IAVCEI VOLCANDPARK 2026

SOPRON, HUNGARY
26 - 29 MAY, 2026

1st circular

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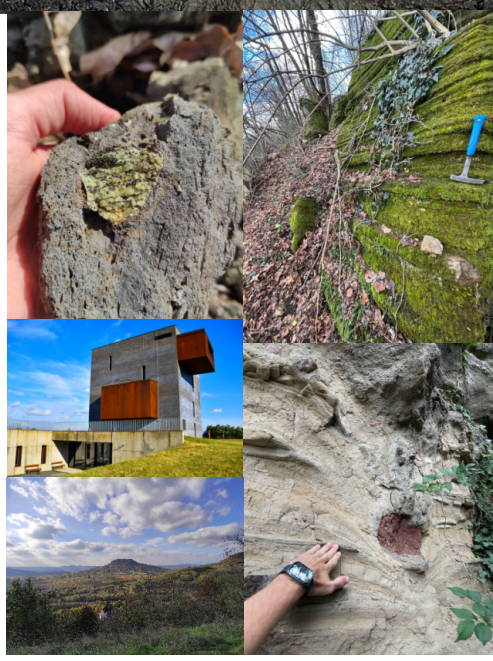
SOPRON, HUNGARY



An international conference hosted by the IAVCEI Commission on Volcanic Geoheritage and Protected Volcanic Landscapes

Host: HUN-REN Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science
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HUN REN | Földfizikai és Űrtudományi Kutatóintézet | HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network — Research. Innovation. Impact. | fluids by DEPTH

IAVCEI | Bakony-Balaton Geopark | Springer | Kulturális és Innovációs Minisztérium

IAVCEI Volcandpark 2026

Official event of the **IAVCEI Commission on Volcanic Geoheritage and Protected Volcanic Landscapes**

IAVCEI Volcandpark 2026
Sopron, Hungary

After successful Volcandpark meetings in Olot (2012), Lanzarote (2016), and after a global pandemic break the first one in Jičín (2024), the next meeting will be in Sopron, Hungary (2026). Volcandpark is an international conference hosted by the IAVCEI Commission on Volcanic Geoheritage and Protected Volcanic Landscapes (thus under the umbrella of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, IAVCEI).

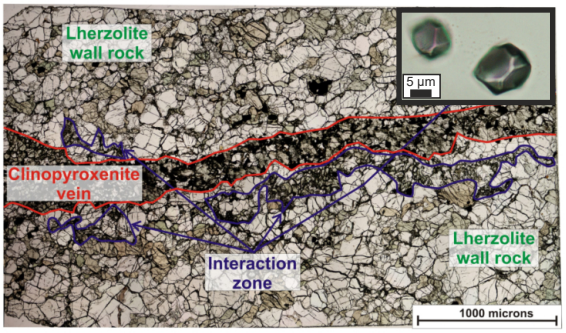
Our goal is to unite experts with diverse backgrounds and experiences from various regions worldwide, fostering the exchange of new ideas, concepts, and techniques in the management and promotion of volcanic heritage. Ultimately, this meeting seeks to contribute to a more resilient society by enhancing our understanding of volcanic processes—both physical and societal—thereby improving preparedness for volcanic hazards and the preservation of volcanic geoheritage. The entire conference includes two days for scientic presentations, and two field days: one intra-conference field day (Kemenes Volcano House, Ság Hill, Somló) and a post-conference field trip (Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark, inverted monogenetic volcanic field, deep-Earth geoheritage).


Bakony-Balaton Highland VF

A conference dedicated to volcanic geoheritage, geoparks and geoconservation of volcanic terrains, as well as communication with society on volcanic hazards, geotourism. The conference will be open to a wide range of topics in volcanology including volcano geology, quantitative and qualitative geodiversity measurements, active volcano monitoring, interaction with people living in volcanic fields, and geotourism in active or inactive volcanic areas.


