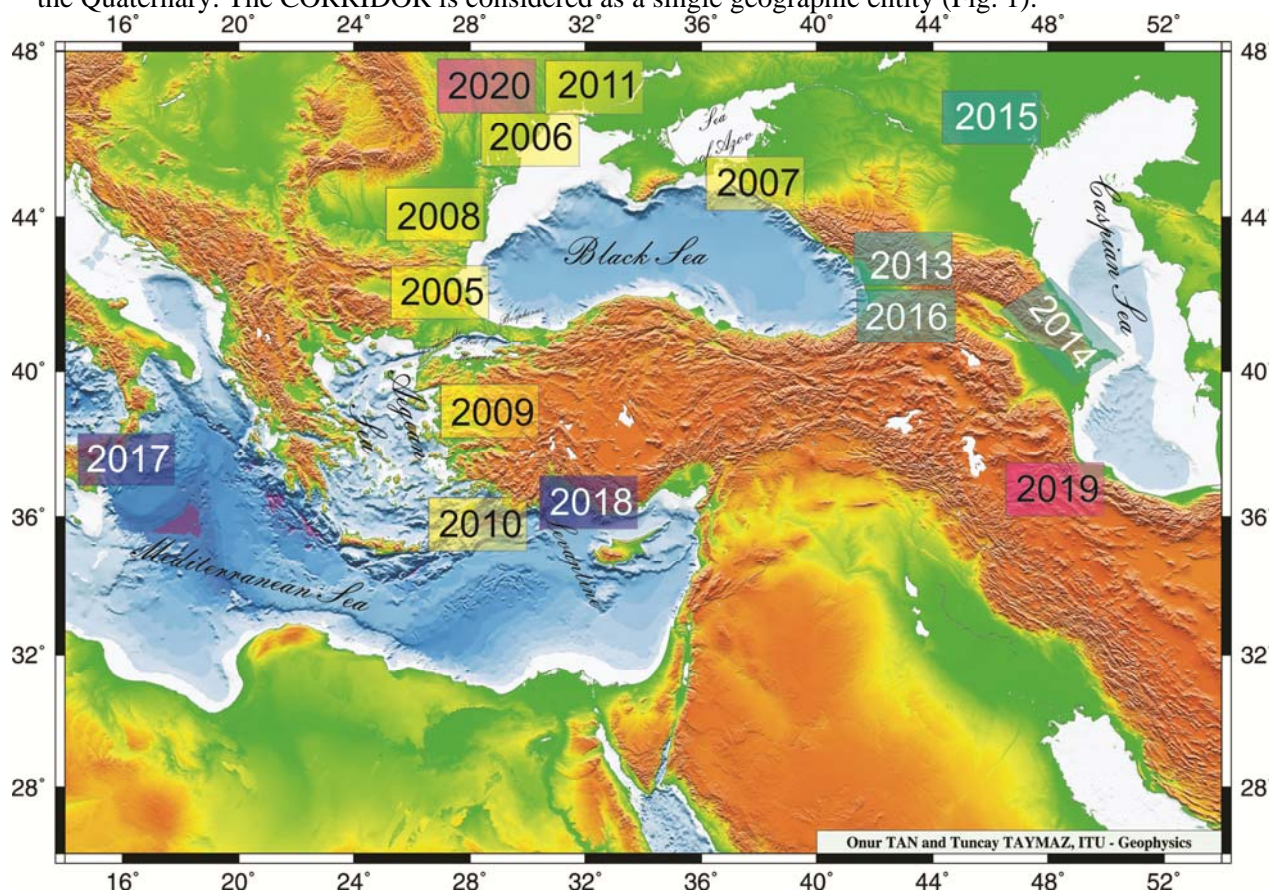


Fig. 1. The Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean “CORRIDOR”: in yellow are the locations of IGCP 521-INQUA 501 meeting and field trip sites (2005–2011); in green are sites studied by IGCP 610: 2013 – Tbilisi, Western Georgia; 2014 – Baku, Azerbaijan; 2015 – Astrakhan’ (Volga delta), Russia; 2016 – Tbilisi (Eastern Georgia); in dark blue jointly with INQUA POCAS project in 2017 – Palermo, Italy, and 2018 – Antalya, Turkey; in magenta 2019 – Tehran, Iran, 2020 – Odessa, Ukraine, and Tiraspol, Moldova.

