

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS April 2007

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1.GENERAL NEWS

News

Geohazards Conference and EFG Council Meeting 2007, May 25 – 27 2007, Rome, Italy

-International Conference on Natural Hazards, coorganized by Consiglio Nazionali dei Geologi (CNG) and European Federation of Geologists (EFG), 25 May 2007, Rome. Meeting point: Conference Room of the Tempio di Adriano, Rome Chamber of Commerce Building, Piazza di Pietra. This workshop is a precedent event of the annual EFG Council Meeting.

More information in EFG site:

<http://www.eurogeologists.de/>

You will find the registration form to be sent to

stampa@consigliozionalegeologi.it

Please don't hesitate to register now even if the deadline has passed.

-Rome Council Meeting Schelude (New structure), 26-27 May 2007, Rome.

EFG would like to inform the Council members that there is a new structure in the Council Meeting schedule. The new structure involves separate Break Out Sessions, as follows:

Break Out Sessions

- 2008 Meetings Oslo and 3IPGC– speakers, topics, convenors (Manuel Regueiro)
- EurGeol title - CPD, NVC and Licensed Bodies (Dirk De Coster)
- Communication/ visibility/ promotion/ PR (Umberto Puppini)
- Lobbying in Europe – national and international levels (Herald Ligtenberg/ Isabel Fernandez)

Each named Board Member acts as Chairman, and each Charmain appoints a Rapporteur. The Secretary General will circulate a draft Agenda to Council by 1 May, which will include first come first served registration for sessions. These new sessions will take place on the first day, 26 May 2007, during the afternoon, with Break Out Sessions (one hour) followed by the Rapporteurs' Sessions (10 mins + 5 mins specific discussion) and a general discussion (45 minutes).

-5 Geologists detained in El Chocó, Colombia

EFG would like to inform you that on the day Tuesday 13 March, 9 geologists were detained, 5 engineering geologists from the National University of Medellín, 3 geologists from the University of Calda and the Head Geologist of the group, when they were carrying out mining exploration in the Neguá river, region of Chocó. Latest information indicates that 4 were released on Wednesday 28 March but 5 are currently still missing.

We ask the people or the group who have made this detention, to consider that professionals are graduated working in that area fulfilling the plans drawn up by the company for which they are contracted. We request that they are released quickly for tranquillity of the geoscientific community and their families. We suggest so that the exercise of geology in Colombia is declared a professional activity of high risk, where geologists must cross zones of conflict as well as minefields. If you would like to support this action, please visit the web page:

www.sociedadcolombianadegeologia.org. The Colombian Geologists Association has opened a space on the web page to support these 5 Geologists kidnapped in Colombia. If you would like to express your support write an email to: socogeo@sociedadcolombianadegeologia.org

Past Events

-EFG has been invited to take part in the Validation Panel for the Earth Sciences within the Tuning project, 23 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium.

Tuning Education Structures in Europe is a university driven project, which aims to offer a concrete approach to implement the Bologna Process at the level of higher education institutions and subject areas. The Tuning approach consists of a methodology to design, implement and evaluate study programmes for each of the Bologna cycles. It can be considered valid worldwide, since it has been tested in several continents and found fruitful.

The Validation Conference on the Natural Sciences, within the Tuning project was celebrated in Brussels on 23 March 2007. The conference was divided into different parallel sessions: Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, and Physics.

Each Validation Panel consists of about 10 experts. The experts comment and advise on the methodology used and outcomes achieved in the presence of the members of the respective Tuning Subject Area Group.

In the months following the Conference, the Tuning Subject Area Group will prepare a document with the result of their work in the Tuning project.

EFG was represented by Manuel Regueiro and Isabel Fernandez as observer. Some of the contributions from EFG were as follows: Professional bodies must be consulted about the common curriculum; requirement of professional accreditation; a list of employment opportunities should be defined.

-Forum on the Experiences of The Spanish Professional Associations in the Field of Professional Accreditation, 13 March 2007, Madrid, Spain.

The Spanish EFG Delegate Manuel Regueiro made a presentation entitled *The EFG EuroGeologist Title* during this event, in relation to Professional Associations in Spain.

The first part of the presentation was an introductory overview about the activities of the European Federation of Geologists explaining when it was created and describing what are the different associations included as members, associated organizations and observers as well as defining how many members are fellows in each country.

