



Benkovac limistone quarry. Photo: Ljerka Marjanac

Report on the 5th ProGEO International symposium

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This report is predominantly vision of the Organizer, myself particularly, because we missed time to exchange views about this meeting that was held in Rab. This was basically because we all rushed back to our regular work – teaching, research, writing other annual reports required from our ministries and others. Anyhow, I hope that this report will give a general review of happenings between 28th September and 6th October, and will intrigue those of you who could not

attend to visit Croatia some other time and get acquainted with the Croatian geological heritage.

The International Year of Planet Earth in Croatia

ProGEO-Croatia reported to the IYPE committee several of their activities tagging the IYPE 2008, including the International ProGEO Symposium as the major happening. The UN and UNESCO International Year of Planet Earth 2008, under motto Geosciences for Society, has been celebrated through the ProGEO International Symposium, which took place on the Rab Island – the new Croatian geopark in process of establishment.

Following the mission of the IYPE, the main objectives of the ProGEO Symposium were:

- to celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth by Symposium outreach activities,
- to discuss threats and site loss, and constraints imposed by town and country (spatial) planning,
- to promote activities of ProGEO working groups on European geosites,
- to encourage national geoparks projects in the framework of sustainable development,
- to discuss legal frameworks of national geoparks and their practical management,
- to enhance geotourism and its potentials for regional developments, and
- to improve quality of communication between geo-conservationists and the public.

The ProGEO Symposium and the Annual WG1 Meeting

The 5th International ProGEO Symposium on Conservation of the Geological Heritage and the 13th Annual ProGEO WG1 meeting were held in Rab town from October 1st to 5th 2008, under patronage of the UNESCO, Republic of Croatia Ministry of Culture and Croatian Commission for UNESCO. The organizers were ProGEO-Croatia, the Croatian Association for the Promotion and Conservation of the Geological Heritage, and ProGEO European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage. Co organizers of the symposium were Republic of Croatia State Institute for Nature Protection, Municipality of Rab, Municipality of Lopar, Touristic board of the town of Rab and Touristic board of Lopar. The support was given by Global Geoparks Network, European Geoparks Network and Geopark Papuk of Croatia.

The Symposium was held, and full-color publications produced by the financial help of Republic of Croatia Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Foundation of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Republic of Croatia Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Rab, Touristic board of Lopar and the local ferry company Rabska plovidba. Tihomir Marjanac was responsible for design and pre-press of the symposium publications. The Open University of Rab, thanks to kindness of its deputy manager Ugo Belamarić, made a big donation by giving the cinema hall on disposal for the symposium.



Low tide exposure in Lopar. Photo: Ljerka Marjanac



Karst polje Fruga on Rab. Photo: Ljerka Marjanac

One hundred and thirty participants from many different institutions have registered for the Symposium, but only eighty-five participated, one quarter from Portugal. Congratulations! Seventy extended abstracts were published and there were twenty poster- and forty oral presentations. More than twenty countries were represented: Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, England, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Mozambique, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Kosovo, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

The opening session started on Wednesday morning. The greeting words to this congregation were given by Ljerka Marjanac, president of the ProGEO-Croatia, and Bill Wimbledon, the secretary of the ProGEO European Association. Nizametin Kazanci briefly addressed the audience on behalf of the ProGEO Working Group 1. Marija Brajković greeted the participants on behalf of the patron, the Ministry of Culture. Besides wishing a successful meeting, she emphasized the importance and value of the Symposia not just in tagging the International Year of Planet Earth, but also the 60th Anniversary of the legal protection of the geological heritage in Croatia. Academics Željko Kučan and Ivan Gušić, who were not able to attend the symposium, relegated a greeting letter that was, to their wish, red by Ljerka Marjanac. By the end of the opening session, word was given to Željko Dumičić the deputy mayor. On behalf of the host, the town of Rab, he expressed his happiness that exactly Rab has the honor to host such an important meeting, which was organized for the first time in Croatia.

