



Initiative **LOOKING FORWARD**

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever, with nearly €80 billion of funding available to secure Europe's global competitiveness in the period 2014-2020. In response to the EU's unprecedented interest in raw materials and a broad range of associated geoscience-related topics, EFG has formulated the present Initiative designed to promote the active involvement of EFG's national member associations in H2020 and other EU programmes. With the help of the Initiative EFG intends to tap into the unique knowledge base represented by over 50,000 professional geoscientists in Europe. This Initiative has the following objectives:

- Increase the awareness of EFG's national member associations of the funding possibilities offered by H2020;
- Promote the involvement of EFG's national member associations in H2020 projects;
- Represent the interest of its national members and professional geoscientists within on-going and future EU programmes;
- Increase the influence of EFG and its members in H2020;
- Evaluate the implementation of H2020 at regular intervals and make suggestions for the inclusion of new geoscience topics.

The direct participation of EFG in these projects will be shaped by two key drivers: the projects must draw in EFG Members (i.e., they must involve the National Associations and EurGeols); and they must have a positive or neutral impact on EFG's budget. The EFG Board has decided to target Horizon 2020 projects connected to the following themes/actions:

1. Public policies
 - a. Improve policy makers' and EC officials' knowledge of the geosciences;
 - b. Enhance and harmonise permitting procedures and data reporting systems at the EU level, based on best global practices;
2. Raw materials and energy
 - a. Develop the EU's mineral and energy knowledge base;
 - b. Enhance the key role of geoscientists in the sustainable supply of raw materials and energy;
 - c. Develop "raw materials diplomacy" in Europe;
 - d. Reinforce competent persons' role in minerals reporting
3. Groundwater and environment protection
 - a. Ensure the sustainable exploration and exploitation of European groundwater bodies;
 - b. Develop management tools for transnational groundwater bodies;
 - c. Enhance the key role of geoscientists in land use management and mitigation of natural disasters;
 - d. Enhance best practices in environmental impact assessment;
4. Professional mobility and education
 - a. Improve European citizens' knowledge of the geosciences;
 - b. Reinforce geoscience education at elementary and secondary school levels;
 - c. Develop educational and skills programmes;
 - d. Reinforce the recognition of the EurGeol title in Europe and improve professional mobility in accordance with the Qualifications Directive.

The existing network of the National Members of EFG covers 24 European countries, from the Atlantic to the Urals. This network has the potential to add substantial value to European projects and could be mobilised for scientific/professional contributions, awareness raising and disseminating project outcomes in each country. The budget for the involvement of National Members will be secured directly from the EU grant application, and will be on a 100% funding rate, unless previously agreed otherwise.

The outcomes of the Initiative:

The participation of the National Associations (voluntary and much welcome) in this Initiative will ensure:

1. Stronger bonds between EFG, the National Associations and European citizens;
2. Improved competences of EFG and the National Associations in communicating the geosciences to different audiences;
3. Reinforced credibility of EFG and the National Associations within EU institutions and among policy makers.