The General Assembly 2019 of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) was held at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) in Vienna, Austria, from 7–12 April 2019. The sessions of the meeting covered a wide range of topics, including volcanology, planetary exploration, earth internal structure, atmosphere, climate, as well as energy and resources.

On Monday 8th, the session dedicated to the contamination of soils by emerging contaminants shared the knowledge generated by researchers whose interest lies in the role of soil in the destination and the behavior of emerging contaminants, including pesticides. Later on, the session focused on emerging persistent organic pollutants (ePOPs) in aquatic ecosystems, gave an overview of the current research and state of knowledge on contamination of these ecosystems with ePOPs and identified the factors affecting their distribution and fate. Examples of sustainable mitigation/remediation practices and research needs were proposed.

On Tuesday 10th, during the interdisciplinary session "*Scientific challenges posed by global warming*", the ECRA (European Climate Research Alliance) collaborative Programme on "High Impact Events and Climate Change" promoted the research on the mechanisms behind high impact events and climate extremes, simulation of high impact events under present and future climatic conditions, and on how relevant information for climate risk analysis, vulnerability and adaptation may be co-created with users. The next session was about the contributions describing new scientific findings on the climate of the Mediterranean region, its dynamics, variability, change, and studies of climate related impacts on societies and ecosystems.

On Wednesday 10th, the press conference entitled "*Marks of the Anthropocene: past, present and future"* took place, in which researchers talked about the marks of human activities on the planet. In one presentation, reporters heard about 3D models of anthropogenic sediments under the city of Vienna, dating back up to more than 2,000 years ago. In another presentation, researchers showed evidence of elevated levels of radionuclides (fallout from Chernobyl and nuclear weapons testing) in glaciers across the globe. Journalists learned how climate change and the urban heat island effect may leave the urban poor more exposed to deadly heat in major cities worldwide. Afterwards, in the session "*Effects of environmental stressors on the aquatic biosphere*", scientists from different backgrounds showed the effects of environmental (both biotic and abiotic) stressors on the aquatic biosphere, from individual organisms through to whole ecosystems with the aim of simulating truly interdisciplinary research.

On Thursday 11th and Friday 12th, 28 different disciplinary and interdisciplinary sessions included remarkable scientific communications covering biogeosciences, earth magnetism, geodynamics, natural hazards, hydrological sciences, urban geoscience, Anthropocene, and scientific challenges posed by global warming.

The EGU General Assembly 2019 was again a great success with 5531 oral, 9432 posters, and 1287 interactive presentations, 683 unique scientific sessions together with 87 short courses and 338 side events created an interesting programme. At the conference, 16273 scientists from 113 countries participated.

Pau Calatayud Vernich
(CIDE-Universitat de València)