

PRESS RELEASE: Conclusion of the OneGeology-Europe Project

EUROPEAN GEOLOGY WITHOUT FRONTIERS

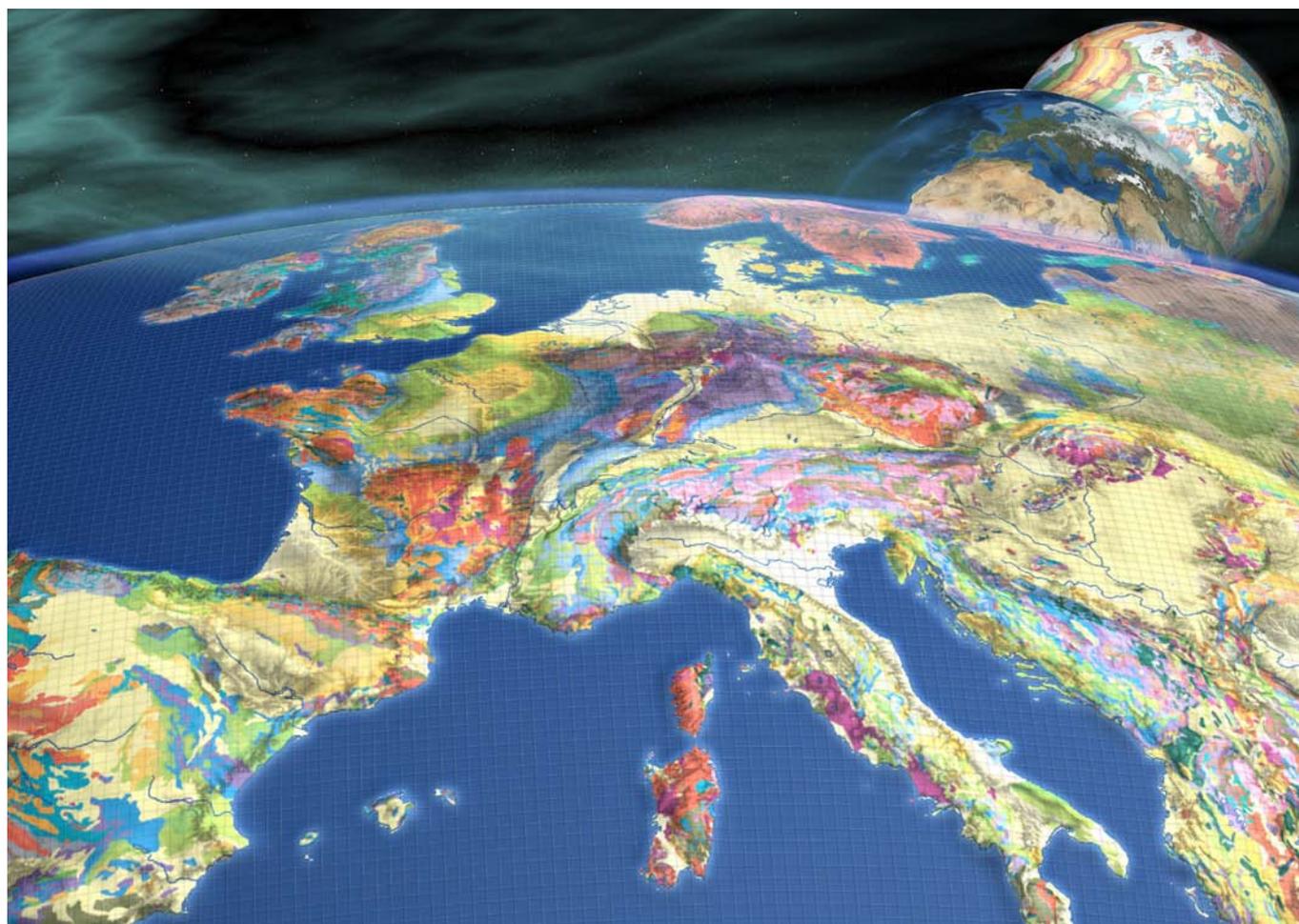
ON LINE ONEGEOLOGY-EUROPE: THE FIRST SHAREABLE MULTILINGUAL EUROPEAN WEB PORTAL

*Maison de L'Amérique Latine
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Progress on a continental scale in preventing natural disasters, exploring for resources and identifying risks to human health!