In the second part of the conference, the subject was centered in the EuroGeologist Title, objectives, implications in the administration, university and industry. He highlighted the benefits of holding a EurGeol. Title, the requirements to hold it, an outline of the application procedure, its use as an international professional passport, the number of holders, Ireland as

the country with the highest proportion of EurGeols., etc. He also pointed out the basic pillars of the EuroGeol Title: The Academic Qualifications; Professional Experience; Code of Ethics and the Continuity of Professional Development.

The final part of the presentation covered the important concept of Qualified Person in the Title of EuroGeol., which is recognized by the Australiasian Joint Ore Reserves Committee, the JSE Securites Exchange South Africa and the CCPG in Canada.

Future Events

-“6th International Symposium on Eastern Mediterranean Geology incorporating the 9th international geological conference of Jordanian Geologists Association”, 2-5 April 2007, Amman, Jordan.

It is a discouraging reality that the importance of geology is not well understood by the broader scientific community. This symposium is a special occasion for all scientists to present their outstanding scientific contributions. The symposium will focus on geosciences issues relevant to our special location at the triple junction of Europe, Asia and Africa. Therefore, it is important to encourage an international approach and sharing of knowledge from all over the world at this special symposium, in Amman, to exchange and update our knowledge and science.

More information: E-mail: info@jo-geologists.com

<http://www.jo-geologists.com>

2. SOIL PROTECTION AND GEOHERITAGE

News

- The EFG PE Soil Protection & Geoheritage and European Geoparks Network and has prepared a common Reaction Document

To fulfill the EFG mission (to promote the profession and practice of geology), it is necessary to contribute to the development of European Policies that could be interesting for geologists. To achieve this matter it would be needed to present Advisory Documents to European Commission and EU Parliament; to organize workshops on geological topics; to participate in public hearings, conferences, and meetings.

In this context the EFG PE Soil Protection and Geoheritage in collaboration with European Geoparks Network have created an Amendment Document of reaction on the Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing a framework for the protection of soil and amending Directive COM (2006) 232 (presented by the Commission). The document was presented on 6 of March to Ms. Maria Sornosa member of the European Parliament's [Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#). Ms. Maria Sornosa congratulated EFG for the work done and she expressed her commitment to present these amendments in the current parliamentary process.

3. ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

Past Events

-Engineering Geology in Europe Conference, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Gology Faculty, 12 March 2007, Madrid, Spain.

The EFG Office Director, Isabel Fernandez, carried out a presentation entitled *Engineering Geology in Europe* based on the report *Professional Tasks, Responsibilities and Co-operation in Ground Engineering*, prepared by The Joint European Working Group of the IAEG, ISRM and ISSMGE in July 2004. The different parts of the presentation covered the following topics:

- Introduction: European Federation of Geologists. Mission, Activities and Country members, the Panel of Experts (including the PE Engineering Geology in Europe) and the Global perspective of the profession, in order to increase the number of geoscientists that work in international geological companies and highlighting the need to increase the professional requirements to assure quality for the clients, society, governments and insurance agencies.
- Ground Engineering: Professional activity, responsibilities and cooperation. The highest professional exposure is given to Geologists and Engineers with competency in Ground Engineering. The respective concerns of Engineering Geologists and Mechanical Engineers are represented by three major aspects that, in line with Knill (2002), are grouped in subject specific interaction triangles. All three disciplines, Soil Mechanics, Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology, are focussed on solving Ground Engineering problems, bringing together the different education and training backgrounds within the various disciplines to achieve the solution of complex interactive problems.
- General frame on European Qualifications. Bologna Proces (Tuning Project) and Geology, Directive on Recognition of Qualifications, Different Specializations in Geology, The EuroGeologist Title (Life-long Learning Cycle), and the concept of Competent Person.
- Future Perspectives of Engineering Geology. The importance of the standardization in terminology and description of grounds and rocks and in field and laboratory procedures. The need of a communication improvement between scientists, different nationalities, clients, insurance agencies and other disciplines.

Future Events

-Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining: “*Restoration of Hard Rock Quarries*” Engineering Group Events, 17 April 2007, Sheffield, Halifax Hall, UK.

