



FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES GÉOLOGUES  
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS  
FEDERACIÓN EUROPEA DE GEÓLOGOS

**EFG - The voice of European Geologists**



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**1. EFG News and News from EFG Members**

**EFG:**



**Workshop Mining in a crowded country & EFG Council, Newcastle, UK, 11-14 June 2015.**

Mining is at the heart of the North of England's history and development, probably dating back to Roman times. It was here that the steam engine was first widely used on railways, and here that the Davy safety lamp was first demonstrated, alongside that developed by Stephenson. Coal dominates the long history of mining, with lead and more recently fluorspar important in the hills behind Newcastle, and now potash from a deep mine in North Yorkshire. Yet this is a heavily populated region, with differing views about land use and the acceptability of mining in the 21st Century. This workshop discusses future prospects for mining in the region, and explores in the field the legacy of metal mining in the North Pennines as well as current good practice in meeting modern environmental standards in coal mining.

Subsequent to the workshop that is co-organised by GSL and EFG, the annual EFG summer Council meeting will be held at Newcastle.

More information: <http://eurogeologists.eu/workshop-mining/> and <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/efg15>



Programme co-funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**

### **INTRAW project Kick-off meeting.**

On 10 and 11 February 2015, the INTRAW project consortium held its Kick-off meeting in Brussels. INTRAW is a three-year EU funded project in the framework of the Horizon2020 programme. The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) is the coordinator of a consortium of 15 partners from different countries including Australia, United States and South Africa. Most of EFG's members are also part of the consortium as EFG third parties. INTRAW project aims to map and develop new cooperation opportunities related to raw materials in Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States, addressing:

- Research and innovation;
- Raw materials policies and strategies;
- Joint educational and skills programmes;
- Licensing and permitting procedures;
- Data reporting systems;
- Exploration, extraction, processing and recycling practices;
- Management and substitution of Critical Raw Materials.

The outcome of the mapping and knowledge transfer activities will be used as a baseline to set and launch the European Union's International Observatory for Raw Materials.

More information will soon be available at:

[www.intraw.eu](http://www.intraw.eu)

### **EAGE/EFG photo contest "Geoscientists at work"**

Are you a member of one of EFG's 24 national membership associations? Then participate in the EAGE/EFG photo contest and submit your photo on "Geoscientists at work" by **1 March 2015** to [photocontest@houseofgeoscience.org](mailto:photocontest@houseofgeoscience.org)! You may submit up to 2 photos in the following categories:

- Education & training
- Landscapes & environment
- Fieldwork
- Energy

Please note that we especially expect your numerous entries for the categories "Education & training" & "Energy"!

Great prizes will be awarded to the top 3 winners and the Top 12 photos will be displayed at several events all over Europe.

More information: <http://houseofgeoscience.org/photocontest>

**Geologiliitto, Finland:**



**PERC Short course: Towards reliable mineral resources reporting, Helsinki, Finland, 13 March 2015.**

A short course on "Best practice for Assessment and Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves" based on compliance with the PERC Reporting Standard 2013 will be held in Helsinki on 13 March 2015.

Full information is available [here](#).

To register for this course, please fill in the form at <https://geologilitto.wordpress.com>.

## 2. General

### European Institutions:



**EU survey on Earth observation in a global context.**

Aiming at improving Earth observations, the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) provides a framework where governments and international organisations can develop new projects and coordinate their strategies and investments. GEO's main role is to develop and implement a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), which aims to facilitate discovery, access and integration of global Earth observations in order to improve environmental decision-making. Through this EU public consultation, the European Commission is actively seeking contributions by all those in Europe interested in the global context of Earth observation in order to help:

- estimate general awareness of and stance on Earth observations (EO), GEO and GEOSS;
- appreciate how to maximize EU benefits from an increased Earth observation coordination through GEO;
- collect views on a set of possible actions at EU level in the field of global Earth observation and GEO.

Contributions are expected until **20 April 2015**.

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey>



**Views special issue on the Energy Union.**

Energy journalist Hughes Belin investigates the prospects of the Energy Union strategy and its governance structure, ahead of the European Commission's official presentation on 25 February.

More information: <http://www.views.eu>

### Events:



### **International Earth Science Olympiad - IESO 2015, September 2015, Brazil.**

The next edition of the International Earth Science Olympiad will take place at Poços de Caldas, Minas Gerais state, Brazil. IESO is an international science competition for school students (15-19 years) that are selected at national level and represent their country. IESO is not only competition, it is also about cooperation. The organizer prepare several activities where the students collaborate with international teams to solve Earth science questions. Among European countries only Austria, Belarus, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Russia and Ukraine participate regularly so far. Portugal will participate for the first time this year. The organisers invite everybody to collaborate in order to increase European participation.

More information: [www.ieso-info.org](http://www.ieso-info.org) / Roberto Greco: [greco@ige.unicamp.br](mailto:greco@ige.unicamp.br)

## **3. Minerals**

### **Events:**



### **Pushing boundaries beyond - Circular by 2020? Dublin, Ireland, 9 March 2015.**

Euromines, the European Association of Mining Industries, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals, convenes an international conference on new technologies and policy approaches for a future mining industry in Europe.

