

Modern Alpine Geology: from Surface to Depth

The 5th Workshop of Alpine Geological Studies was held at the village of Obergurgl in the Ötztal in September 2001. Obergurgl is a small village located at an altitude of 1930 m in the centre of the Ötztal Alps. The meeting was held at the “*Forschungsinstitut für alpine Hochgebirgsforschung*” (Institute for High Alpine Research) in Obergurgl, which is affiliated to the University of Innsbruck. Due to its locality in the heart of the Eastern Alps, it was possible to conduct five field trips covering various aspects of modern regional Alpine Geology, which led from the lower Inn valley in Austria to the Puster valley in Italy. This was certainly a novelty compared to the previous workshops.

For the preface of this proceedings volume of the 5th Workshop of Alpine Geological Studies we chose the overall theme: “Modern Alpine Geology: from Surface to Depth” to illustrate the interplay between large scale orogenic processes and their surficial consequences. Therefore, all aspects of geology ranging from tectonics, sedimentology, petrology, geochronology and seismic studies to engineering geology were included in this workshop.

The 5th Workshop also was combined with a discussion meeting in the frame of the TRANSALP program, hoping that as many geoscientists as possible would contribute to develop new ideas for interpreting the partly surprising results of the seismic campaign. A second important issue to be discussed were the presently ongoing projects of the Brenner and Gotthard base tunnels, the latter already being under construction. We think, it is important to establish a link between commercial geology and scientific geology to emphasize the social relevance of our discipline, which is often underestimated.

When creating the program of the workshop, we tried to give a representative overview over ongoing research in the Alps. The proceedings volume cannot contain a truly representative selection of papers presented, but we hope we included a set of papers from a wide range of topics. We would like to thank the reviewers for this special volume (Kurt DECKER, Niko FROITZHEIM, Bernhard FÜGENSCHUH, Gert FURTMÜLLER, Reinhard GAUPP, Simon LÖW, Imre MÜLLER, Adrian PFIFFNER, Franz REITER, Manfred ROCKENSCHAUB, Guido SCHREURS, Ralf SCHUSTER, Richard SPIESS, Volkmar STINGL, Marko VRABEC, Jozef WIECZOREK and a few persons who preferred to remain anonymous), who helped to create a interesting publication.

Last but not least we would like to thank, the Austrian Association of Geologists (*Österreichische Geologische Gesellschaft*), who agreed to publish the contributions from this workshop in their official journal. As the official language of the meeting was English, we decided to leave out the German abstracts, that were placed at the begin of each article in previous volumes of the *Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Geologischen Gesellschaft*.