St. György Hill

This year the concept of "Deep-Earth Geoheritage" is introduced, which emphasises the importance of protecting volcanic rocks that reveal xenoliths (or other rock fragments that have been sampled from the lithosphere by the volcanism). Xenoliths are time capsules offering a unique opportunity to study the properties of the lithosphere during volcanism - the Pannonian Basin is one of the hotspots for such research.



Springer

SPRINGER will be present on the conference as a host publisher of Geoheritage and the Geoheritage, Geoparks and Geotourism (GGAG) book series - Geoheritage, Geoparks and Geotourism | Book series home. Prof Károly Németh will also host a session of publication opportunities within the Springer - IAVCEI Advances in Volcanology - https://link.springer.com/series/11157

The Conference is officially in partnership with the Conservation (MDPI) journal - here

Travel grants are expected. More information about these will be available soon on the website! Stay tuned!

Important dates

Conference: **26 - 29 May 2026**

Scientific sessions: 26 and 28 May 2026

Intra-conference field trip: 27 May 2026

Post-conference field trip: 29 May 2026

Registration starts: 1 January 2026

Early-bird registration ends: **31 March 2026**

Abstract submission deadline: **31 March 2026**

2nd circular: April 2026

Venue

HUN-REN Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science

6–8 Csatkai Endre str., Sopron, 9400, Hungary

HUN REN | Földfizikai és Űrtudományi Kutatóintézet

Scientific Committee

- Olga Bergal-Kuvikas (FEB RAS, Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Russia)
- Ingomar Fritz (Museum Joanneum, Austria)
- Heather Handley (University of Twente, Department of Applied Earth Sciences, The Netherlands)
- Marie-Nöelle Guilbaud (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, Instituto de Geofísica, Mexico)
- Ilmars Gravis (The Geoconservation Trust Aotearoa Pacific, New Zealand)
- Dávid Karátson (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Physical Geography, Hungary)
- Barnabás Korbély (Bakony–Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark, Hungary)
- Joan Martí (IDAEA-CSIC, Department of Geosciences, Spain)
- Vladislav Rapprich (Czech Geological Survey, Czech Republic)

Local Organizing Committee

- Márta Berkesi (HUN-REN EPSS)
- Gyöngyi Bányai (HUN-REN EPSS)
- István Kovács (HUN-REN EPSS)
- Thomas Lange (HUN-REN EPSS)
- Tamás Spránitz (HUN-REN EPSS)

Under the patronage of

Sierd Cloetingh

- Advisor of the HUN-REN FI (Research Grant Hungary)
- Former President of Academia Europaea
- Founder of Inernational Lithosphere Program
- Former Vice-President of the European Research Council
- Former President of the EuropeanCOST

Conference chairmen

Mátyás Hencz

volcanologist, geographer

HUN-REN Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science, Hungary

PhD in Earth Sciences (ELTE Eötvös University)

Károly Németh

volcanologist, geologist

Saudi Geological Survey, Saudi Arabia

HUN-REN Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science, Hungary

IUGS Commission of Geoheritage - Chair of Subcommission on (Geo)sites

Founder of IAVCEI Commission on Volcanic Geoheritage and Protected Volcanic Landscapes

Registration fees

Non-member registration fee (until 31 March 2026): **425 EUR**
Member (IAVCEI/IAS) registration fee (until 31 March 2026): **400 EUR**
Student registration fee (until 31 March 2026): **375 EUR**
Late or on-site registration fee (after 31 March 2026): **500 EUR**

What's included?

- participation in the scientific sessions
- coffee breaks + conference package
- ice-breaker (25 May 2026, 18:00)
- lunches during scientific sessions (26 and 28 May)
- participation in the intra-conference field trip (27 May)
- lunch during intra-conference field day (**Little Hungarian Plain Volcanic Field, Kemenes Vulkánpark**)
- **Gala dinner (27 May) + volcanic wine tasting (Somló volcano)**
- entrance fee to the Kemenes Volcano House during the field trip

Post-conference field trip fee (until 31 March 2026): **100 EUR**

What's included?