The INQUA POCAS project was created to study the Quaternary geology of the Ponto-Caspian region as a single geographic entity, bypassing linguistic/political/disciplinary boundaries, linking continents (Europe and Asia) more closely, and encouraging East-West dialogue and cooperation among researchers. The Ponto-Caspian is defined as a chain of intercontinental basins that encompasses the Caspian, Black, Azov seas, the Kerch Strait, the Manych Valley, and their coasts. This chain represents a unique oceanographic system of relict Paratethys basins, which were repeatedly connected and isolated from each other during the Quaternary. Due to its geographical location and semi-isolation from the open ocean, this region acts as a paleoenvironmental amplifier and a sensitive recorder of climatic events, in particular glacial-interglacial cycles on the Eastern European Plain and mountains, as well as transgressive-regressive sea-level variations. Thus, it can be considered as a type region where geological history is well recorded in a long series of marine and continental sediments that can be used in the development of Pleistocene stratigraphy and geochronology of Central Eurasia. The geological record of the Ponto-Caspian region’s history reveals the development of global climatic changes, glacial-interglacial rhythms within the East European plain and mountain areas of the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the history of connection with the

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World Ocean. The Ponto-Caspian is therefore a type region that could provide a stratigraphic and paleogeographic scheme for Pleistocene events in Central Eurasia. The main activities of INQUA POCAS were oriented toward solving the existing contradictions and conducting new fieldwork by involving a wide range of multidisciplinary scientists and modern research methods and equipment. One of the major goals will be the involvement of ESR (Early Stage Researchers) to participate in the research and integration of available and newly obtained data. It is of great importance to do this because, so far, there are few specialists (particularly in the developing countries) trained in modern methods and techniques (e.g., isotopic analysis, geochemistry, paleontology, and different types of dating).

The INQUA POCAS community includes about 260 scientists from 21 countries: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Germany, Greece, France, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, Russia, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UK, Ukraine, and USA.

The First and Second Plenary Conference and Field Trip of the project were carried out in Italy (Palermo) and Turkey (Antalya) jointly with IGCP 610 in order to bring the international communities of both projects together to solve a number of contentious issues involving stratigraphy, geochronology, geological history, archaeology, and anthropology of the CORRIDOR. The IGCP 610 project was completed in 2018. The Third Plenary Conference of the INQUA Focus Group POCAS was carried out in I.R. Iran (Tehran). It focused on the late Miocene-Plio/Pleistocene geological history of the South Caspian Coast, Iran, along the West Alborz Mountains. This subject is very important in shedding light and achieving a better understanding of tectonic-climatic interactions during the Plio/Quaternary period in this region.

The Fourth Plenary Conference and Field Trip will be organized by Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University (ONU), Ukraine, Shevchenko State University of Pridnesrovie, Moldova, Pridnesrovie, Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada, with assistance from PrichernomorDGRP, and the State Scientific Institution Center for Problems of Marine Geology, Geoecology and Sedimentary Ore Formation of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and carried out in Ukraine and Moldova, Pridnestrovie on July 5–14, 2020.

The conference will focus on the progress of the current project with particular attention to stratigraphy and geochronology of the northwestern part of the Black Sea and adjacent coast as well as Pridnesrovie (Tiraspol-Dubossary). The Field Trip will be concentrated on three areas. (a) The Roksolany type locality (stratotype) of the loess-paleosol formation of Ukraine that is located on the east shore of Dniester Liman near the village of Roksolany. It is a natural outcrop along the slope of the sea and liman at an elevation of 49–51 m above the liman level. Twenty horizons of Neopleistocene and Eopleistocene loess and paleosols occur in this exposure. (b) The baymouth barriers of NW limans (Dniesrovskiy, Dniepro-Bugskiy, Tiligulskiy, Kuyalnitskiy, Khadzhibeyskiy) where more or less complete sequences of the Late Pleistocene-Holocene sediments are exposed. (c) The Dnestrovian terraces (e.g., VII terrace and site Bayraki with Oldowan human culture, etc.). The First Circular of the Conference, the Abstract Template, and the Registration Form will be available shortly at the INQUA POCAS website http://avalon-institute.org/inqua/meeting_next.php. Please check the website regularly.