OneGeology-Europe, **the first ever multilingual and digital geological map of Europe**, is on-line.

The new portal provides a comprehensive overview of Europe's subsurface. It improves land use planning at a European level and lets citizens discover their own country's geology, and that of their European neighbours too.



The OneGeology-Europe project was instigated and led by the UK's British Geological Survey. The project started in 2008 and is co-financed by the European Commission (2.6 million euro). It has built a system to make geological map data **freely available on the internet to anyone**, thanks to a ground-breaking one click licensing agreement by all 21 nations. The project also tackled the enormous challenge of **harmonising decades of scientific data from 21 different Member States**, and joined the geology of our old continent through **one single computing language**. **All the data are "interoperable"**, which means that users whoever they are, wherever they are and whatever computing system they use, can now share digital geological map data.

Today, with only a standard web browser and regardless of location, one click of the mouse on the area of interest is enough to obtain geological information in more than 12 languages. This removes a major barrier which previously made access to transnational environmental information extremely difficult.

The extractive industry, institutions, insurance companies, engineers or European citizens can now view data related to rocks across the continent. The project has also prepared the way for maps of the highest national resolution (50 metres) to be placed on-line.

"Geology and rocks don't respect man-made political frontiers – says Ian Jackson, who coordinated the project – and nor do the environmental problems and natural resources that go with them. With our changing climate – he continues – there is an even more urgent need for Europe and its citizens to have coherent and comprehensive data about our environment, easily and freely available to those who need it".

The European Environment Agency will be the first institution to exploit the exciting potential offered by OneGeology-Europe, thanks to an agreement with EuroGeoSurveys'. **The Agency will have available, for the first time, the capability to assess at a continental scale** solutions to problems such as floods, habitat protection, coastal erosion and pollution.

The availability of Europe-wide data provides a springboard for technological breakthroughs, **making geology to cross not just European territorial borders, but also technological ones**: the information can even be made directly accessible via mobile phones.

"This project has taken cutting edge internet mapping technology and standards – François Robida, one of the technical leaders of the project explains – and applied it to geological data distributed across a whole continent. It is the first example of a multi-national deployment of environmental data on this scale. Making available geological data like this opens up a host of possibilities – some of which are already in train – including a geological App for your mobile phone!"

To complement the internet development, the team have also produced a richly illustrated book, *One Europe One Geology*, which describes the use and application of geological knowledge across our continent.

– Ends –

NOTES to EDITORS

Onegeology-Europe Project

OneGeology-Europe is a project funded under the European Commission's eContentplus programme for 2008 – Best Practice Networks: Geographic information. The overarching objectives of the eContentplus programme are to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable, facilitating the creation and diffusion of information, in areas of public interest, at Community level. The eContentplus programme is intended to have an enabling role.

OneGeology-Europe has 28 partners from 21 European nations. 20 of these partners are national geological surveys, 7 are users of geological information and one partner organisation is expert in the legal aspects of digital data. A list of the participants is included in an Annex.

One of the prime aims of OneGeology-Europe has been to test and advance the implementation of a new European Directive – INSPIRE – which was brought into force in May 2009. This EC Directive requires each Member State to make available and share Public Sector spatial environmental data to enable better delivery of policy and actions across Europe.

The OneGeology-Europe web portal can be accessed at <http://onegeology-europe.brgm.fr/geoportal>.

There is an illustrated book describing the project: *One Europe One Geology*. ISBN 978-0-85272-668-6. Copies supplied on request.

A variety of graphics and images from OneGeology-Europe, covering the data, the internet portal and the applications of geological knowledge can also be provided.

For media enquiries please contact:

Sarah Nice
British Geological Survey
Nottingham NG12 5GG
+44 115 936 3605
sebr@bgs.ac.uk

Onegeology-Europe Press Office

onegeology-europe@isprambiente.it

Tel. +39.06.5007.2042/2261/2923 – Mob. +32.473.760058