

EDITORIAL

The human presence on the Earth increased as ever during the last two centuries and so the people migration from countryside to cities. This led to an intense urbanization of some areas, which were concerned by important landscape transformations. Natural landforms were modified, erased or buried by urban infrastructure. The evolution of urban landscapes is also interesting from a cultural point of view, because geomorphology influences in many different ways the human settlements, promoting or hindering their development.

The complex interrelations between landforms and urbanization and what they imply from a cultural point of view led to consider the high potential of urban geomorphological analysis aimed at urban geomorphological heritage inventory, assessment and enhancement.

During the Eighth International Conference on Geomorphology held in Paris in 2013 the Working group on Geomorphosites of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) stated some work objectives for the 2013–2017 quadriennial activities, such as the urban geomorphosites investigation. The topic demonstrated high interest in the community, members of different countries also formalized working groups in national associations and several studies on the topic were produced.

This volume collects original articles related to the following topics:

- relationships between geomorphology and urbanization;
- definition of urban geomorphological heritage;
- landscape anthropic geomorphological evolution and geomorphological analysis in urban environment;
- methodologies for the inventory and assessment of urban geomorphosites;
- relationships between cultural and geomorphological heritage in cities;
- urban geotourism.

The articles collect the latest knowledge about the urban geomorphological heritage, presenting important novelties in the definitions and methods for urban analysis and geomorphosite inventory and assessment in urban contexts. Geomorphological analysis in urban context may provide important contribution to the tourism sector (urban geotourism) and to urban planning.

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