



FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES GÉOLOGUES
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS
FEDERACIÓN EUROPEA DE GEÓLOGOS



*EFG wishes you
Merry Christmas
and a happy new year 2012*

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The EFG Office would like to invite you again to support our new category of news "News from EFG members".

In order to maintain this category of news alive we kindly ask you to send us relevant information from your own national association until **10 January**.

1. EFG News and News from EFG Members

EFG:



Photography Competition: Geology in the 21st century.

In collaboration with other geoscience-organisations, EFG invites all EU-citizens working in the field of geology to participate in this competition.

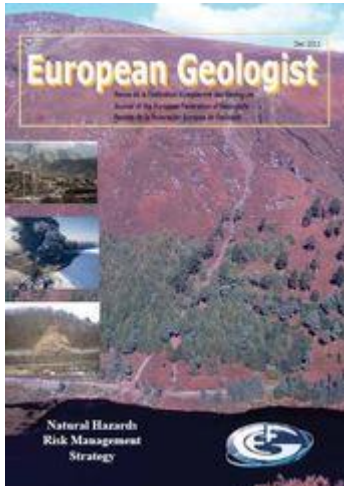
The purpose of the competition is to illustrate the different aspects of geology in the 21st century with a link to current EU policies. Each photography must be submitted in one of the following categories:

- **Minerals and Raw Materials**
- **Energy**
- **Natural hazards**
- **Water resources**
- **Environmental protection and climate change**

In addition, the pictures need to be accompanied by an explanation on the geological content accessible to the general public comprising 100 to 300 words.

The deadline for submitting your pictures is **28 February 2011**.

For more information on the rules, prizes and exhibitions planned please consult the [entry rules](#) and use the entry form you can find on our [homepage](#).



European Geologist Magazine, Issue 32, now online.

Issue 32 of EGM is now [online](#) available at the EFG website. This issue's topic is "Natural Hazards, Risk Management Strategy".

You can find more information on the European Geologist Magazine at: <http://www.eurogeologists.eu>



4th International Professional Geology Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 22-24 January 2012.

The theme of this conference for which EFG is co-convenor is "Earth Science - Global Practice". EFG will organize section 7 "Geoscience in an Interdisciplinary World" and Session 8 "Serving Society - Effective Public Engagement".

You can still register online at: <http://www.4ipgc.ca/>



34th International Geological Congress, Brisbane, Australia, 5-10 August 2012.

The third circular for this event can now be downloaded [here](#) and you can register directly via the website at <http://www.34igc.org/>.

EFG will participate in the 34th IGC with a symposium on "[Strengthening communication between fundamental and applied geosciences and between geoscientists and public](#)" (Theme 36, Symposium 10).

UK:



Shell London Lecture Series 2012, Geology in the Age of Man.

The programme of this series of monthly public lectures held at Burlington House is now available.

More information: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl>

2. General

European Institutions:

EC news on LIFE 2014-2020.

The European Commission confirms a budget of €3.2 billion for the 2014-2020 financial period. The new draft regulation refers to a LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Action and has been designed to build on the success of the existing LIFE+ Programme. The proposals introduce innovations to strengthen LIFE's structure, enhance its strategic role and simplify operations through greater flexibility. The current LIFE + components will be replaced by 'sub-programmes' covering Environment and Climate Action.

More information on the future of the programme:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life>

EC proposal for modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive.

On 19 December, the Commission has adopted a legislative proposal for modernising Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. This modernisation is one of the twelve levers for growth set out in the Single Market Act and aims at further facilitating mobility of professionals across the EU.

EFG has participated in 2011 in two consultations on this issue:

- [Consultation Paper on the professional qualifications directive by DG Internal Market and Services](#), 7 January 2011.
- Response to [Green Paper, Modernising the professional qualifications directive](#), 22 June 2011.

For more information please consult the [Press release](#), the [Technical briefing \(Video\)](#), a [Citizens' summary](#) and the [Proposal](#) in its provisional version.

Events:

EuroGEOSS, advancing the vision of GEOSS, Madrid, Spain, 25-27 January 2012.

This conference will focus on facilitating and demonstrating multi-disciplinary solutions to environmental issues facing humanity.

You can find the agenda and more information at: <http://www.eurogeoss2012.eu/>

3. Geoheritage

Events:

EFG convener of session of in EGU meeting, Geodiversity and geoheritage in university education and research, Vienna, 22-27 April 2012.

This session will address the challenge of linking geodiversity and earth heritage to earth science research. Although the importance of both is increasingly recognized, they are still not fully addressed in scientific research and education. Unique landscapes and soils that are worthwhile to preserve for the next generations, often contain complex properties and relationships, and should therefore be addressed in a more holistic way. Therefore expertise and research from various disciplines should be combined. Another important aspect is to improve awareness and outreach of geoheritage and geodiversity to a wider public including (university) education.