The meeting will cover ten days including arrival and departure. Three days (6–8 July) will be spent in Plenary Sessions, and five days (9–13 July) will be dedicated to the Field Trips (Fig. 2).

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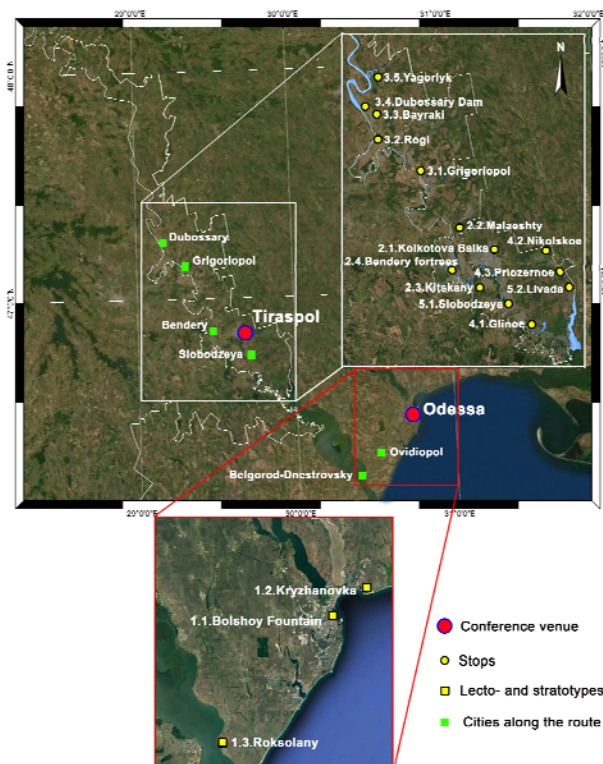


Fig. 2. Field trip locations planned for visiting during the INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS Fourth Plenary Meeting.

The Plenary Sessions, social activities, and side-meeting round tables will be held in the main campus of ONU headquarters in Odessa, Ukraine, located in the center of the city. There are numerous hotels around for a variety of prices. Three days of the Meeting will be devoted to oral presentations and posters, and four days will be devoted to geological field trips.

It is expected that the meeting will bring together multidisciplinary scientists from all over the world to enhance the West-East scientific dialogue and provide a foundation for collaboration on correlation and integration of subjects covered by the conference as previous IGCP 521, 610, and INQUA 0501 meetings have done.

SCHEDULE

5 July: Arrival, Registration (overnight in Odessa).

6–8 July: Plenary Sessions (overnights in Odessa).

9–13 July: Field Trips (overnights in Tiraspol, return to Odessa late in the evening on July 13).

14 July: Departure from Odessa.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The final number of plenary sessions will depend upon the number of participants and accepted presentations. To be accepted, each presentation must deal with results obtained from the study of environmental change and human response during the Quaternary and pre-Quaternary in the CORRIDOR. It can also have a more general scope, for example, GIS-based modeling of the water exchange between adjacent basins; evolutionary mechanisms of the Eastern Paratethys and its separation into the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, etc. Presentations that go beyond data description to address interpretation and broader understanding of the chosen topic are especially encouraged.

There will be one day (July 8) devoted to the 90th birthday of famous Ukrainian Academician Evgeny Shnyukov. It will be focused on different aspects of Ponto-Caspian geology, in particular mud volcanism.

Exemplary Subjects:

- Quaternary geochronology and stratigraphy of the CORRIDOR
- Ponto-Caspian as a relic of the Eastern Paratethys
- Quaternary and upper Neogene paleontology, palynology, and stratigraphy of the CORRIDOR
- Recent ecosystems of the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Black Seas
- Role of active tectonics in dividing the Eastern Paratethys into separate basins
- Paleoenvironmental and paleogeographic reconstructions
- Climate modeling
- Sea-level and salinity modeling
- Submarine geohazards (earthquakes, submarine landslides, tsunamis, gas emissions) in the Mediterranean and Ponto-Caspian region
- The late Miocene (Messinian) salt crisis in the Mediterranean basin and its consequences in the Black Sea
- Archaeology, ethnography, and paleoanthropology of the CORRIDOR
- Modeling of environmental change and human dispersal during the Quaternary

FIELD TRIPS

The Program of Field Trips for conference participants includes visiting of geological sections of Quaternary, Pliocene, and Miocene, as well as some historic and archaeological sites on the Black Sea seaside and on both banks of the Dniester River (Fig. 2).