- participation in the post-conference field trip (**Bakony-Balaton Highland Volcanic Field, UNESCO Global Geopark**)
- lunch
- visit geosites from the inverted volcanic landscape
- Deep-Earth Geoheritage sites
- entrance fees

REGISTER HERE from 1 January
https://volcandpark2026.epss.hu/

Keynote speakers

Joan Martí Molist

PhD in Geology, Research Professor at the CSIC, Ex-Director of Geosciences Barcelona, CSIC, Director of the NRAMS Survey at IDAEA-CSIC, Barcelona. specialist in physical volcanology and volcanic risk, and multihazard assessment and prevention. Former Secretary General of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI). Former editor-in-chief of the Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research (Elsevier). Member of the European Academy. Honorary Fellow of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. Member of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences of Barcelona.

Exploring the Hidden Depths: The Significance of Deep-Earth Geoheritage

Deep-Earth geoheritage refers to the preservation and study of geological features and processes originating from the Earth's interior. This emerging concept highlights the importance of Earth's subsurface in shaping planetary evolution, climate systems, and the ongoing dynamics of the lithosphere and mantle. Deep-Earth phenomena, such as volcanic activity, plate tectonics, and mantle plumes, offer critical insights into the history of our planet and its future evolution. By examining extraordinary geological processes, such as those found in subduction zones, mantle hot spots, and deep-sea hydrothermal systems, deep-Earth geoheritage contributes to a more holistic understanding of the geological framework of Earth. As advancements in geophysical technologies enable deeper exploration, the conservation of these extraordinary sites has become increasingly important for both scientific research and cultural heritage. Moreover, deep-Earth geoheritage connects with other disciplines such as climate science, environmental studies, and even astrobiology, since the processes occurring at the interior of the Earth might provide insights into the potential habitability of other planets. As examples of Deep-Earth Geoheritage sites we can think on geothermal systems, as examples of Deep-Earth heat anomalies influencing surface processes, tectonic boundaries such as subduction zones, mid-ocean ridges, or hot spot tracks, examples of dynamic zones linking the deep Earth to the surface, or mantle plumes and volcanoes, which are directly tied to the deep Earth's mantle processes. Finally, it is important to remark on the significance of public awareness of deep-Earth processes and the need for sustainable management of geoheritage sites that reflect internal dynamics of our planet. This contribution will explore the significance of Deep-Earth geoheritage, focusing on the potential for interdisciplinary research and the role these sites play in Earth sciences, climate research, and the future of planetary exploration.

This research has been partially funded by VOLCANO grant (EC ECHO ref: 101193100).

Keynote speakers

Karen Holmberg

Karen Holmberg is a volcanologist and archaeologist who examines the long-term experiences that humans have had with environments that change radically and unpredictably. She currently teaches as a professor of environmental science in the interdisciplinary Gallatin School at New York University. She is the co-founder and scientific director of the NYU Gallatin WetLab, an experimental art-science laboratory space on Governors Island in New York City that focuses upon public pedagogy in the face of the climate crisis. She serves as the Engineering Writing Fellow at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. She is deeply interested in how creative communication of science and engineering insights through collaboration with the arts can contribute to more sustainable and equitable societies.

Thinking Like a Xenolith: Deep-Earth geoheritage in volcanology and climate change conceptions

