

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS March 2007

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1. GENERAL NEWS

European Geologist, issue 23, call for articles

Call for articles and advertising for the next issue of European Geologist, issue 23, which will be ready for the end of May Council meeting in Rome. The deadline for submission of articles is 31 March. A theme in the magazine will be Natural Hazards but all articles are welcome. Please see the Federation's web site for notes for authors.

Please contact: Harper-McCorry@tele2adsl.dk

FP7 Starting Independent Research Grant for Geologists

EFG Office has commented in previous communications about one of the four categories covered by the 7th Framework Program, 7FP: COOPERATION. In the present communication we would like to inform you about another important category in this programme: IDEAS. Within this category, EFG office has found interesting funding possibilities for individual researchers in Earth Sciences.

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research. The ERC complements other funding activities in Europe such as those of the national research funding agencies, and is a flagship component of the 'Ideas Programme' of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

The related links are the following: <http://erc.europa.eu/> and http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home_en.html

ERC grants will be awarded through open competition to projects headed by young and established researchers, irrespective of their origins, who are working in Europe. The two grants are the following:

- ERC Advanced Investigator Grant (Not open, it will be launched in autumn 2007)
- ERC Starting Independent Research Grant: The Starting Grants aim to support young, up-and-coming researchers, awarded his/her first PhD (or equivalent doctoral degree) more than 2 and less than 9 years prior to the deadline of the call for proposals, who are about to establish or consolidate an independent research team or to start conducting independent research in

Europe. (**Open, Call deadline: 25 April 2007**). Indicative budget for ERC Starting Independent Research Grant 2007 is 287.5 million Euros.

The grant is between 100.000 € and 400.000 € per year for periods of up to five years.

Twenty panels have been established covering all fields of science, and we have identified the following Earth Sciences related fields.

Panel PE8 - Earth system science: Physical geography, **geology, geophysics**, meteorology, **oceanography**, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, solar planets, **natural resources management**

- Atmospheric chemistry and aeronomy
- Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
- Climatology (incl. **paleo-climatology**), climate modelling
- Ecology, **environmental chemistry, water, air and soil pollution**
- Geography, geology, geochemistry**
- Global environmental change**
- Geophysics, seismology, volcanology**
- Oceanography/marine sciences** (physical, chemical, biological)
- Biogeochemistry**
- Geophysics, geochemistry, mineralogy**
- Solar planetology**
- Petrology, sedimentology**
- Physical geography**
- Earth observations from space / remote sensing**
- Geomagnetism, paleomagnetism**
- Ozone and atmospheric composition
- Soil science, tectonics**
- Waste disposal, water science**

The Panel PE7 - Universe science also covers some fields related to geology.

Please check the Panels structure and descriptive keywords and for a full explanation of this grant scheme, please read in full the Guide for applicants. <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=65>

We want to emphasize that the present moment is a great opportunity to promote the profession and practice of geology and its relevance in the European research context.

FP7 Cooperation-Environment available presentations

FP7 Cooperation-Environment presentations of past information events:

- ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Info Day
- EARTH OBSERVATION Info Day
- ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES Info Day

are available in the following link:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/environment-pastevents_en.html

SYNTHESYS Sixth call for proposals

The SYNTHESYS Office is pleased to announce the Sixth 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 full list below) 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).

Next Deadline: 30th March 2007. See www.synthesys.info for more information or contact synthesys@nhm.ac.uk

The SYNTHESYS Partners are inviting applications from researchers based in the Member States of the EU: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
Associated Countries of the EU: Switzerland, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway and Candidate Countries of the EU: Croatia and Turkey.

Events

Starting Event of The Year of Planet Earth

The United Nations Year will be in 2008, but as its activities span three years (2007-2009) its beginning was launched recently coinciding with the birthday of the world's oldest Geological Society. With the simultaneous release of 4567 balloons from the Courtyard of Burlington House, Piccadilly, London on 10 January 2007, The Geological Society of London celebrated not only its own 200th birthday, but also the 4567 millionth birthday of Planet Earth and the beginning of the series of events related to the Year of Planet Earth.

