

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS May 2007

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1. GENERAL NEWS

Future Events

-The European Federation of Geologists and the Italian National Council of Geologists have the pleasure to invite you to the International Conference on Natural Hazards, 25 May 2007, Rome.

The conference is entitled:

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

Natural hazards such as landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes and floods are geological and environmental phenomena occurring at irregular intervals and at varying intensity. Some regions are located in areas subjected to more risk than others, depending on factors such as geology, topography and proximity to hazard sources. The risk posed by a natural hazard is in direct proportion to the population vulnerable to the risk. However, the impact of natural hazards can be

mitigated, or in some cases even prevented.

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG), representing approximately 40.000 professional geologists in Europe, has established panels of experts on relevant issues with respect to the European agenda, predominantly to provide high quality advice to the European Commission and Parliament. The EFG panel of experts on natural hazards is proposing a one-day conference to bring together natural hazards experts, representatives from insurance companies, people responsible for land-use management and European and national policy-makers.

Italy was chosen as an appropriate location for this conference as a country which is affected by most of the natural hazards that occur in Europe, including floods, earthquakes, landslides, and coastal erosion.

The focus of the conference is to bring 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 be seed to new and improved approaches that should ultimately lead to reducing the risk and impact of natural hazards to our European society.

Attached you can find the draft agenda and the registration form to be sent to stampa@consigionazionalegeologi.it.

We look forward to welcoming you in Rome.

-A joint meeting of the Geological Society and the Geological Society of America: *Continental Tectonics and Mountain Building*, 12-19 May 2007, Ullapool, Wester Ross, NW Scotland, UK.

Conference Themes:

- Deformation systems in the continental lithosphere
- The role of localised vs distributed strain during mountain building
- Kinematic studies of mountain belts
- Experimentation, modelling and field approaches to understanding orogenesis
- Structural inheritance and reactivation

- Rheology of continental lithosphere
- Fault zone processes
- Highlands's controversies: historical perspectives for on going debates.

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

News

-4 Kidnapped Geologists were released in El Chocó, Colombia

EFG would like to inform you that on the day Tuesday 2 March, 4 geologists were released but 1 is currently still missing.

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 this Geologist kidnapped in Colombia. If you would like to express your support write an email to: socogeo@sociedadcolombianadegeología.org

2. ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

Future Events

-Coastal Sediment's 07: 6th Technical Specialty Conference on Coastal Sediments, 13-17 May 2007, New Orleans, USA

Coastal Engineering and Science in Cascading Spatial and Temporal Scales

The Coastal Sediments 07 conference is the sixth in the series following the inaugural conference in 1977. The Coastal Sediments technical specialty conferences provide an international forum for exchange of information among coastal engineers, geologists, marine scientists, shallow-water oceanographers, and others interested in the physical processes of coastal sediment transport and morphology change.

More information: E-mail: copri@asce.org

3. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Call for Proposals

-The European Commission has published the first annual work programme of the new Intelligent Energy – Europe II (2007-13). EFG office members have participated in the European Intelligent Energy Info Day, 19 April 2007, Brussels.

Download and read this document to find out which actions may be funded, this year's priorities, the requirements to apply, the evaluation criteria used to select the best proposals, and the available budgets. Available in English, French and German.

The deadline for submitting proposals will be **28 September 2007**

Minimum number of partners 3 associations, and 3 countries

Budget: 55 million Euro.

Up to 75% of the eligible project costs will be supported.

Action for EFG PE: action 6, heating and cooling geothermal energy.

Type of project: dissemination, training and networking.

It is a good opportunity to collaborate with CGE, and other associations.

Efg office attended the Intelligent Energy II - European Info Day, 19 April 2007, Brussels. We have identified and extracted, in the work programme, the following information that could be interesting for the PE on Geothermal Energy & CO2 Sequestration.

ALTENER: NEW AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Renewable energy sources (RES) are becoming more competitive, and policies supporting the use of RES are making the manufacture and supply of RE technologies, as well as the production of bioenergy resources (biomass and biofuels) more attractive as business opportunities.

The 1997 White Paper on Renewable Energy¹ set the context for the EU policy and legislative framework that has been put in place for the renewable energy sector in recent years, and this has recently been up-dated in the 2007 energy package^{2,3}.

For heating and cooling, there is not yet any EU legislation aiming specifically to maximise the uptake of RES (biomass, solar and geothermal), but the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD)⁴, the Directive for the promotion of cogeneration⁵, and the Biomass Action Plan are all helpful.