Field Trip Itinerary:

Day 1. Black Sea seaside and the Belgorod-Dniestrovsky liman (9 July 2020)

Stop 1-1. Lectostratotype of the Pontian stage

It is located at the 16th station ("Bolshoy Fountain") within the recreational zone of Odessa city on both sides of the steep ravine leading into the Black Sea. From bottom to top, it is represented by light gray, yellow-gray limestones (seven meters in thickness), sands and clays enriched with fossils (Fig. 3).

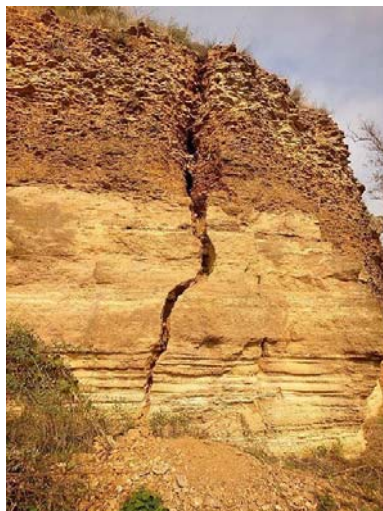


Fig. 3. Lectostratotype of the Pontian stage (Upper Miocene) located at the 16th station of "Bolshoy Fountain" within Odessa city.

Stop 1-2. Stratotype of the Kuyalnitsky Regional Stage (Pliocene)

It is located in Kryzhanovka village near Odessa. The outcrop is represented by the coastal cliff, estuarine, and estuarine-deltaic deposits overlain by a thick (10–12 m) layer of gray, dense,

horizontally layered sandy clays. Above there is a 6-meter bundle of sandy, darker, slightly brownish and sometimes clays containing substantial iron.

Stop 1-3. Stratotype of the loess-paleosol formation of Ukraine

This stratotype is located on the east shore of Dniestrovsky liman near the village of Roksolany. It is a natural outcrop along the slope of the sea and liman at an elevation of 49–51 m above the liman level. Twenty horizons of Pleistocene and Eopleistocene loess and paleosols occur in this exposure. According to the paleomagnetic scale, the following horizons correspond to Bruhnes stage (760,000 y BP): modern soil (Holocene); Prichernomorskiy, Dofinovskiy, Bugskiy, Udaiskiy, Prilukskiy (all Late Pleistocene); Tyasminskiy, Kaidaiskiy, Dneprovskiy, Zavadovskiy (?) (all Middle Pleistocene); some of them are presented by fragments and are not always evident in the outcrop; Sulskiy. The paleomagnetic Matuyama stage is represented by the Martonoshskiy, Priazovskiy, Shirokinskiy, and Ilyichovskiy horizons. The last part of the exposure shows fine-grained, laminated alluvial-lacustrine sands with interbedded sandy muds (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Stratotype of the loess-paleosol formation of Ukraine, village of Roksolany.

Day 2. Central part of Pridnestovie (10 July 2020)

Stop 2-1. Stratotype of the Tiraspol faunistic complex “Kolkotova Balka” (Early Neopleistocene)

This stratotype is located on the VI (formerly V) terrace of the Dniester River. It makes a wide strip along the left bank of the river at a height of 30–35 m above the foundation layer. Its thickness is 30 m, including 15 m of alluvium, and 15 m of loess-like loams with layers of fossil soils (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Stratotype of the Tiraspol faunistic complex “Kolkotova Balka” (early Neopleistocene).

Stop 2-2. Outcrop of the early Neopleistocene terraced alluvium in the sand-gravel quarry

Observation of the full section of the early Neopleistocene terraced alluvium in the sand-gravel quarry in the vicinity of Tiraspol, or the village of Malaeshty (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Full section of the Early Neopleistocene terraced alluvium in the sand-gravel quarry in the vicinity of Tiraspol, or the village of Malaeshty.