The Symposium continued, and the work was divided into five thematic workshops:

- European geoheritage frameworks and geosites
- Geoheritage to public: outreach activities - who, where, what, how?!
- National geoparks for sustainable development: evaluation, legislation and management
- Geoheritage and protection in practice: recognition, conservation, threats and practical management - good examples and possibilities
- Geotourism: new potentials for regional development



Lithiotis limestone - Kubus geosite on Velebit. Photo: Ljerka Marjanac



Promina beds in Krka National Park. Photo: Ljerka Marjanac

Regarding the IYPE motto "Geosciences for Society" an additional workshop "Lessons to be learned from children" was organized to show the results of some outreach activities in Croatia. The presentation in Croatian language "Kuda teče voda u kršu?" ("Where does water flow in karst?") produced by the youngest group of authors – six girls from the fourth grade elementary school Antun Mihanović – Zagreb. The young authors prepared their presentation independently based on their knowledge achieved through the school project "The Karst". This workshop showed everyone how important and crucial for the future of geology and geoheritage conservation is work with school children, especially during the first four grades when they are most ready and eager to "swallow" the knowledge if it is "served" in a right and motivating modality, at least in free-time activities.

Forty lectures were given, most of them in Workshops 1 and 4. Portuguese graduate and postgraduate students gave a remarkable contribution by oral and poster presentations. Participation of Croatian students was also noticed.

The Symposium ended successfully after the final discussion and adoption of the Rab declaration with aim to internationally support and encourage numerous activities and efforts for recognition and conservation of the geological heritage in every country, especially for the benefits of sustainable development.

The ProGEO general assembly meeting and meeting of WG1 national representatives took place within the Symposium program.

Symposium Field Trips

Eight field trips were planned, but six took place. Excursions planned to visit Istria did not have enough participants, thus were canceled. The field trips were organized to show both protected and unprotected Croatian geological heritage, with special attention given to the popular-scientific presentation of geology in visited areas.

Two three-day pre-symposium excursions were held. The first one with twenty-five participants started from Zagreb and

visited Plitvice Lakes National Park, Cerovac Caves in Northern Velebit National Park and Paklenica National Park. The other started in Split with only six participants and visited Krka National Park and joined the first one in Paklenica National Park. They all arrived to Rab after few hours of driving along the beautiful Adriatic coast.

The third day of the Symposium was reserved for a half-day excursion, organized free of charge for all Symposium participants as a break in the middle of the meeting. The group visited one of the geotrails in the Geopark Rab. An easy walk from Supetarska draga to San Marino over Fruga karst polje, gave people an insight into Rab geological framework, geoheritage and its presentation in the field. We walked along the Premužić trail and visited fifteen geotopes. The excursion ended on the tidal flat of San Marino beach and a visit to the Geopark Rab info-center.

Three post-symposium one-day field trips were also held. One with twenty-five participants went back to Zagreb and visited Zavrtnica fiord near Jablanac and Velebit Nature Park. The second with six participants went back to Split, and visited Obrovac and Benkovac stone quarry, a future geosite. The third field trip stayed on the Island of Rab. It was a visit to Lopar Geological Garden, a walking tour from San Marino beach across the Lopar peninsula. Participants observed recent tidal processes and living stromatolites, and also learned about Eocene estuarine clastics at excellent exposures.

Media coverage

Usually, geological meetings in Croatia have no media coverage, but this time, contacts with the media were satisfactory. Daily newspaper Novi List from Rijeka published a good article about the ProGEO symposium and geoheritage. National TV recorded the opening session, recorded few interviews and broadcasted news in the major term of evening news. The Rab radio program had nearly daily news about the meeting. It is already possible to find many reports on the internet, written by participants.

Did we meet expected results?

Firstly, the Organizers expected to gather between two and three hundred participants. Efforts were taken for broad announcement by e-mails. The ProGEO Symposium has been announced at major relevant web sites, like:

www.progeo-croatia.hr/rab-symposium2008, www.progeo.se,
www.unesco.org, www.globalgeopark.org, www.progeo.pt,
www.eurogeologists.de, www.iugs.org, www.tzg-rab.hr/ita/rab/geopark, www.geoconservation.com,
www.springerlink.com, www.goingtomeet.com/conventions,
www.comiunesco.org.pe, www.europe-cities.net/search/europe/croatia/rab.