The Greatest Geo-Show on Earth

The Year's Outreach Programme consists of a very large number of national and some major international activities. Some plans and outreach projects provided by the Year's National Committees, include:

- World Mining Ministers' Forum, March 2008, Toronto, Canada
- Roving Smithsonian World Soil Exhibition, starting in Washington, USA
- Geoscience for the Public exhibitions in many countries
- New Earth Science Museum for Brazil
- Lecture tours and excursions organized throughout several European countries

For more information: <http://www.esfs.org/index.htm>

2. RESOURCES AND RESERVES: MINERALS

The first European Minerals Day, 11-13 May 2007

At the initiative of the European industrial minerals sector, minerals producers all over Europe will take part in the first pan-European Minerals Day to be held between 11 and 13 May 2007. This is an excellent opportunity for local communities to find out more about the world of industrial minerals and how they are mined and processed. It will boost awareness of the importance of industrial minerals and demonstrate that minerals companies are responsible neighbours.

Activities will be at the discretion of the individual companies, but will typically include quarry and plant visits, demonstrations of equipment, presentations of health and safety standards at work and the

different phases of quarry life (planning, extraction and land restoration), geological tours, school and youth projects, nature protection projects, fossil hunts, activities for children, concerts, fireworks and exhibitions.

This first European Minerals Day will focus on children and teenagers. With this target audience in mind, a recently developed educational tool, "the Mineral Zone", is available on the internet (www.ima-europe.eu) and CD ROM. Some schools have already started using this as a learning resource. Greek, French and German versions are being prepared for the event in May 2007.

The programme of events and list of participating companies will be published soon at www.mineralsday.eu.

3. NATURAL HAZARDS

Events

European Geohazards Conference in Rome, May 25, 2007

Reducing the risk of natural hazards in Europe - integrating knowledge and best practices from experts, insurance companies and policy-makers

Co-organized by the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and the Italian National Council of Geologists, (CNG).

The focus of the conference is to bring the different disciplines together, to exchange knowledge and ideas, to discuss best practices and to identify ways to improve integration of information. The conference will include contributions from a wide range of perspectives, including European and national policy-makers, land-use managers/planners, insurance companies and geo-scientific experts. This powerful combination of disciplines is expected to seed new and improved approaches that should ultimately lead to reducing the risk and impact of natural hazards to our European society.

Any questions can be forwarded to the following:

- Marino Trimboli (CNG Secretary General and EFG delegate Italy and natural hazards expert), sggsnc@tin.it
- Herald Ligtenberg (EFG board member and coordinator EFG expert panel on natural hazards), Herald.Ligtenberg@shell.com
- Isabel Fernandez (EFG office director), efgbrussels@gmail.com

International Conference on The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention

2nd Alexander Von Humboldt International Conference on The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention, 5-9 March 2007, Lima, Peru. The conference will include the following topics (to be introduced by invited Keynote Speakers):

- Volcanic Eruptions
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis
- Landslides
- Avalanches
- Extreme climate and/or meteorological disastrous events
 - El Niño related
 - Global Change related

- Hurricanes

For more information, please contact: E-mail: eronw@geo.igp.gob.pe or fabian@met.forst.tu-muenchen.de

Engineering Group Events

The Engineering Geology of Coastal and Flood Defences, 14 March 2007, London, United Kingdom. This seminar intends to explore the importance of understanding geological and geomorphological influences by looking at key risk areas and applying good engineering geological practice to the design and construction of coastal and flood defences. Commencing with an overview of UK coastal geology and key risk areas, the seminar will then turn to examine strategic approaches to fluvial and coastal issues from a Client's perspective. This will be followed by case studies looking at the geological and engineering issues in detail in two notable projects. For more information Web: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=Coastal_and_Flood_Defences

E-mail: Patrick.Cox@capita.co.uk

Legislative Work

Floods Management

Co-decision - second reading

Consideration of draft recommendation

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft recommendation on the Council Common Position on Floods Management (Richard Seeber, EPP-ED, Austria). In order to reduce and manage flood-related Risks, the Commission proposed a Directive at the beginning of 2006. The most important changes suggested to the Common position are the following: adequate incorporation of climate change to the preliminary flood risk assessment; stricter deadlines for the implementation of the preliminary flood risk assessment; improved co-ordination with the Water Framework Directive; strengthening of the right of continuance for existing work in the Member States.

