ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name:	***Your Organization:***	***Date of report:***
Endri Duro	Polis University, Albania	20 June 2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026)	***Location of Conference:*** Vienna, Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** *14-19 June, 2026*

What you learned:

The conference, organized in an exceptional way, brought together thousands of geotechnical engineers part of the industry and academia. As a geotechnical engineer trying to bridge both aspects in my career, this event gave me the opportunity to exchange ideas and most of all gain new perspectives related to both research and practice.

Besides the great and insightful presentations by the keynotes and the speakers in different sessions, what I liked the most were the booths located in the main hall. A really great number of companies gave me the possibility to closely discuss about aspects related to design, implementation, techniques and testing.

People you met:

I had the pleasure to discuss with some young geotechnical engineers colleagues about the latest advancements in geotechnical engineering. I also had the pleasure to meet representatives of;

- Seequent- with whom I extensively talked about the FEM challenges and advantages
- Marchetti- with whom we discussed about the DMT test, the measured and derived parameters and the possibility to use this test to evaluate liquefaction potential
- Tensar- Discussed about ground improvement techniques especially rigid inclusions and stone columns, since they were also part of my presentation in the Young Engineer session
- Menard- a lovely chat which made me realise that how simple concepts can lead to really impactful results. The PMT was the great example

Main features of conference:

- Extensive days of presentations by keynote speakers, speakers, short presentations and posters/electronic posters.

- The appointment of the new ISSMGE president Prof. Lyesse Laloui
- A great number of booths- this fundamental aspect to be in touch with the industry.
- The unique part was the Terzaghi tribute and the booth where you could closely see the work and some images of the father of geotechnical engineering
- A well organized event in a great venue as the Austria Center Vienna

Your comments on the conference:

This was my first experience in the ICSMGE and as a young researcher and geotechnical engineer my expectations were high and I am happy to say that after the conference every bit of expectation was met. The conference was well organized, the session where I took part, WE-06 Young Engineers was led perfectly by the session chair, the papers presented where of a really high quality and the booths were full of materials like brochures, apparatus, galleries, videos, live demonstrations. By the end of the conference, I believe I am more aware and enthusiastic of the challenges and at the same time the beauty of geotechnical engineering.

Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026) organized from 14-19th June had the main impactful line ''where it all began'' being a tribute of the amazing work and legacy of Karl Terzaghi and corresponding to the 100th anniversary of the published work "Erdbaumechanik auf bodenphysikalischer Grundlage" which marked the birth of the modern soil mechanics.

This detail made the entire event special and I had the privilege to be part of this conference, being the first one among many others I hope to follow. My aim was clear; to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues from all around the globe. In addition, I successfully presented a contribution entitled ''Rigid Inclusions combined with stone columns as ground improvement technique in a high seismicity area prone to liquefaction'' in the Young Engineers session. The work was done in collaboration with my esteemed colleagues Prof. Ervin Paci and Eng. Ergys Anamali together with the help of Eng. Skender Allkja.

The well organized conferenced gave me the possibility to gain insights not only from academic point of view, but also from industry. Bridging research with industry is always a challenge and represents the key element toward innovation and advancements and I strongly believe that events like this can help young engineers like me grasp these aspects.

There were a variety of sessions covering different topics like Numerical Methods, Physical Modelling, Transportation, Sustainability, Ground improvement etc. I managed to follow many presentations and I was surprised by the quality of the presented work.

The event beside the professional impact served as a great opportunity for networking and socialising. I met not only amazing professionals, but also great people willing to sit and discuss and available for further collaborations.

To conclude, I firmly believe that the participation at the ICSMGE 2026 was one-of-a-kind experiences from which I gained a lot from personal and professional point of view. I am already looking forward to the next event

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email

View from 1st floor



Moments from my presentation at the Young Engineers Session