The conveners welcome those who want to contribute with examples of how

universities are involved in geodiversity and earth heritage studies.

They specifically invite contributions on the following topics:

- examples of university programs (education, research) on geodiversity and geoheritage studies;
- methodological issues (assessment, classification, cartography, design)
- management issues (conservation, relationships with landscape and nature conservation and spatial planning).

Submit abstracts through

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2012/session/9732>

Deadline for submitting abstract: **17 January 2012**

4. Oil and Gas

Events:

3rd EAGE Shale Workshop: New Plays, New Science, New Possibilities, Barcelona, Spain, 23-25 January 2012.

This three day workshop will include sessions on the physical and chemical properties of shale with a focus on applications related to drilling wells and producing (conventional and non-conventional) hydrocarbons. The geological and petrophysical description of shale will also be one important part of the workshop. More information:

<http://www.eage.org/events/index.php?eventid=676&Opendivs=s3>

Publications:

Particle fragments: an overlooked hazard of oil and gas exploration.

Fragments of crushed rock released into the ocean during oil and gas exploration can physically bury organisms that live on the seafloor, accounting for 55% of offshore drilling's environmental impact, according to a recent study. To allow more informed marine policy decisions, this physical impact must be recognised alongside the impact of chemicals released in drilling waste.

Source: Veltman, K., Huijbregts, M.A.J., Rye, H. & Hertwich, E.G. (2011). Including impacts of particulate emissions on marine ecosystems in life cycle assessment (LCA): The case of offshore oil and gas production. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*. 7:678-686.

5. Minerals

Publications:

Taxes on natural resources reduce use of raw materials.

Based on experiences in Denmark, Sweden and the UK, a recent study has investigated how taxes on virgin raw materials used in construction, such as gravel and sand, have reduced the use of these resources. However, according to the study, greater incentives to recycle these materials are still needed.

Source: Söderholm, P. (2011) Taxing virgin natural resources: Lessons from aggregates taxation in Europe. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*. 55: 911-922.

Offers:

December Discount: Centre for Advanced Satellite & Mineral Exploration

The company Geoscientific offers a December discount of 15-50% on [Geological Packages and Satellite Images](#). When placing an order or requesting a quotation please always send the Coordinates or Shapefiles in Geographic Lat / Long: Decimal Degrees or Degrees Minutes and Seconds of your area of interest; once Geoscientific has this information they will then send you a detailed quotation. More information: <http://www.geoscientific.net>

6. Renewable Energy

Publications:

EGEC Deep Geothermal Market Report.

Divided into two sections (geothermal electricity and geothermal district heating), this publication analyses the state of the market development for deep geothermal energy in Europe. Furthermore, EGEN presents an overview of existing plants and systems in Europe, as well as sourcing key information on planned projects, and ideas for the next decade.

The presentations of the launch event are available [here](#).

You can order a copy of the report at a fee of 250€ (contribution to production costs) at com@egec.org.

7. Natural Hazards

Publications:

[Earthquakes as well as climate change responsible for sea-level rise](#)

Satellite data from the Torres Islands in the southwest Pacific suggest that rising sea-levels in the region widely attributed to climate change is also partly caused by sinking of the islands following earthquakes in the 1990s, according to recent research.

Source: Ballu, V., Bouin, M-N., Siméoni, P. et al. (2011). Comparing the role of absolute sea-level rise and vertical tectonic motions in coastal flooding, Torres Islands (Vanuatu). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 108(32): 13019-13022.

How to estimate the cost of natural disasters.

When natural disasters, like earthquakes, storms and hurricanes, are reported in the media, they are often accompanied by an assessment of the cost of the disaster. While such information can be useful to help governments and international organisations target aid and recovery efforts, the details of what is included in the assessment, and the methods used, are often unclear. Researchers have now attempted to provide a more complete definition of the total economic cost of a disaster.

Source: Hallegatte, S. & Przulski, V. (2010). *The Economics of Natural Disasters: Concepts and Methods*. Policy Research Working Paper 5507. The World Bank, Washington D.C. This report can be downloaded from: <http://go.worldbank.org/ZHXFEQU560>

8. Jobs and Training

Jobs:

Job title: [Researcher in InSAR volcanology and geodynamics](#)

Employer: Royal museum for Central Africa

Place: Tervuren, Belgium

Deadline for application: 6 January 2012

Job title: [Senior Mine Geologist - Open Pit Mining](#)

Company: Xstrata Zinc - Mt Isa

Place: Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia

Deadline for application: 23 December 2011

Job title: [Geologist / Petrographer / Mineralogist](#)

Company: TFB AG

Place: Wildegg, Switzerland

We hope you enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter and would be pleased to receive your comments or indications of events relevant to the geological profession in Europe.

Kind regards,
EFG Office

EFG Office, Rue Jenner 13, B-1000 Brussels www.eurogeologists.eu