

## European Federation of Geologists

### GEONEWS August 2007

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## 1. GENERAL NEWS

### Events

#### **-TAIEX Workshop INFRA25176, New Practices in Geodiversity for a Sustainable Development of the Regions, 8-10 Sibiu, Romania**

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to the above TAIEX workshop to be held on 8 to 10 October 2007 in Sibiu, Romania. The programme and more information on the aim of the workshop are attached.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop please fill out the *registration form* which is also included in this email and return it as soon as possible.

Cost of travel and lodging will be paid by the EU if you are a member of one the TAIEX countries involved in this workshop. For the complete list of these countries see the file Countries-Infra25176.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sibiu in October.

Dr. Isabel Fernandez, EFG Office Brussels  
Drs. Hanneke van den Ancker, EFG (Coordinator of the PE on Soil Protection and Geoheritage)  
Prof. Dr. Dan Grigorescu, Hateg Dinosaur Geopark  
Dr. Alex Andreasanu, Hateg Dinosaur Geopark

### News

#### **-SYNTHEsys call for proposals**

The SYNTHESYS Office is pleased to announce the Seventh call for proposals under the European Commission's FPVI European-funded Integrated Infrastructure Initiative. SYNTHESYS Project funding is available to provide scientists (Users) based in European Member and Associated States to undertake short visits to utilize the infrastructure (namely the collections, staff expertise and analytical facilities) at one of the 20 partner institutions (see web page) for the purposes of their research. The 20 partner institutions are organized into 11 national Taxonomic Facilities (TAFs). TAF Users will be hosted by a TAF staff member.

The 11 TAF institutions represent an unparalleled resource for taxonomic research offering: Collections amounting to over 337 million natural history specimens, including 3.3 million type specimens. Internationally renowned taxonomic and systematic skill base. Chemical analysis, molecular and imaging facilities. Proposals will be welcomed from high calibre researchers seeking access for short-term visits.

SYNTHESYS is able to meet the Users' costs for:

- \* Research costs
- \* International travel
- \* Local accommodation whilst based at the TAF. A per diem to contribute towards living costs
- \* Research related costs including: bench fees and consumables (including molecular biology at some TAFs).

See [www.synthesys.info](http://www.synthesys.info) for more information or contact [synthesys@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:synthesys@nhm.ac.uk)

## 2. MINERALS RESOURCES AND RESERVES AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE

### Events

#### **-SGA Meeting Session: *Resource Estimation-Classification Systems*, 18-24 August 2007, Dublin, Ireland**

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) supported by SGA Councilors are preparing a programme for the meeting which will make the Dublin meeting the place to be in 2007 for researchers, industry personnel, and minerals geologists in general. The meeting will include technical sessions, a technical discussion forum, poster sessions, workshops, short courses, field trips, exhibition and social events. The technical programme will include sessions devoted to methodologies, specific commodities and specific regions.

Web: <http://www.conferencepartners.ie/sga2007/index.html>

Registration: <http://www.cpreRegistrations.com/sga2007/>

### News

#### **- Commission adopts new guideline for coal and steel research- Close cut-off date, 15 September**

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a Council Decision on the revised guidelines for spending funds on coal & steel research. The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) has an annual budget of about €60 million for research in these two areas, financed by interest on the assets of the now expired European Coal and Steel Community Treaty. The RFCS programme is a separate, complementary programme to the Research

Framework programme and covers all aspects of coal and steel, from production processes to application, looking at the utilization and conversion of resources, safety at work and environmental protection by improving the use of coal as a clean energy source and reducing CO2 emissions from coal use and steel production.

For more information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1041&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

### 3. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

#### News

##### **-European Commission - Sustainable Energy Europe Awards**

Does your organization receive sufficient European recognition and praise for its endeavours in the field of sustainable energy or energy efficiency? Imagine the opportunity of being showcased across Europe as a pioneer in the field of sustainable energy innovation.

The Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign of the European Commission/ Directorate-General Energy and Transport is a major initiative, promoting, showcasing and rewarding outstanding projects and programmes in the field.

Join as a Partner before 19 October 2007 and you will be automatically entered into the prestigious annual awards competition. The foremost examples of successful sustainable energy projects will be highlighted at a prestigious public Award Ceremony held in Brussels on 29 January 2008.

For more details on joining the Campaign and submitting your project in this year's competition, click on the text or visit:

[http://www.sustenergy.org/tpl/page.cfm?pageName=award\\_competition](http://www.sustenergy.org/tpl/page.cfm?pageName=award_competition)

### 4. NATURAL HAZARDS

#### Publications

##### **-Mapping Hazardous Terrain using Remote Sensing**

The dangers that we face from geohazards appear to be getting worse, especially with the impact of increasing population and global climate change. This collection of papers illustrates how remote sensing technologies - measuring, mapping and monitoring the Earth's surface from aircraft or satellites - can help us to rapidly detect and better manage geohazards. The hazardous terrains examined include areas of landslides, flooding, erosion, contaminated land, shrink-swell clays, subsidence, seismic activity and volcanic landforms.