The seminar will include presentations and discussion on planning in relation to quarry development and reclamation as well as the implementation of reclamation schemes, including the creation of appropriate land forms and habitats either as quarrying progresses or afterwards. The aim is not just that negative environmental impacts of quarrying should be minimized but that there should be benefits. The seminar will provide opportunities for the inter-disciplinary exchange of information and the identification of key issues in need of investigation together with case histories and examples of good practice. More information: E-

mail: maliphantpc@halcrow.com!

<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=geogroup10>

4. HYDROGEOLOGY

Past Events

-European Water Conference 2007, 22-23 March 2007 Brussels, Belgium

EFG attended the European Water Conference 2007, 22-23 March 2007 in Brussels, Belgium, coinciding with the 22 of March World Water Day. In this event, the Commission's new report on how the EU water law has been implemented was presented. EFG has

elaborated this brief report about the hot topics treated by many representatives during this two days conference event, the conclusions are the following:

General Overview

Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

- overall framework for integrated management
- ambitious objectives (e.g. good status by 2015)
- basic measures (directives on urban wastewater, nitrate pollution, industry pollution and others)
- protected areas (directives on bathing water, habitats, drinking water and others)

Completing the Framework

- Groundwater (2006/118/EC)
- Priority Substances (negotiations ongoing)
- Intercalibration (2005/646/EC, results end 2007)

Extending the scope:

- Floods Directive (negotiations ongoing)
- Marine Strategy Directive (negotiations ongoing)
- Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts

Water Framework Timetable

- Transposition into national law (Dec 2003)
- Administrative arrangements (Dec 2003)
- Environmental/economic analysis (Dec 2004)
- Monitoring programmes (Dec 2006)
- Final river basin management plans (Dec 2009)
- Implementation, assessment, adjustment (2015 till 2027)

Opinions and Facts

Many of the speakers concurred that the implementation is well advanced with some positive examples, but consider that there are many member states that have to do better. Considering a decisive milestone in 2009, there is still time to rectify the situation.

Three decades of EU water research in support of the Water Framework has been a major component of successive EU environmental research programmes. From the beginning, EU funded research in the field of water covering a wide number of areas (e.g. hydrological, biological and biogeochemical aspects, aquatic ecosystems functioning, etc.). Earlier programmes were focussed on the development of scientific knowledge to support environmental quality standards and objectives.

In FP5 and FP6 emphasis is given on integrated approaches for sustainable water management, support to water policies (WFD, Drinking Water, Urban Wastewater, Nitrate and IPPC Directives, etc.) and management of global change. Water and Soil Technology Research are perspectives in FP7 (Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform) and some related topics opened in the 2007 call are:

- Innovative technologies and services for sustainable water use by industries
- Technologies for measuring and monitoring networks
- Development and improvement of technologies for data collection in (digital) soil mapping
- Development of technologies and tools for soil contamination assessment and site characterization, towards sustainable remediation

There is a need to promote the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform within the policy-makers and regulators and facilitate the participation of water authorities in the pilot themes and test sites that will be implemented during FP7.

Some facts and figures show results indicating that there are about 70.000 water bodies in 23 Member States, where the average drainage area per water body falls between 19 km² and

312 km² and that 25% of water bodies are heavily modified or artificial in an average of 24 MS. The water bodies that meet or will meet the WFD objectives are 29% of surface water bodies in an average of 23 MS and 43% of groundwater bodies in an average of 24 MS.

The reports, many facts, figures and maps are available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/report2007.html>

EU Marine Strategy

In the other hand, the EU Marine Strategy was also treated as the environmental pillar of the forthcoming EU maritime policy. The strategy was adopted by the European Commission in October 2005 emphasizing the fact that marine ecosystems play a key role for the Earth's climate and numerous other services (food, energy resources, transportation, waste absorption...). It was created because of the need of an integrated approach, taking into account all pressures and impacts on the marine environment (e.g. impacts of climate change). In this context, the knowledge of gaps points out the divergence of approaches around Europe making holistic regional assessments difficult and in consequence the FP7 provides many opportunities for marine-targeted research. The translation of the general vision of the strategy into a legal objective is the achievement of a Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2021, not the determination at EU level but generic descriptors, for which criteria / methodological standards will be developed. This determination will have to emerge from the work at regional level and finally the Commission will review how Member States determine GES and advice.