ALTENER projects may include one or more of the following Key Actions:

- **ACTION N° 6 Renewable energy heating/cooling (RES-H/C)**, to promote greater use of biomass, solar and geothermal heating and cooling, especially in buildings and industry.

Legislative Information

1. *Energy for the future: renewable sources of energy. White Paper and action plan COM (97) 599 26.11.1997.*
2. *An energy policy for Europe COM (2007)1 final 10.01.2007*
3. *Renewable energy roadmap COM (2006)848 final 10.01.2007*
4. *DIRECTIVE 2002/91/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 December 2002 on the energy performance of buildings, Official Journal of the European Communities.*
5. *Directive 2004/8/EC of 11 February 2004 on the promotion of cogeneration based on useful heat demand in the internal energy market and amending Directive 92/42.EEC*

Call for proposals download page:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/call_library_en.htm

Call homepage:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm

Info Day proceedings and national info day list:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/events/infodays_en.htm

Intelligent Energy News Review Download page:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/library/publications_en.htm

Future Events

-Geothermal Resource Assessment & Exploitation Course, 3 May 2007, Dublin, Ireland.

GT Skills are holding a series of training days in 2007 concerned with the installation of geothermal wells, ground source heat pumps and other aspects of geothermal energy, leading to a certificate. The May 3rd training day will include Site Assessment, Renewable Technology Comparison, and Resource Exploitation. It will be held at the CSA Group Ltd offices at Windy Arbour.

A similar version of this course will be repeated later in Cork and possibly at a venue in the Midlands. And it will be followed a few weeks later by **Course on Geothermal Systems, District Heating and Green Buildings.**

GT Skills is an Accel funded training course run from the CSA group offices by Gareth Ll. Jones and John Colthurst. Because of the funding regime, the course is only open to employees of limited companies. For further information contact gtskills@csa.ie or phone 01-2964667 and visit the website www.gtskills.ie.

The Geothermal Skills Accel Project is funded by member companies, the European Social Fund and the National Development Plan.

News

- The Renewable Energy Regions Network (RENREN)

This network was launched on 17 April 2007, Brussels, and it is based in the co-operation between local administrations and companies on biomass, wind, oceans, solar, geothermal and hydro-energy. The regions and countries included are Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), Oberösterreich (Austria), North Sweden and Wales (UK), Iceland and Cyprus. They were selected because their expertise in the above renewable areas.

RENREN aims to exchange best practice and enhance the collaborations between regional administrations, private companies and general public.

For more information EurActiv source article: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/six-european-regions-launch-renewable-energy-network/article-163270>

4. PE NATURAL HAZARDS & CLIMATE VARIATION

Future Events

-Information Day - ICT for Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency (ICT for Disaster Management), 21 May 2007, Prague, Czech Republic.

In the context of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities, a second call for proposals related to cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) will be launched in 2007 (Call FP7-ICT-2007-2) to address several challenges and objectives including ICT applications in the field environmental management and energy efficiency.

The first objective of this Information Day will be to present the research topics for which proposals will be called for in 2007 in the field of *ICT for Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency* ([Objective ICT-2007.6.3](#)), to understand available research instruments and get guidelines on how to submit a proposal. Focus will be on research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation with the aim to gain or consolidate European leadership.

The second aim will be for researchers active in this field to network and discuss possible research ideas in relation to the call. The participants will be given the possibility to make short PowerPoint presentations (max. 5 min, common template) in view of networking.

For more information, please visit:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/events6-20070521_en.html

5. RESOURCES AND RESERVES: MINERALS

Future Events

-First pan-European Minerals Day, Explore the world of minerals, 11-13 May 2007.

This is an excellent opportunity for the public at large to find out more about the world of minerals and how they are mined and processed. The European Minerals Day fits in the scope of the International Year of Planet Earth in 2008, for which initiatives are being scheduled from 2007 through 2009. The European Minerals Day will feature a broad range of events which will typically include quarry and plant visits, demonstrations of equipment, presentations of health and safety standards at work and the different phases of the quarry's life (planning, extraction and land restoration), geological tours, school and youth projects, nature protection projects, fossil hunts, activities for children, concerts, fireworks and exhibitions.

The European Minerals Day is coordinated at European level by IMA-Europe in association with EuLA, and on member state level by many trade associations. The initiative is also supported by EMCEF (trade union) and welcomed by the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and other extractive industry sectors.

