International Geoscience Programme (UNESCO - IUGS - IGCP)



IGCP 521 "Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor During the last 30 ky: sea level change and human adaptation" 2005-2009



## A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING AND FIELD TRIP

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The Second Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of the IGCP Project 521 was hosted by the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University (ONU).



The conference began with three days of technical program at the main campus of the ONU in downtown Odessa. As in the previous year, the technical program began with an overview of the IGCP Project 521 by co-leader Valentina Yanko-Hombach, who presented the current state of knowledge on the BSMC evolution and the need for future research and collaboration.



Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National August 21, 2006. Opening ceremony, University (Main Campus)



The technical session included a spectrum of interdisciplinary topics:

- Marine geophysics
- Sedimentology and mineralogy
- Geomorphology and landscape evolution
- Paleontology and biostratigraphy

- Palynology
- Paleogeography
- Paleoceanography
- Paleoclimatic implications
- Archaeology and history
- Climate and sea-level modeling



Geological and archaeological sites studied by participants of IGCP 521 during the field trip to the nort-western coast (NWBS) of the Black Sea.

Following the presentations was a three-day fieldtrip led by prominent Ukrainian and Russian geologists and archaeologists, including conference co-leaders, Evgeny Konikov and Olena Smyntyna, as well as Evgenia Redina, Andrei Chepalyga, Tatiana Samoilova, and Valentina Krapivina, among others. The participants had an opportinity to examine a number of geomorphological and stratigraphic

localities along the northwestern coast of the Black Sea, including stratotypes at Roksolany and Parutiono, and limans of various salinities that provided an important opportunity to obtain samples for radiocarbon dating and micropaleontological calibration. In addition, a number of archaeological sites were visited which spanned millennia of human adaptation to a changing coastal landscape and included the oldest Greek colony in this region on Berezan Island, as well as Tyras and Olbia.





August 24, 2006. Field Trip to archaelogical site Koshary



August 24, 2006. Fied Trip to archeological site on Berazn' island

Poster presentations augmented the technical sessions and offered ample opportunity for researchers from various fields to share their findings. The posters were displayed in a main lobby of the Odessa National University and were available for viewing throughout the conference. A number of scientific discussions during the technical session and in the field were made accessible for local media and will constitute a part of educational outreach of the key topics of the project.



August 24, 2006. Field Trip to archaelogical site Koshary.

The technical program concluded with an additional session with simultaneous Russian-English translation and a panel of the IGCP Project 521 Potentials and Challenges. The reports of regional collaborators encompassed various physiographic elements of the BSMC, including updates on paleogeography, sedimentology, and paleo-chemistry of the Manych-Kerch Gateway, as well as overview of work along the Caucasian north-western, western, and southern Black Sea; Marmara Gateway, and the Aegean Coast. This panel was followed by reports of Working Group Coordinators. Overall, the meeting provided an excellent forum for international discussion of different methods and interpretations used to analyse the history of the BSMC, to encourage exchange of data and publications – and to encourage future collaboration between physical and social scientists in North America, Europe and countries bordering the Black and Caspian Seas.

The Third Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of the IGCP 521 is planned to be carried out in Gelendzhik, Russia in September 8-17, 2007.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and hospitality of the Ukrainian organizer Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University for hosting the IGCP 521 Second Plenary Meeting and Field Trip. The conference organizers, Valentina Yanko-Hombach (Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada-ONU), Olena Smyntyna (ONU), Evgeny Konikov (ONU), Evgeny Larchenkov (ONU), Vladimir Kadurin (ONU), Irena Motnenko (Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada) and Anna Kravchuk (ONU), as well as all the students and assistants at the ONU and Avalon Institute of Applied Science deserve heartfelt gratitude for putting together an excellent meeting, which stimulated much discussion and interaction. This was a worthy continuation of an active multidisciplinary project.



August 25, 2006. Field Trip to type locality (stratotype) of the loess-paleosol formation of Ukraine.



August 25, 2006. Field Trip to the type locality (stratotype) of the Bugsky horizon in Parutino.



August 26, 2006. Field Trip to archaeological site Olbia.



August 26, 2006. Discussion about Holocene accumulative<br/>terraces near Dneprovskoe village (jn the center Profs. Konikov<br/>and V. Yanko-Hombach)August 25, 2006.Interview of Prof.<br/>Yanko-Hombach (left) with the<br/>First Ukranian Televison Channel

Conference Proceedings of the Second Meeting will be published in a Special Volume of Quaternary International. For more information on IGCP Project 521, please contact Prof. Valentina Yanko-Hombach (valyan@avalon-institute.org) or visit http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP/.