Deadline for amendments: 5 February

Adoption in ENVI: 27 February

Plenary: April I

5. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY & CO2 SEQUESTRATION

The Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)

EFG office has found interesting funding possibilities for projects on CO2 Sequestration. Please read the following information. The Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS): The research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (**RFCS**) is complementary to and managed **outside the Seventh Framework programme**. It supports research in the fields of coal and steel.

Within in this context, EFG Office has identified a Technical Group **TGC3: Coal combustion, clean and efficient coal technologies, CO2 capture**, which calls every year for projects. Participation is simple: proposals can be submitted **any time with a cut-off date of 15 September each year**. There is **no ceiling for project budget** or for the number of participating partners in each project. From a financial point of view, the research fund has a budget of approximately **60 M€ per year**.

An example of a coal & steel project co-financed by the RFCS 2003-2006 and related to CO2 capture is the following:

Assessment of options for CO2 capture and geological sequestration: ASSOCOGS

Budget: (2.974.984€)

Funding: (1.784.991€)

Duration: 45 (Mths)

State of progress: Research in progress.

Partners: E.ON UK, AUTH Greece, CERTH/ISFTA Greece, CERAMICS & REFRACTORIES TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY Greece, IMC GEOPHYSICS LTD UK, UNIV NOTTINGHAM UK and IVD Germany.

*Objectives and contents: The reduction in overall CO₂ emissions to atmosphere is a major goal of the Community. However, technical options for CO₂ capture from coal-fired power plants are not readily available. This project will improve understanding of the engineering (and hence financial) practicality of the three main technologies being assessed for CO₂ capture (pre-gasification, oxy-fuel combustion and absorption from flue gas) and analyse one of the most potentially attractive mechanisms for economic sequestration (**enhanced coal-bed methane**). Its successful completion will lead to a significant improvement in the ability of plant operators to assess the viability of abatement options potentially available to them.*

More information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/home.html>

6. HYDROGEOLOGY

Legislative Work

Water Quality

Co-decision - first reading

Consideration of draft report - continuation

The ENVI Committee will continue the examination of the draft report on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy (Anne Laperrouze, ALDE, France). The rapporteur insists on the need for pollution to be controlled at the source and to try to ensure coherence with the WFD. He tackles the issue of diffuse pollution and asks the Commission to establish common methodologies for guaranteeing an adequate level of protection while also avoiding distortions of competition. As the distinction between priority substances and other pollutants create confusion, the rapporteur suggests that these eight 'other pollutants' be reclassified as priority substances and, in view of their intrinsic effects, as priority hazardous substances. Amendments are also introduced in relation to port area and accidental pollution.

Deadline for amendments: 13 February

Adoption in ENVI: 21-22 March

Plenary: April

Events

Conference on Water Status Monitoring under the European Water Framework

Directive, 12-14 March 2007, Lille, France. In the light of the 2006-2007 milestone, the International Conference on Water Status Monitoring under the WFD will bring together key actors from the water sector, with focus on science and policy interactions. For more information: E-mail: maqi@WFDLille2007.org Web: <http://www.wfdlille2007.org/>

'Blue Gold - an awareness seminar on water management'. World Water day 2007 planned events, 18 March 2007, Burdwan, India. E-mail: dr.mainak@gmail.com

World Water Day Ceremony, FAO HQ, 22 March 2007, Rome, Italy. The event will take place at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in

Rome, Italy and will feature experts from around the globe who will address the subject of water scarcity. For more information: <http://www.unwater.org/wwd07/nfevents.html>

'Water Saving and Conservation Forum' – Congress. World Water day 2007 planned events, 22 March 2007, Bologna, Italy. For more information: Web: www.ermesambiente.it
E-mail: ecimatti@regione.emilia-romagna.it

'Safe Water for African Children' - Workshop & Campaign Launch - Safe Water For Africa Community Initiative. World Water day 2007 planned events, 22 March 2007, Abuja, Nigeria, E-mail: safewaterafrica@yahoo.com

'Restoration and Management of Perur Tank in Andhra Pradesh',- People Action Programme - Intellectuals Forum. World Water day 2007 planned events, 22 -25 March 2007, Andhra Pradesh, India. E-mail: kunuthursrinivasa@gmail.com

7. SOIL PROTECTION AND GEOHERITAGE

Legislative Work

EFG PE on Soil Protection and Geoheritage present amendments to the Proposal of Directive on Soil Protection

The EFG PE on Soil Protection and Geoheritage has prepared some reaction from the European Federation of Geologists 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 2004/35/EC (presented by the Commission)

Next 6 March, the coordinator of the PE and EFG Director Office will have a meeting with MEP to present the amendments. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you require any further information.