Stop 2-3. Stratotype of the Kitskany terrace with remnants of the Tamanian fauna (late Eopleistocene)

The stratotype is located on the right bank of the Dniester River in Kitskany village, 9 km from Tiraspol. It contains the remnants of the Tamanian fauna in sand and gravel deposits of the late Eopleistocene (Epivillafranchian) underlain by limestone and loamy rocks of the upper Sarmatian (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Stratotype of the Kitskan terrace with remnants of the late Eopleistocene (Epivillafranchian) Tamanian fauna.

There is a memorial complex for the “Kitskanskiy bridgehead” above the outcrop (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Memorial complex for the “Kitskanskiy bridgehead.”

The bridgehead was a strategic springboard for Soviet troops on the west bank of the Dniester River, in the area of Kitskany (10 km south of Tiraspol), captured by troops of the 3rd Ukrainian Front (Army General R.Ya. Malinovsky) during the Odessa operation of 1944 (<https://clever-geek.github.io/articles/2103391/index.html>).

Stop 2-4. The Holy Ascension Novo-Nyametsky Monastery

The next stop on the field trip is the Holy Ascension Novo-Nyametsky Monastery (<http://oktravel.md/en/tourism/tourism-in-moldova-moldova-monasteries-novo-nyametsky-ascension-monastery>) in the village of Kitskany and dating to the XIX century (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. The Holy Ascension Novo-Nyametsky Monastery.

Stop 2-5. The Bendery Fortress

On the way back, the plan is to visit the Bender fortress, built in the XVI century by Turkish sultan Suleiman I, on the site of a Genoese trading post of the XIII century (Fig. 9) (https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g777897-d2480824-Reviews-Bender_Fortress-Bender_Transnistria.html).



Fig. 10. The Bendery Fortress.

Day 3. North part of Pridnestrovie (11 July 2020)

Stop 3-1. Grigoriopol

The limestone outcrops of the Bessarabian horizon of the Sarmatian are located on the bank of the Dniester River and contain typical reef zone fauna (Fig. 11).



Fig.11. Middle Sarmatian limestone outcrop near the town of Grigoriopol.

Stop 3-2. Rogi village

Multiple outcrops of Volynian and Bessarabian horizons of the Sarmatian Regional Stage enriched with fossil malacofauna are located near Rogi village on the bank of the Dniester River (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. An outcrop of Volynian and Bessarabian horizons of the Sarmatian Regional Stage enriched with fossil malacofauna near the Rogi village.

Stop 3-3. Lower Paleolithic “Bayraki” archaeological site

The Lower Paleolithic Bayraki site is situated in the vicinity of Dubossary town in Moldavia, on the high terrace (VII) of the Dniester River. In the Lower and Middle Pleistocene deposits, six layers have been discovered, including lithic artefacts of Lower Paleolithic character. At present, this site presents the oldest Lower Pleistocene deposit across the entire East European Plain (Fig. 13) (https://ibn.idsi.md/vizualizare_articol/85536).



Fig. 13. Lower Paleolithic Bayraki site near Dubossary.

Stop 3-4. Dubossary Dam

The Dubossary Dam is a hydroelectric dam on the Dniester River near Dubossary. It was built in 1951–1954. The installed capacity of the hydroelectric power station is 48 MW (Fig. 14) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dub%C4%83sari_Dam).

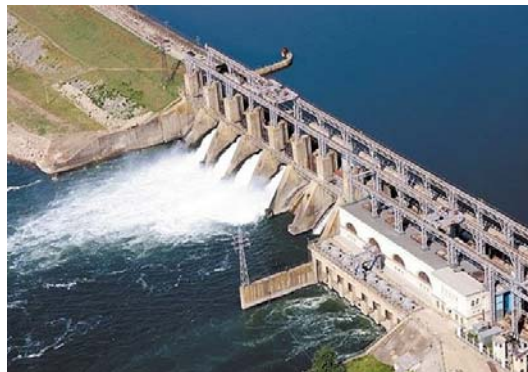


Fig. 14. The Dubossary Dam

Stop 3-5. City of Dubossary and the Yagorlyk Reserve

The Yagorlyk State Reserve is an ecological jewel of Pridnestrovie. Its territory includes the Yagorlyk backwater with the estuarine zone of the Yagorlyk River, the adjacent Litvino and Balta tracts, as well as part of the Tsybulovka tract. It covers the reserve and the site of the left bank of the Dubossary reservoir and the lower part of the valley of the small Sukhoi Yagorlyk River with a channel pond and the Sukhoi Yagorlyk tract with the same name. There are limestone outcrops of the Lower Sarmatian in the Yagorlyk Reserve (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15. Limestone outcrops of the Lower Sarmatian in the Yagorlyk Reserve.