Volcandpark 2026 introduces and examines the concept of "deep-Earth geoheritage" through xenoliths or other fragments of far away times or places of our planet. I take this as an invitation to consider the breadth and depth of the connections between humans and the geophysical Earth and the mutual incomprehensibility of human and geological temporalities. Aldo Leopold famously extolled us to think like a mountain in order to encourage an embrace of the inviolate interconnections, long-term consequences, and ethical responsibilities we have in thinking about and acting within the natural world. Playfully, I suggest that thinking like a xenolith could nudge us to a helpful shift in scientific perspective that embraces the interconnectedness of all elements of the Earth system. I draw on examples from my transdisciplinary fieldwork with volcanic landscapes in highland Panamá (Barú), Chilean Patagonia (Chaitén), and southern Italy (Campi Flegrei) to highlight the importance of different temporalities and creative expressions of them by people in the past and present. In terms of long-term consequences and ethical responsibilities tied to volcanic landscapes, I also take our confronting historical moment as an invitation to consider the geoheritage of Mauna Loa volcano and the future.The Keeling Curve record of atmospheric CO_2 began in 1958 on Mauna Loa and may end as a casualty of US politics. What do such endings mean to the Earth itself? Perhaps thinking like a xenolith could help us move beyond human-centered vantages and see ourselves as an inextricable part of the natural world. We will never "conquer" climate, per Mike Hulme's memorable discussion. What is within our control is continued, creative approaches to studying and communicating geohazards to benefit those for whom it can make a difference.

Keynote speakers

Benjamin Van Wijk de Vries

Benjamin van Wyk de Vries is professor of volcanology at Université Clermont Auvergne, Observatoire du Physique du Globe de Clermont, Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans. He speaks and teaches in rough English, French and Spanish. His research and teaching is transdisciplinary (geology, geoheritage, risk, communication). He has a broad publication portfolio, with diverse subjects. He is coordinating a UNESCO International Geosciences Programme project 'Geoheritage for Resilience' and is part of an 'ECOS' Mexico – France exchange. For him there should be no separation between the community, scientific research and practical application when dealing with the environmental issues. The scientist must work within society, and natural heritage is a powerful way to do this.

Community Resilience in Volcanic Parks

Volcanic parks (that is all sorts of protected areas on volcanoes) can be integral to managing the potential risks faced by communities in such areas. These risks may be from the volcano, by environmental hazards such as eruptions, floods and landslides, or may be to the volcano such as from poor management and over-tourism. Volcanoes are more than their geological entity, being geobiodiverse and culturally diverse environments. Thus, this holistic volcanic environment, that includes biodiversity and culture, provides a place and livelihood that can nourish communities, can protect them and always needs protection and careful management. This is so even if the volcano environment also produces events considered as hazards. Community Resilience in this environment can be defined as where and when that community works in a holistic way to maintain and the geological, biological and cultural balance. As communities never exists in isolation, the actors include external actors, such as government, civil organizations, individuals, visitors and scientists. The role of parks and these externals in this volcanic environment can be, but is not always that of respecting and contributing to the community. This works best for scientists (and other actors) when they play a part in the community, and respect local customs and rules. In this talk we will look at examples of community resilience around the volcanic rocks of Arequipa, Peru; around the volcanoes in lake Nicaragua; and around the volcanic environs of Mexico City, and S. Chile. We'll explore the different contexts, and ways that different community actors (including scientists) have worked to improve resilience.

Keynote speakers

Paraskevi (Evi) Nomikou

Paraskevi (Evi) Nomikou is a marine geologist specializing in the morphology of underwater volcanoes, with extensive expertise in marine volcanism and seafloor extrusion processes. She is a Professor in the Department of Geology and Geoenvironment at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece). Most recently, she has played a leading role in assessing the potential hazards linked to tectono-magmatic activity northeast of the Santorini volcano (February 2025). She is the Principal Investigator of SANTORY (SANTORini seafloor's observatorY), a project that monitors the Kolumbo submarine volcano and contributes to advancing understanding and mitigation strategies for the potential impacts of explosive volcanic eruptions. In addition, she serves as the Scientific Coordinator of the Nisyros aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (aUGGp). Beyond her research, Professor Nomikou actively shares her passion for volcanology with students through university lectures and works to engage both local communities and visitors in appreciating and preserving the region's unique natural and cultural heritage. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, she was awarded the 2025 Fisher Medal by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior.