Unfortunately, few weeks before, there was the World Geological Congress in Oslo, which gathered around six thousand participants. Consequently, fewer attended the Rab meeting. Especially, Croatian geologists found it much more attractive to attend the Oslo meeting.

Secondly, this part of the report regards only the viewpoint of the main organizer ProGEO-Croatia. Expected results were:

- Scientific and practical input for geoconservation in Croatia and other developing countries.
- Implementation of the most effective outreach methods and approaches for successful communication with public, decision- and policy-makers.
- Options for a compromise between geoconservation and spatial planning.
- Improvement of geoconservation by new synergies in the use of interpretation within the promotion of the geoh heritage values.
- Capacity building for teaching geoscience in life-long learning programs.
- Lessons learned in capacity building for geopark management.
- "National geoparks" in the legal frameworks, as an integrated approach to sustainable development based on scientific and applied research.

However, the Rab Declaration mostly answers to the question, and it will be the strongest support to future activities in order to achieve all the expected results in practice. Taking the task to organize and host this ProGEO Symposium brought certain benefits that ProGEO-Croatia already experienced, and those that shall experience in future work. The most important are the following:

- ProGEO Symposium was recognized and sponsored by The Republic of Croatia Ministry of Culture, Croatian commission for UNESCO and State Institute for Nature Protection,
- It was the first meeting of this kind in Croatia,
- Satisfactory media coverage,
- Support to project Geopark Rab,
- Local communities of Rab island experienced some aspects of geotourism,
- Participation of many students,
- Exchange of knowledge and good practice.

Acknowledgements

The organizer ProGEO-Croatia wishes to thank for every institutional and every individual help and support that made this meeting possible and successful. Special thanks go to Tihomir Marjanac who dedicated many extra hours for design and preparation of Proceedings and Guidebook, to student members of ProGEO-Croatia who helped at registration and info-desk, and to people from Rab and Lopar who made this meeting also a special cultural event. Thanks certainly go to all participants who gave excellent contributions.



*Living stromatolites in Lopar.
 Photo: Ljerka Marjanac*

Geological Heritage – a bridge joining countries

Jolanta Cyziene¹, Apolinaras Nicius², Andrius Almanis², Uldis Nulle³, Jonas Satkunas¹ and Indre Virbickiene¹, ¹Lithuanian Geological Survey, ²Venta Regional park, ³Latvian Environment, Geological and Hydrometeorological Agency

The International Conference of ProGEO WG Northern Europe held in Papile, Venta Regional Park (Lithuania), September 10–12, 2008, was attended by 30 participants (geoscientists, planners, business managers) from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Norway, Denmark and Poland.

The geological heritage of Venta river valley is first of all related with Jurassic outcrops. First time scientific investigations of Jurassic rocks were carried out by engineer Jan Ulman in 1825–1826. Later on, the outcrops were visited and reinvestigated by great number of researchers from universities and other geological organisations of Russia, Germany Poland, Lithuania and other countries. Due to the long history of investigations rich collections of fossils from Papile now can be found geological museums of many European cities.

The Jurassic outcrops in Papile and its vicinities are unique in the Baltic region and are of great scientific significance. The course of Venta river valley with outcrops was established as a geological protected area in 1960 and the outcrop inside the town of Papile was established as a geological natural monument since 1964. On the basis of its Jurassic geological values the Venta Regional Park was established.

Besides the Jurassic outcrops there are a number of other valuable geotopes in the Venta regional park: Quaternary outcrops, picturesque erosional remnants, erratic boulders etc. Quarries of Triassic clay and Permian limestone, Devonian dolomite located nearby the Venta valley are additional interesting sites for visitors, studying geodiversity.