Day 4. South part of Pridnestrovie (12 July 2020)

Stop 4.1. Scythian mounds of Bronze – early Iron Age near the village of Glinoe

In 1995–2004, the Dniester archaeological expedition explored more than 60 Scythian graves in Glinoe village within the Slobodzey district, including the grave of the tribal leader of the nomads. In 1995–2012 and in 2017, 114 Scythian mounds of the III–II centuries BC containing 183 burials were investigated. In 2019, archaeologists discovered human bones with traces of a surgical operation in a mound near the village of Glinoe. The age of the finds exceeds 5 thousand years (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16. Archaeological excavation of Scythian mounds by V.S. Sinika (<https://novostipmr.com/ru/news/15-07-24/pridnestrovskie-arheologi-obnaruzhili-ritualnyy-kompleks-kotoromu>).

Stop 4.2. Early Pliocene reference geological section near village Nikolskoe

The reference geological sections of the early Pliocene alluvium are near the village of Nikolskoe. The sections contain numerous remains of vertebrates typical of the Kuchurgan faunistic complex (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17. Early Pliocene reference geological section near the village of Nikolskoe.

Stop 4.3. Early Pliocene reference geological section near the village of Priozernoe

The early Pliocene reference geological section near the village of Priozernoe contains abundant remains of vertebrates typical of the Moldavian faunistic complex (Fig. 18).



Fig. 18. Early Pliocene reference geological section near the village of Priozernoe.

Stop 4.4. Social event: Excursion and sailing on a motor ship along the Dniester River (afternoon)

After lunch in Tiraspol, an excursion to the factory of wine and cognac production “Quint” will be followed by a boat excursion on the motor ship “Nikolai Gribanov” along the Dniester River.

Day 5. Towards Odessa (13 July 2020)

Stop 5.1. Late Pleistocene reference geological section Slobodseya I

The section of late Pleistocene Slobodseya I (Fig. 19).



Fig. 19. Late Pleistocene reference geological section Slobodseya I.

Stop 5.2. Late Pleistocene reference geological section “Livada”

The section of the Vth terrace of the Dniester, “Livada,” is covered by loess-soil sediments with fauna of mollusks and small mammals of the late phase of the Tiraspol faunistic complex (Fig. 20).



Fig. 20. Late Pleistocene reference geological section “Livada.”

SOCIAL PROGRAM

During the Meeting, a sight-seeing tour in Odessa and sailing on the motor ship “Nikolai Griбанov” along the Dniester River will be organized. More details will be announced in the Second Circular.

VENUE

Three days of technical sessions and one day of the field trip of the conference will be held under the auspices of the Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University (ONU) [<http://onu.edu.ua/en/>] on the Main Campus located at 2, Dvorianskaya Str., Odessa, Ukraine 65082.

Odessa is situated on the northwestern coast of the Black Sea in the southwestern part of Ukraine. This high quality scientific, educational, cultural, industrial, and resort city is the third largest in Ukraine (after Kiev and Kharkov) with a population about 1,000,000. The city is situated in close proximity to the key geological sites to be studied by the participants during the first day of the field trip associated with the conference.

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ONU was established in 1865. It is well known as a scientific and educational center in the fields of geology, archaeology, and ethnology. It has the best and oldest Paleontological and Archaeological Museums in Eastern Europe with a unique collection of fossils relevant to the subject of the conference. ONU is dedicated to being a leader in education and culture in Ukraine, establishing itself as an international center for research and scientific development. It is also very experienced in organizing international scientific conferences.