The program of events and list of participating companies can be viewed at www.mineralsday.eu. For more information, please contact a.langedijk@ima-eu.org.

6. PUBLICATIONS

Geoheritage

-Les plus beaux rochers de wallonie. Géologie et petite histoire, by Léon DEJONGHE & Florence JUMEAU

In Wallonia (half south part of Belgium), the landscape is the result of the interaction both of the differential erosional processes on a great variety of sedimentary- and low-metamorphic rocks and a long and complex geological story. Today, incised valleys of the main rivers (Meuse, Ourthe, Lesse, Semois, Amblève), karstic phenomenon and human activity, gives us spectacular

pits of rock on which legends and local stories are anchored.

The quality of production is high with clear illustrations ranging from topographic maps, field photographs (landscapes and details of sedimentary, deformational and erosional features). A lot of sketches help the reader to understand different mechanisms like cleavage, fractures and joints, faults and folds, paleoenvironmental reconstructions, synthetic vertical section, archaeology, mining activity, history, etc. The authors have combined to produce a lively and readable text, a comprehensive list of figures, an index and a map of place names, a glossary and a strictly selected bibliography (both directly related to each geological and compiled at the end of the book) guiding the reader step to step.

Book review by Eric Goemaere ¹

Published by the geological Survey of Belgium

Hardbound, ISBN: 978-2-9600676-0-6

Date: 2007, 358 pages

Language: French

¹ : Eric GOEMAERE is senior geologist of the Geological Survey of Belgium, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium.

CO2 Sequestration

-“Comparison of carbon capture and storage with renewable energies technologies regarding structural, economic, and ecological aspects in Germany “

In the context of prospective scenarios for renewable energies and carbon capture and storage, the use of fossil fuels and especially coal in power generation is responsible for major carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. In this regard, capturing and storing the CO₂ generated during the combustion of coal in underground geological reservoirs is a very attractive solution. At present there are still questions regarding safety, feasibility, as well as ecological and economic implications of CCS. Prospective scenarios were assessed following a life cycle analysis methodology which consisted in analysing resource consumption and emissions occurring during the whole life cycle of such a power plant; from the extraction of raw materials, their transport and processing, building and using the plant and then dismantling and final disposal. The authors

conclude that even if there are many uncertainties in the scenarios that have been considered, these results show one possible development path under specific assumptions considered as the most likely ones.

Viebahn P. et al. (2007). Comparison of carbon capture and storage with renewable energies technologies regarding structural, economic, and ecological aspects in Germany, International Journal Of Greenhouse Gas Control, doi: 10.1016/S1750-5836(07)00024-2

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Hydrogeology

-Facing Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources

A report recently published by the European Environment Agency has addressed climate change and water adaptation issues. The researchers first reviewed the observed and projected changes in water resources driven by climatic conditions. Then, using a policy analysis at European level, and a survey, the report evaluates the implications of the need to adapt to climate change for water resource policy and regulation across Europe, assesses the strengths and weaknesses of current policies and regulations, and describes progress and activities in European countries.

According to the report, climate change can affect the quantitative and qualitative status of water resources by altering hydrological cycles and systems, which in turn, can affect the intensity and frequency of floods and droughts, water availability and demand, and water quality, including temperature and nutrient content. Overall, this report highlights that existing adaptive measures are not sufficient and that further policy efforts are still needed to better adapt to the expected climate change effects on water resources.

European Environmental Agency, 2007. Climate change and water adaptation issues, Technical report No 2/2007, Copenhagen, Denmark.

For more information and free download:

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2007_2/en (p. 114, 2007).

7. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

-Brought by IAEH - the International Association for Environmental Hydrology, 24 April 2007.

- 1 - Hydrology Jobs - Postdoc - Oregon State
- 2 - Hydrogeology Jobs - Assoc Prof - Groundwater Hydrology
- 3 - Hydrogeology Jobs - Postdoc - Ohio State
- 4 - Hydrology Jobs - Hydraulic Engineer
- 5 - Hydrology Jobs - Project Design Engineer
- 6 - Hydrogeology Jobs - Senior Mine Hydrogeologist
- 7 - Hydrology Jobs - Engineers-Modelers
- 8 - 2007 World Water Week
- 9 - New Version of the HydroKit HEC-Kit Package
- 10 - Post jobs at hydrology-jobs.com

For more information click here:

<http://www.hydroweb.com/HydroNews/hydrology-news-89.html>

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