Jurassic sandstones at the Papartyne locality is maintained for collectors of fossils (photo by G. Mikalauskas)

On the Latvian side of the Venta river valley following sites are of great scientific and touristic value:

- Kalni outcrop and the old quarry with brown coal of the Callowian Stage Middle Jurassic;
- Naujoji Akmene Formation limestone beds and former lime production plant;
- Legernieki outcrop of the Middle Jurassic (Callowian Stage) deposits composed of alternation of white quartz-rich sand and black kaolinite clay with fossilised wood (lignite) fragments;
- Zosleni outcrop which is the highest outcrop of Jurassic deposits (Papile Formation, Lower Callovian Substage, Middle Jurassic),
- 15 m high and represents white cross-stratified quartz sand, in place with small brown coal lenses and clay pebbles, rarely sulphide nodules;
- greenish-grey dolomite outcrop at lower reaches of the Skervele River, which is the stratotype of the Nikrace Member of Skervele Formation of the Upper Devonian;
- Venta rumba (waterfall) is the widest waterfall in Latvia; its width in summer is ~110m, during flood up to 150 m; height is 1.8–2.2 m.



Kuldiga Rumba in Venta River – widest Waterfall in Europe, Latvia (photo by V. Mikulenass)

The Venta waterfall has been formed in strong fossiliferous dolomite of the Ape Member. Plavinas Formation (Upper Devonian) – ancient reef-like barrier in the Devonian sea, which existed along southern part of the Tukums-Kuldiga tectonic step. Reef-like barrier has been inhabited by various Devonian organisms: algae, stromatolites, corals, brachiopods, molluscs etc. Dolomite is rich in voids formed due to dissolution of fossils of these organisms. Fine-crystalline dolomite with clay and sandstone interlayers (also the Plavinas Formation) lay under the fossiliferous dolomite. This is not so resistant, therefore the falling water of Venta River erodes it, and the waterfall year by year is gradually moving upstream.

The Conference was concentrated at following topics:

- Jurassic geoheritage in Baltic Region and Poland, network of Jurassic parks;
- Cross-border geological heritage and eco-tourism;
- Geodiversity – holistic value;
- Geoparks;
- History of geological investigations – cultural heritage.

The Conference was of field trip format with several lectures given mainly at evenings (the lectures are listed below):

- M. Graniczny “From Augustow Canal to Venta: Polish-Lithuanian cross-border geoenvironmental cooperation”
- Nicius & A. Almanis “Welcome to Venta Regional Park”
- R.Dahl: “Geological heritage of Norway”
- W.Mizerski: Jurassic geological heritage in Baltic region
- Ploch “Tracking dinosaurs”
- J. Satkunas “Value of geological heritage”



Moments of Conference (photo by J. Cyziene, G. Mikalauskas)

During the last day, a discussion session followed by press conference was held. This event was attended by representatives of municipalities, national agencies, mining industry and other interest groups.

Main outputs of the conference could be grouped into scientific (resampled sections, discussions on paleogeography and stratigraphy, outlines of papers and projects dealing with Jurassic period) and practical – plans for establishing number of projects dealing with development of tourism, educational trails, conservation of quarries and other sites of geological heritage. However the main output of the conference is the understanding the geodiversity of Venta river valley and its transnational holistic value.



View point (Spider) on Zagare Esker, Lithuania (photo by G. Mikalauskas)

ProGEO-Albania GeoEcoTrip 2008

By Afat SERJANI and Gjovalin LEKA, ProGEO-Albania, Tirana

ProGEO-Albania organized a Geological and botanical excursion in September (Geotrip 2008). This year the geotrip was organized as a two days project in the Albanian Alps and in the High Karst zone in Monte Negro.

It was supported by "GEF/SGP", implemented by UNDP on behalf of the three GEF implementing Agencies: UNDP, UNEP and World Bank, and executed by UNOPS (ALB/SGP/OP4/YI/CORE.08/15).

A short guide with a description of the geodiversity and biodiversity of the Albanian Alps and especially of the Kelmendi Highland was prepared. It contained data in brief about flora including medicinal and endemic plants and fauna. The guide was E-mailed to all members of ProGEO-Albania. The trip had 18 participants.

