

GAGE Conference in Poland, 1998

The work group on Geospatial Analysis of Glaciated Environments (GAGE) of the INQUA Commission on Glaciation was organized beginning in 1994 and began its official operation with the INQUA Congress in 1995. The activities of GAGE focus on investigations of modern and ancient glaciated environments utilizing techniques of geographic information systems (GIS). Data may be derived from traditional methods of field mapping, from various types of aerial and spaceborne remote sensing, as well as from existing maps and data bases. The central goals of GAGE are assembly of regional and continental GIS databases for display, analysis, and interpretation of glaciated terrain, as well as for modelling of glacier dynamics and processes. Achieving this goal depends on many technical tools. The integration and analysis of various kinds of data also requires development of new concepts for geospatial analysis. Membership in GAGE has grown to more than 100 professional scientists and science students from all parts of the world.

Among the several projects of GAGE, one of the most important is the glaciotectionic database and map for central Europe. This project includes Poland, eastern Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, the Ukraine, Russia and adjacent territories bordering the southern and eastern margins of the Baltic basin. The aim of this project is to compile a comprehensive GIS database on glaciotectionic phenomena as well as related geographic and geologic features. In recognition of this project, GAGE held its biennial work-group conference Warsaw, Poland, September 25-27, 1998.

The Polish Geological Institute (PGI), Warsaw, sponsored the GAGE meeting and made all local arrangements. The organizing committee included Andrzej Ber, Leszek Marks, Waldemar Gogolek, Maria Jastrzębska, and James S. Aber. More than 20 people participated in the conference. These scientists and science students came from Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

A theme session was held on the central European glaciotectionic map and GIS database project. Preliminary national maps were presented for Belarus, Estonia, Germany (northeastern sector), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia (Kaliningrad sector), and the Ukraine. Presentations were given also on many other aspects of remote sensing and GIS applied to investigations of modern glaciers and ancient glaciation. A computer demonstration was conducted on searching the World Wide Web for GIS and remote-sensing databases. Participants practiced searching for various kinds of data—digital elevation models, aerial and space photography, Landsat imagery, and compiled map datasets. For more information about the GAGE Polish conference, see <http://www.emporia.edu/earthsci/gage/meeting/warsaw98.htm>.

The following articles represent expanded and updated papers derived from the GAGE Polish conference. The subject matter and geographic coverage of these articles are representative of oral and poster presentations from the conference.

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