GSL Special Publications. *Mapping Hazardous Terrain using Remote Sensing*. Edited by R M Teeuw. 184 pp.

More information:

[http://www2.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=bookshop\\_details&id=804&CFID=4442036&CFTOKEN=fe9ea86779f65326-F39D1052-1125-29BA-70C329A915E373A0](http://www2.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=bookshop_details&id=804&CFID=4442036&CFTOKEN=fe9ea86779f65326-F39D1052-1125-29BA-70C329A915E373A0)

## 5. SOIL PROTECTION

### Publications

#### **-Soil Erosion under Climate Change Scenarios in Central Europe**

In a recent study, a European team of scientists used climatic models calibrated with field data to generate two 30-year time-series of rainfall data in Upper Austria. Though the climatic models used in this study consider only seasonal variations of rainfall and do not account for frequency changes in extreme weather events under climate change, which could have major impacts on soil losses, the authors conclude that the applied methodology is an adequate approach for a preliminary assessment of soil erosion in a climate change perspective.

Scholz G., Quinton J.N. and Strauss P. (2007), « Soil erosion from sugar beet in Central Europe in response to climate change induced seasonal precipitation variations », Catena, doi: 10.1016/j.catena.2007.04.005.

Contact: [j.quinton@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.quinton@lancaster.ac.uk)

## 6. HYDROGEOLOGY

### News

#### **- The Commission has defined recommendations and policy options, including higher water prices and conservation measures**

The Commission has drawn our attention to the increase in the intensity and frequency of water shortages and droughts over the last 30 years. The Commission's new communication on water scarcity and droughts, presented on 18 July, proposes higher water pricing as a means to "put an end to needless losses or waste" of water. Up to 40 per cent of the EU's water resources are wasted, according to the Commission.

The Communication also calls for proper implementation of the existing Water Framework Directive (WFD), which introduces a model for water management based on geographical areas rather than on administrative or political boundaries.

No new laws are proposed in the communication. However, a number of recommendations are put forward, including better land use planning for agriculture and tourism, new drought management plans, and increased use of water saving technologies in buildings.

Source EuroActiv. Full article please visit: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/water-use-pay-commission/article-165682>

## Publications

### -List of available publications - EU Report Series

Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Basin Governance - ADVISOR

Editors: N. Videira, G. Kallis, P. Antunes and R. Santos

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391481>

Urban Water Resources Toolbox - AISUWRS

Editors: L. Wolf, B. Morris and S. Burn

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391384>

Integrated Deliberative Decision Processes for Water Resources Planning and Evaluation - ADVISOR

Editors: G. Kallis, N. Videira, P. Antunes and R. Santos

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391678>

Water and Liberalisation - European Water Scenarios - EUROMARKET

Editors: M. Finger, J. Allouche, P. LuÃs-Manso

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391139>

Comparative Evaluation of Sludge Reduction Routes - W.I.R.E.S.

Editor: P. Ginestet

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391236>

Computer Aided Rehabilitation of Sewer and Storm Water Networks - CARE-S

Editor: S. Saegrov

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391155>

Computer Aided Rehabilitation for Water Networks - CARE-W

Editor: S. Saegrov

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843390914>

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### News

#### **-Ministers have adopted a common position on a proposed Marine Strategy Directive, opposing the Parliament on a number of important points**

The EU Marine Strategy is considered 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...). 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.

In June 2006, the Commission adopted a Green Paper for an EU maritime policy, launching a one-year consultation that closed on 30 June 2007. The purpose of the policy is to create a single framework for managing a range of maritime issues, from fishing, mineral extraction and environmental protection to job security.

### The EU struggle on the Marine Strategy Directive

On 23 July 2007, the Council adopted a common position on the Marine Strategy Directive. The opinion of the Council was centered on the avoidance of too much technical detail in the implementation of this Framework Directive.

At issue is the question of determining "good environmental status". In its first reading in November 2006, Parliament had proposed a detailed addendum with the conditions for assessment. Council has rejected this notion, and has called instead for "generic qualitative descriptors".

Parliament and Council are also opposed on the issue of implementation deadlines - Parliament wants a tighter timetable - and on the legal obligations resulting from a new Directive. Council considers "that it would be unrealistic, no matter how desirable, to make achievement of good environmental status, even by 2021, a legally binding objective".

Source EuroActiv. Full article please visit: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/eu-struggles-define-maritime-policy/article-165817>

## **8. JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

1 - Hydrology Jobs - Senior Engineer - Hydrology

2 - Hydrology Jobs - Mid Level Hydrologist

3 - Hydrology Jobs - Senior Water Modeler

4 - Hydrogeology Jobs - Scientist/Engineer

5 - Hydrology Jobs - Hydrologist / Staff Hydrologist

Brought to you by IAEH - the International Association for Environmental Hydrology

For more information please visit: <http://www.hydroweb.com/HydroNews/hydrology-news-95.html>

*We invite all members to forward items of news or general interest to fellow members to [efgbrussels@gmail.com](mailto:efgbrussels@gmail.com)*