Geodiversity:

From Shkodra, the city of Rozafa Castle and many monuments of history and culture of Albania, the tour continued 95 km north, towards the Vermoshi village, the most northern point in Albanian Alps. The first stop was on the Malesia e Madhe road, above Hoti village, from where a characteristic flora on limestones was studied.

Ascending up to the Rapsh gave great panorama views of the Albanian Alps of carbonate rocks with perfect bedding and huge foldings. During the tour several geosites of glacial, karst and erosion origin were demonstrated, among them the erosion geosite "Karamanet e Rrapshit" ("Rrapshi's guards").

On the top of the Cemi River slope we visited the palaeoenvironment geosite, Leqet e Hotit (Tamara) stratigraphical section (Photo 1 and 2). In this section *Tithoniani* with *Clypeina* Jurassic and *Campanella* strata, *Neocomiani* with fine bedded limestone and with microfauna and *Baremanian-Aptian* with *Cisalveolina* outcrops.

Below this section we visited the Cemi River canyon with vegetation of different kinds of plants (Photo 3). In Selca village a 25m wide canyon, with 300m high cliffs on both sides made a big impression (Photo 4). The trip continued north along with Cemi River (Photo 5), up to Bradaleci Pass (1300m above the sea level), a very nice geological site, witch divide the waters of the Adriatic Sea from waters which flow to the Black Sea (Photo 6). Here, between forest and grass the people of Kelmendi Highland organizes the folk festival, named "Logu i Malesise" every year in August.



Photo 1 : Tamara section an environmental geosite. Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 2 : A bed of "storm deposits" by macrofossils in Tamara section. Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 3 : Cemi River Canyon with vegetation of different kinds of plants. Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 4 : Karst forms in limestone rock of Selca Canyon.
Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 5: On both sides of the itinerary from Selca to Vermoshi the most part of slopes is covered by vegetation and forests. Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 6: The Bradaleci Pass, the water divide between the Adriatic Sea and Black Sea. Photo: A. SERJANI

In the altitude of 2000m above the sea level the Alpine pastures starts. To the northwest, the green valley of Vermoshi opened up between high sharp rocky mountainous peaks (Photo 7). Going down along the road to Monte Negro (to Gučia, Plava, and to Podgorica) deep canyons and gorges were so large and picturesque that it is difficult to forget them (Photo 8 and 9).

In Cetinia, to the west we visited a lot of different nice karst forms, belonging to the High Karst zone. And then, the beautiful sea side of Budva, Bari, Ulqini.

The overnight was done Kula Damsano, next to the picturesque lake in Plava. Here, a short meeting was organized including the voting for the new ProGEO Committee and for a new President for the ProGEO general Assembly in Rab Island Croatia.

Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna).

Vegetation covers of about 65% of the surface of Kelmendi Highland, forming a green park of high economical, tourist and medical values. In Kelmendi Highland predominate elements of Central European flora such as: alpine pastures, beech (*Fagus Sylvatica*), oak (*Quercus spp.*), Adriatic oak (*Quercus cerris*), linden (*Tilia cordata*), elm (*Ulmus glabra*), white ash (*Frasinus ornus*), black ash (*Frasinus excelsior*), willow (*Salix spp.*), hop homtea (*Ostrya carpinifolia*), pine tree (*Pinus nigra*), walnut (*Juglas L.*), Chesnut (*Castanea cativa hill*), Fir (*Abias Mill*), olive (*Olea Europea*), etc.

Very nice beech forests was visited in Lepusha, Seferçe, Selce, and in the Vermoshi Valley and in the highest regions butifal alpine and subalpine pastures are located in elevations of 1500-2400 m.a.s.l., with a highe species richness dominated by: *Lolium multiflorum*, *Agropyrum repens*, *Nardus stricia*, *Brhipodium sylvaticum*, *Poa media*, *Festuca pungens*, *Sesleria tenerrima*, *Trifolium alpestra*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Lathyrus aphacus* etc.

In Kelmendi Highland there are known of about 96 medical plants amongst them we can note: *Juglans regia*, *Hypericum perforatum*, lime tree, *Rubus iidaeus l.*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Orchis spp.*, *Saturea montana*, etc.