Linking geodiversity, biodiversity and human heritage in an active volcano: Nisyros

Volcanoes serve as natural geological laboratories, providing scientists from various disciplines, as well as young researchers and students, the chance to observe an active volcano up close. They can explore the different volcanic formations that compose its geological history and listen to the Earth's dynamic processes. The island of Nisyros, an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (aUGGp) located in the southeastern part of the Hellenic Volcanic Arc in the Aegean Sea, boasts spectacular geological formations that showcase the volcano's evolutionary stages. Notable geomorphological landmarks include the iconic collapse caldera and hydrothermal craters. Currently, volcanic activity is dormant, but the area exhibits high geodynamic activity and a significant hydrothermal system, evidenced by gaseous emissions from fumaroles at temperatures of 96–100 °C. The island's thermal springs from 30 to 60 °C also highlight the traditional use of geothermal resources over centuries. These features highlight the region's active volcanic history.

Equally significant is the region's cultural and historical richness. Inhabited since antiquity and linked to the myth of Gigantomachy. Nisyros preserves important archaeological and religious landmarks like Paleokastro and the monastery of Panagia Spiliani, which reflect a long-standing cultural identity shaped by both myth and history. It is also a hub of biodiversity. The entire area falls within two Natura 2000 sites and includes three national wildlife refuges. Numerous endemic and protected species of flora, birds, and reptiles thrive here, contributing to its ecological importance in the Eastern Mediterranean.

In recent years, extensive efforts have been made to highlight and disseminate the volcanic geoheritage of Nisyros, to raise awareness about geological and biological diversity and potential volcanic hazards, targeting both local residents and a wider audience. Key initiatives include educational programs, workshops, guided tours, and summer schools, which connect people to the island's extraordinary geological and cultural history. The Geopark also leverages modern communication tools, such as mobile applications (Nisyros Geopark App and Nisyros Volcano App) and its dedicated website (www.nisyrosgeopark.gr), to ensure accessibility and engagement with diverse audiences.

Nisyros Geopark acts as a vital link between the volcanic past and the broader public, ensuring that its geoheritage is celebrated, understood, and preserved for generations to come.

ECR Keynote speaker

Maria Fernanda Martínez-Báez Téllez

Biologist, Doctor in Biological Sciences from UNAM, Mexico, with multidisciplinary research centered within the institute of geology. Her current research looks at the ecological interactions that occur in volcanic landscapes, such as ecological succession, soil formation bioreceptivity and bioweathering. Thirteen years of work in ecological restoration of the ecosystem established on the lava flow of Xitle volcano in Mexico City, with the Geopedregal project. Ten+ years of teaching and science communication. She seeks to share her view of the microscopic world both rocky and living, and to explore this interconnection that has guided the course of life on Earth.

Geobiodiversity and geobioheritage of volcanoes: Life in Volcanpark

Volcanoes have a highly variable structure, diverse deposits and morphology that provide many diverse habitats for life to settle. Volcanic edifices can support the comprehensive development of diverse and dynamic biological communities on their surface and interior. I will discuss the nature of these biological communities and explore the impact they have on the long-term evolution of lava flows that become geobiodiverse entities. I will present my research on the extensive Xitle lava flow in Mexico City, as well as observations in Central America and Europe, including lava-life interactions, ecological processes, and the possibilities for biological cooperation within a geological framework. The geobiological approach throughout this research, has resulted in the use of the terms geobiodiversity and geobioheritage.

Using these terms is a way to emphasize the need and value for both visions to come together. Geobiodiversity provides an enhanced vision of volcanic ecosystems and landscape ecology, while geobioheritage provides a vital link for science and society for all our planet's natural features. This is integral for ecosystem services, environmental impacts, natural resources and biodiversity in volcanic landscapes. Geobioheritage in volcanoes can be used widely to describe the integrated natural and human volcanic environment. It could be effectively used to enhance the protection of both.