Four days of the conference field trips will be carried by Shevchenko State University of Pridnesrovie, Tiraspol (PSU) [<http://spsu.ru/>], Moldova; PSU succeeded the Tiraspol State Pedagogical Institute, which was founded in 1930. As the first institution of higher education of Soviet Moldova, the Institute prepared highly trained teaching staff. PSU is famous for dozens of generations of scientists, teachers, and students who have made contributions to the development of science, education, culture, and the social and political life of the state.

MA and PhD students will be actively involved in conference preparation and will promote and disseminate ideas and results of research projects while contributing to the integration of young scientists from Ukraine and Moldova into the European and worldwide scientific community.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are a variety of hotels for different budgets in Odessa and Tiraspol. Participants should arrange their accommodations by themselves for the duration of their stay in Odessa. All night accommodations during the field trips will be in Tiraspol organized by PSU. There are also student dormitories in Odessa and Tiraspol, and they are comparatively more economical. For more information about hotel reservations, please contact ONU, Miss Tetiana KONDARIUK (tanya_kondaruk@ukr.net), and PSU, Dr. Elena KRAVCHENKO (orbignella@gmail.com).

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee (Please refer to the “Registration Form”)

Category	Registration before 5 June 2020	Registration after 5 June 2020	Registration on spot
	euro		
Participant	350 (conference & field trip) 200 (only conference)	400 (conference & field trip) 250 (only conference)	420 (conference & field trip) (300 only conference)
Accompanying person	300	350	370
Student*	200	250	270

**Student identification is required.*

The registration fee covers conference kit, refreshments during coffee breaks, lunches during Field Trips, museum entrance fees, and bus transportation during the Field Trips. It does not cover the dinners as well as hotel accommodations during the Conference and Field Trips.

REFUND POLICY

Fifty percent refund before 5 June, 2020. No refund is possible after 5 June, 2020.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS has very limited funds available to distribute and is not able to support the full cost of meeting attendance. Therefore, applicants should show evidence of seeking or having obtained funds from elsewhere before applying for assistance. Preference in funding allocations will be given to students and young researchers from developing countries who plan to present a high quality paper accepted by the Scientific Committee. An application for support may be e-mailed to the Organizing Committee (valyan@onu.edu.ua) requesting in your own words a funding amount with justification.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The official conference language is English.

ABSTRACT

Preference will be given to extended and informative abstracts containing new data and arguments. As a rule, your abstract(s) should be at least 2 pages in length, but we will be quite flexible with the length of the abstract (up to 6 pages) if it offers new ideas and information. **Short and uninformative abstracts or abstracts irrelevant to the themes of the meeting will not be considered.**

The guidelines for abstract preparation and submission are outlined in the Abstract Template. You must specify the mode of your presentation: ORAL or POSTER. No abstracts will be accepted without registration of at least one of the authors. Every registered participant has the right to submit up to two extended abstracts as the first author.

Please type your abstract using the template (attached to the First Circular and shortly available at <http://www.avalon-institute.org/projects/>). Submit your abstract via e-mail to Prof. Valentina Yanko-Hombach valyan@onu.edu.ua

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATION

Each speaker will have 20 minutes for a presentation, including questions. Poster format is 100x180 cm. Projection Equipment: Screens, LCD (PowerPoint presentation) projectors, and overhead projectors are available.

PUBLICATION

Accepted abstracts will be published in the INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS Proceedings. The full papers will be published (after proper review) in an IGCP 610- INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS Special Volume of the peer-reviewed journal *Quaternary International*.

VISA

Visitors from most countries must carry a valid passport and visa (if needed) to be able to enter Ukraine and Moldova, Pridnestrovie. Each attendee is responsible for obtaining his/her visa for entering these countries.

CLIMATE

The middle of July is a good time for Field Trips. It is warm with average low and high temperature ranging between 18–26°C, relative humidity is 66%, and average rainy days is 10.

TRAVEL

Odessa is easily accessible by regular flights.

DEADLINES

9 March 2020	First Circular on INQUA POCAS website: (http://www.avalon-institute.org/projects/)
9 March 2020	Abstract submission and registration opens
5 June 2020	Abstract submission closes
20 June 2020	Notification of abstract acceptance
5 June 2020	Deadline for early registration
20 June 2020	Second Circular and the Conference Programme on INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS website (http://www.avalon-institute.org/projects/)