There are known of about 52 endemic and rare plants in this region, such as: *Ranunculus hayekti*, a small jellow flowerwith reflection, with its leaf divided in three parts as peaks, Albanian Ligustic (*Ligisticum albanicum*), which has red petals as umbrella and it is grown during June-August, Dorfler Lapua (*Petasites doerfler*), Rush She-bear (*Artoctaphylos uva-ursi*), Dalmatine Kamaroshe (*Geranium dalmaticum*), Doflerit black-wheat (*Melampyrumdoerfleri*), Kosanin Violet (*Viola kosanini*), which climb in rocky cracks, Violet elegant (*Viola elegantula*), Vjollca special (*Viola specioza*), Vettstein Saleria (*Sesleria vettstein*), Dalmatian Crocus (*Crocus Dalmaticus*), Serbian Romonda (*Ramonda serbica*) etc.

The dark grey bear (*Ursus arctos*) is rare, but present in the Kelmendi forests, in Vermosh, Vukel and Nikç. More widespread are Lynx or "small tiger" (*Felis lynx*), Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Stone Marten (*Martes foina*), Zardaf (*Martes*

martes), Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), Roebuck (*Capreolus capreolus*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Rabbit (*Lepus capensis*), Wild Cat (*Felis silvestris*), Weasel (*Mustela mivalis*), Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) etc.

Amongst the birds we can note Alpine Cough (*Pyrrhocorase spp.*), Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Wild Rooster (*Tetrao urogalis*), Rock partridge (*Alaectoris graeca*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco tinunculus*), Wild Dove (*Columbia livia*), Falcon (*Accipiter nisus*), Raven (*Corvus corax*), Redbreast (*Erithacus spp.*), Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).

While the water fauna is presented by Cemi River freshwater trout (*Salmo trutta montenegrinus*).

Some results of the Project: ProGEO-Albania GeoEco-Trip 2008:

The participants were astonished with this mountainous region of the Alps in Albania and Monte Negro. A big diversity of geological phenomena, geological sites of sedimentological, glacial, karst and erosion origin, interesting vegetation and forests, clean cold waters was observed.

The opinion of the participants is the area from Bradaleci Pass up to the border with Monte Negro can be proposed as a National Geopark of high biodiversity and geodiversity values.

At the same time we think that all of the northern Kelmendi Highland, Rugovo Valley in Kosovo and the territories of Gucia and Plave in Monte Negro including "Bjeshklet e Nemuna" ("Prokljtie Gori" or "Crusted Mountains") constitute a specific natural unity, and can be proposed as interborder natural geopark with protection and investments by the Albanian, Kosovo and Monte Negro states.

Litterature and projects

- A monography and a lot of papers about the Kelmendi Highland are published by the great geographer Kol PROGNI.
- There is a project on mountainous tourism in Albanian Alps by Kujtim ONUZI, Salvatore BUSHATI and Leonard GURABARDHI in collaboration with German specialists.
- There are also relevant papers published by Gjovalin GRUDA, NAÇI Z., TALANI R, Nezir MEKSHIQI (about the "Cursed Mountains" - "Bjeshket e Nemuna") and a famous books of Ferenc NOPCHA and Edith DURHAM.



Photo 7 : The view of forests in Vermoshi valley. Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 8 : Vegetation in Gucia-Plava Valley (Monte Negro). Photo: A. SERJANI



Photo 9 : Vegetation in Gucia-Plava Valley (Monte Negro). Photo: A. SERJANI

ProGEO Payments

It is now possible to pay membership fees etc. to ProGEO, using a credit card internet payment service. After a long period of administrative struggle, this is at last a reality. You will find this service on our usual "Join ProGEO" page

(<http://www.progeo.se/joinprogeo.html>).

There you will see that we now have two optional payment methods - the old one with IBAN number (IBAN number is changed though), and also the new on-line service. I have chosen PayPal as the new tool. Using PayPal is free of charge.