ECR Keynote speaker

Gino González Ilama

Born in Costa Rica. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Costa Rica and a Master's degree in Disaster Management from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan, along with a Postgraduate Diploma in Seismology from the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, Tsukuba, Japan. The title of his master's thesis was "A new pathway to untangle the question: was the eruption triggered by the earthquake?" He obtained his PhD in Volcanology from the University of Bari (Italy). The title of his PhD thesis was "Stratigraphy, eruptive dynamics, sedimentology and distal dispersion of the Neapolitan Yellow Tuff, Campi Flegrei, Italy." He has worked in volcanic surveillance in Costa Rica since 2008 and has experienced several volcanic crises in the country over the years. In 2017, he co-founded the NGO "Volcanes sin Fronteras" with eight other volcano enthusiasts. He is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Vesuvian Observatory of the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (Italy) and serves as President of "Volcanes sin Fronteras." He is the author or co-author of more than ten papers published in international journals, including Nature, Scientific Reports, Earth, Planets and Space, Geological Society of London, and others.

Building a life in harmony between active volcanoes and the population in Costa Rica

Around 10% of the worldwide population lives less than 100 km of an active volcano. This percentage increases drastically in some regions such as Central America. Costa Rica a country with a population of 5 million, where the >90% whitin a range of 100 km from an active volcano, denotes the necessity to show to the population how volcanoes work. In 2017, Volcanes sin Fronteras, an NGO was born with the mission to generate and transfer the actual knowledge about volcanoes, to reduce the vulnerability of the population and promote and take advance of their resources. Five different main projects have been carried out to reach this mission.

1. Volcanologist for a day: we bring to non-scientist population to understand the work of the volcanoes and how the costarican territory has been modelled by different volcanic processes.
2. Olympus mountain: we work with 13 schools (children 8-11 years old) located less than 20 km from actives volcanoes giving lessons, experiments and bringing these children to their nearest volcanoes.
3. Course of volcanology and their ecosystems: We create a two days course in different volcanic areas for tourists guides, where we give specific knowledge in these topics in order to spread more advanced information to the national and international tourist.
4. Journey to the Earth interior: We teach in a special 4 months course, divided in three different modules: A. Introductive geology. B. Seismology and Earthquake Geology. C. Volcanism. These course was opened to the non scientific population to all age public.
5. Documentary films: we generated three different short-doccumentary, free access, related with historical volcano tragedies and recent activity of three active volcanoes of Costa Rica.

Our organization is now working in the promotion of the first geopark in Costa Rica in the area of Poás volcano, an active volcano, which is one of the most visited volcano of Latin America, where most than 100k people live in its proximities. We considered that a best quality of life is knowing where we are living and the different extraordinary natural processes involved to live in a beautiful country like Costa Rica.

Field trips

Intra-conference (27 May)

On the intra-conference field trip day, we will visit the Kemenes Volcano House in Celldömölk (kemenesvulkanpark.hu). This is an important geotourism destination located within the Little Hungarian Plain Volcanic Area directly at the foot of the monogenetic Ság Hill. The strikingly designed building covers almost 1.000 square meters and presents the volcanism of the Earth in general, the volcanoes of the Carpathian Basin and Hungary, and finally the local landmark, the 5.5 million-year-old basalt volcano, Ság Hill. Continuing the tour, we will visit the impressive interior of Ság Hill, which, thanks to mining, provides an excellent insight into the sometimes complex processes of monogenetic activity. This provides an opportunity to discover the interrelationship between an important geosite and a geotourism destination. Later, the gala dinner will take place at the foot of another iconic erodoed volcano, Somló, accompanied by a tasting of internationally famous wines.

Post-conference (29 May)

The post-conference field trip will go to the Bakony-Balaton Highland Volcanic Field, where participants will have the opportunity to visit the main volcanic geoheritage sites of a UNESCO Global Geopark (Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Geopark). The detailed program will be presented later.