Wise (Water Information System for Europe)

WISE, a new information platform providing a single entry point to European water-related data, offers information and services on the status of European waters and the implementation of water policies. WISE allows Member States to report information on their water environment and the implementation of the directives. Wise covers 4 specific areas and services and provides compliance information about the Water Framework Directive as well as State of Environment information used by the European Environment Agency. For more information, please see: <http://water.europa.eu/>

Future Events

-“International conference on Water Pollution in Natural Porous Media at Different Scales WAPO2”, 11-13 April 2007, Barcelona, Spain.

Objectives

This conference (WAPO 2) is addressed to scientists, students, policy makers and managers concerned with problems of groundwater contamination in porous media. It will provide a forum for the exchange of new findings and ideas in this field and for the discussion of better ways of managing our groundwater resources.

Topics

- Alternative methods and indicators of water quality in natural porous media.
- Biogeochemical processes from soil to groundwater.
- Numerical simulation of pollutant transport and interaction in soil and subsoil techniques, problems and case study.

More information: <http://www.proyectosH2O.upc.es/WAPO>

-Workshop on emerging contaminants in wastewaters (EMCO): “Monitoring tools and treatment technologies”, 26-27 April 2007, Belgrad, Serbia.

Objectives

- To facilitate the interaction with regional authorities and scientist in order to facilitate the implementation of the European environmental policy in the region

- To facilitate the dissemination of the results and outcomes of RTD projects (EMCO project and related EU projects)

Specific topics

- State of the art chemical analysis of emerging contaminants in wastewaters; overview of available methods, future trends and perspectives in instrumental analysis
- Risk assessment and new monitoring strategies
- Occurrence of emerging contaminants in wastewaters in Europe
- Elimination of emerging contaminants in wastewater treatment; Treatment technologies; current status and future developments

More information: http://www.cid.csic.es/emco/2nd_emco_workshop.htm

5. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

-Tenured Academic Position in: Mineral, Soils and Solid Waste Processing

The Department of Architecture, Geology, Environment and Civil Engineering at Liege University invites applications for a tenure track appointment at the Assistant Professor level or higher, if qualified, in the area of mineral, soils and solid waste processing.

Applicants for the position should hold a doctoral degree, have an international post doc experience and be able to demonstrate commitment to teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Knowledge of French is an asset.

Dead line: **16 April 2007.**

For further information please contact:

Prof. Eric Pirard at liege7021@earthworks-jobs.com head of the GeMMe unit
www.geomac.ulg.ac.be

-Lecturer or Reader in Sedimentology, Faculty of Environment, School of Earth and Environment Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Leeds.

The School is an internationally recognized centre for research and teaching in Earth and Environmental System Science. We are seeking to appoint a sedimentologist to join a long-established research team with state-of-the-art laboratory and field measurement facilities.

You should have postdoctoral (or equivalent) experience with an appropriate track record of achievement. Appointments will be made at a level commensurate with a candidate's experience and record.

Closing date **27 April 2007** Interviews w/c 21 May 2007

More information:

<http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/vacancies/index.htm>

Informal enquiries to **Professor Paul Wignall**, E-mail: P.Wignall@see.leeds.ac.uk ; Tel +44 (0)113 343 5247. To apply online please visit www.see.leeds.ac.uk and click on 'jobs'. Alternatively, application packs are available via email recruitment@adm.leeds.ac.uk or tel +44 (0)113 343 5771.

-Seeking Mine Geologist and Exploration Geologist

Mine Geologists Post: Acadian Gold Corporation is seeking a mine geologist for its Gays River carbonate-hosted, open pit, lead zinc mine located in Nova Scotia, Canada. The mine is located approximately 40 miles from the capital city of Halifax. Applicants require a background in mine geology and experience in carbonate-hosted lead zinc deposits would be an asset. Relocation benefits provided.

Exploration Geologists Post: Acadian Gold Corporation is seeking an exploration geologist for its extensive holding in Nova Scotia Canada. Applicants require a background in exploration and experience in exploring for carbonate-hosted lead zinc deposits would be considered an asset. Relocation benefits provided.

Interested candidates reply to mail@acadiangold.ca . Further details regarding Acadian Gold Corporation can be found at <http://www.acadiangold.ca/>

*We invite all members to forward items of news or general interest to fellow members
to efgbrussels@gmail.com*