Please fill in the two boxes and click on the button. You will then be guided to a secure PayPal site where you fill in the sum (in Euros), and choose whether you want to pay directly using your credit card, or want to log in if you already have a PayPal account. ProGEO will not see any of your personal data such as bank account number or credit card number. After filling in the address and credit card number etc. (i.e. the usual routine for on-line credit card payments), you just approve and choose to get a receipt. Done.

Please: All remaining (2008 and earlier) membership payments should be done as soon as possible.

For 2009 and the Geoheritage journal subscription, Springer will need a list of paid-up members early next year. There will be no room for "almost paid", or "will pay", or "promise to pay" for them - only paid or not. Therefore: the 2009 fee + journal subscription must be paid before January 15th.

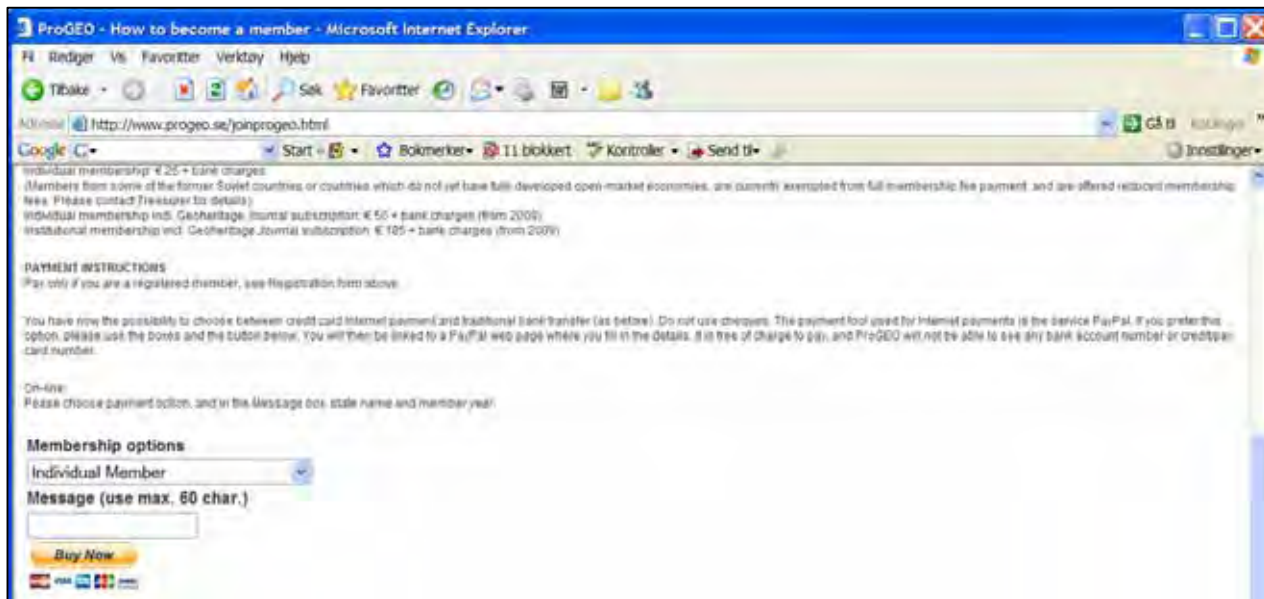
As always:

Communicate with your National representative - he or she needs to keep track of everything.

The message box (for the on-line payment) on the Join ProGEO page is limited to as much as 60 characters (which is more than enough for an individual member), but Nat. rep.s should, if making a group payment, like before, write a simple message like e.g. "Swedish fees 2009" and then send the updated, detailed memberlist separately by email.

Credit card payment has been asked for for many years, but the price has, up to a few years ago, simply been very high - at least too high for a non-profit organisation like ours. With new standards and improved Internet technology, it is today common to do Internet payments.

Invoices will now be sent to the Institutional members. If there are individual members who, for book-keeping and administration, needs to be invoiced, please contact our treasurer Sven Lundqvist.





*Santa Claus in Cerovac Cave-
Velebit, Croatia.
Photo: Ljerka Marjanac*

Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS: Mars 10th 2009

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