Hanneke van den Ancker, PE on Soil Protection and Geoheritage Coordinator,
E-mail Address(es):
juan.GenL@inter.nl.net

Publications

-Good Land Management may enhance Soil Depollution

Recently, German researchers have investigated to what extent different land management practices can help reduce the quantities of atmospheric nutrient loads. To this end, they measured the quantity of nutrients (nitrogen, calcium, potassium, magnesium and phosphorus) in German land before and after managing land by mowing, prescribed burning or sod-cutting. Overall, these findings highlight the importance of combining several management practices in order to maintain and preserve the structure of natural ecosystems.

Werner, Härdtle, et al., 2006. «Can management compensate for atmospheric nutrient deposition in heathland ecosystems?», Journal of Applied Ecology 43:759-769.
Contact: haerdtle@uni-lueneburg.de

-New Insights into Soil Erosion Prevention

Spanish researchers have recently monitored runoff and soil erosion under different aromatic plant covers in order to understand the effectiveness of the vegetation in protecting soil surfaces against erosion in comparison with bare-soils. Their analysis has been performed on the south eastern region of Spain, a region where aromatic and medicinal plants, such as thymus or lavender, are traditionally cultivated. Overall, the findings of this study provide new insights for sustainable land management and policy-making in areas where soil erosion is a real issue.

Durán Zuazo, V. H., et al., 2006. « **Soil-erosion and runoff prevention by plant covers in a mountainous area (se Spain): Implications for sustainable agriculture** ». Environmentalist 26:309-319. **Contact:** victorh.duran.ext@juntadeandalucia.es

Events

BELQUA, Workshop 2007

BELQUA, WORKSHOP 2007, 12 March, Brussels, Belgium. The BELQUA National Committee organizes its yearly scientific Workshop at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The Workshop aims to review current understanding and information; and to report progress in Quaternary research in Belgium and abroad.

For more information: Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences: Web: www.naturalsciences.be/geology E-mail: cecile.baeteman@naturalsciences.be

8. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

XSTRATA ZINC seeks a Project Geologist

Position:

Project Geologist

Black Star Open Cut

- Mount Isa Mines
- Residential in Mount Isa
- Excellent remuneration
- 13% Superannuation

A staff vacancy exists within the Technical Services department for a Project Geologist. This is a residential role which offers the successful candidate the opportunity to play an integral part in a large multidisciplinary team. Reporting to the Senior Mine Geologist, the successful applicant will be required to ensure the requisite geological information required for mine planning is acquired and interpreted in a safe, timely and cost effective manner.

The core responsibilities of the role are to:

- Provide leadership to geology staff on daily ore mining and grade control functions;
- Optimize the Black Star ore by accurately delineating ore and waste;
- Continuing to develop, implement and refine the grade control system and processes that include sampling and pit mapping and,
- Provide accurate and timely geological input into the Black Star mining process
- Administer the ore accounting process for the BSOC
- Ensure the highest quality blend of ore to the concentrator is achieved

The ideal candidate will have:

- 3 to 5 years Open Pit experience, working as part of an operational geological team.
- A working knowledge of MineSight and Acquire systems preferred.
- Ability to initiate, plan and deliver in an accurate and timely manner on a variety of operational & project tasks
- Well developed verbal and written communication skills

For more details on this role, we encourage you to call Jeff Moncrieff – BSOC Technical Services Manager on (07) 4744 2137. For information about Mount Isa, visit <http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/>
Applications close: Thursday, 15 March 2007

Post-Doctorate in Structural Geology related to Geothermal Energy

BRGM proposes a post-doctorate fellow position for one year for working in geothermal energy projects. We need a structural geologist with some skills in fractured reservoirs.

If you know some recent Ph.Thesis students, could you forward this announcement which describes (in French) the position.

<http://www2.brgm.fr/Emploi/Recrutement.htm>

Please send letter of motivation, CV, summary of your scientific works or thesis, and professional references, **before Thursday, 9 March 2007**, to :

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ou par e-mail : brgm.emploi@brgm.fr

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