More information: <http://www.euromines.org>



### **ERA-MIN Stakeholder Conference Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 17-18 March 2015.**

The next ERA-MIN Stakeholder Conference will be held in Berlin on 17 and 18 March 2015 (with an optional field trip on 19 March). ERA-MIN is a network of European organisations owning and/or managing research programs on raw materials. It is currently comprising 19 partners from 15 countries. The number of partners is set to increase over the project's lifetime to form a major network for the European non-energy mineral raw materials research community (ENERC).

More information and registration: <http://www.era-min-eu.org>



### **COBALT Closing Conference "Sustainable raw materials management in Europe - Fostering stakeholder dialogue to deliver on the future", Brussels, Belgium, 23-24 March 2015.**

The closing conference will bring together experts and perspectives from industry and business, policy making, civil society, academia and geological surveys to describe thematic challenges, facing industry and society and discuss how stakeholder engagement would best be shaped to be part of the solution. Participants will exchange in keynote presentations, panel and interactive

roundtable discussions and workshop formats on the challenges, needs and solutions in relation to

- Sustainable primary raw materials extraction
- Secondary raw material management
- Product and Eco-design

More information: <http://www.cobalt-fp7.eu>

### Consultations:



#### **Consultation: research & innovation activities relating to raw materials**

In the context of the [European Innovation Partnership \(EIP\) on raw materials](#), the European Commission is undertaking an online survey to get an overview on all ongoing and recently completed research and innovation activities (e.g. programmes, projects) related to raw materials. The EIP in its Strategic Implementation Plan. The survey consists of a short section of general questions about the programme or project and a specific section of tailor-made questions depending on the nature of the programme or project, following the structure of the EIP's priority areas:

- Raw materials research and innovation coordination
- Technologies for primary and secondary raw materials production
- Substitution of raw materials
- Improving Europe's raw materials framework conditions
- Improving Europe's waste management framework conditions and excellence
- Knowledge, skills and raw materials flows
- International cooperation

The deadline for participating in this survey is 11 March 2015.

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/raw-materials>

#### **Asia Pacific Stock Exchange (APX) consultation.**

APX has recently released a consultation paper on new listing rules for the mining, oil and gas (MOG) sectors. It is APX's intention to establish a fully-fledged MOG framework, allowing it to admit domestic and international mining, oil and gas companies to its Official List. The rules will establish a new, alternate listing venue for mining, oil and gas companies and bring further competition to the listings market in Australia and Asia. The proposed mining, oil and gas rules will be aligned with current Australian and international market best practice. Consultation will end on 20 February 2015.

More information: <http://www.apx.com.au>

### **Calls for expression of interest:**

### **Call for Ideas - Pilot / demonstration projects HORIZON 2020 - Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials.**

As part of the work programme 2016-2017 of the societal challenge 5 "Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials" (SC5) of the Horizon 2020 framework programme, the European Commission intends to open calls for large-scale pilot/demonstration projects.

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu>

### **Third ERA-MIN Joint Call (2015).**

A 3<sup>rd</sup> ERA-MIN joint call has been launched for 2015 on the basis of the topics and rules of the previous joint call, addressing research on the entire value chain of non-energy raw materials (non-energy primary and secondary raw materials, recycling and substitution). The countries which have committed to the third Joint Call are: Argentina, Finland, France, Hungary, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey. Funding organizations from other European countries or regions, as well as non-European countries are also invited to join.

Deadline for applicants is 19 May 2015.

More information: <http://www.era-min-eu.org/about/era-min-joint-call>

## **4. Hydrogeology**

### **Events:**

#### **2015 EWA Spring Days - Budapest Water Conference, Budapest, Hungary, 4-6 March 2015.**

This three-day event will provide a timely opportunity for public and private sector decision-makers, water utility professionals, experts and other stakeholders from the developed and the developing world to exchange views and share experiences with leading international experts on the most pressing challenges and potential solutions in the field urban water management.

More information: [www.budapestwater.org](http://www.budapestwater.org)

#### **4th EC Water Conference, Brussels, Belgium, 23-24 March 2015.**

The European Commission's DG Environment is organising the 4th European Water Conference on 23-24 March 2015, the day after World Water Day. On this occasion, representatives from Member States, stakeholders and the European Commission will have the opportunity to debate about the following key topics:

- Experiences from the first cycle of implementation of the WFD, achievements and lessons learned
- The European Commission's assessment of the implementation of the WFD programmes of measures
- Preparations and expectations for the second River Basin Management Plans
- Experiences so far in the implementation of the Floods Directive, including the preparation of the Flood Hazard and Risk Maps and the Flood Risk Management Plans
- Integration issues: links between water policy and agriculture, energy, and navigation policies
- Opportunities to support water policy under the new financing period 2014-2020 (Rural Development Programmes, Operational Programmes, etc.)
- The role of water policy in the context of Green and Blue Growth

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

## 5. Renewable Energy

### Events:

#### **Energy & Materials Research Conference - EMR2015, Madrid, Spain, 25-27 February 2015.**

EMR2015 will bring together researchers and professionals from a broad set of science and engineering disciplines with the aim of sharing on the latest developments and advances in materials and processes involved in energy generation.

More information: <http://emr2015.org/>



#### **GeoTHERM, Offenburg, Germany, 5-6 March 2015.**

GeoTHERM is today one of the biggest events within the geothermal industry. Around 200 exhibitors will present their products at the trade fair. Moreover the event offers a congress programme with two parallel lectures on both Shallow and Deep Geothermal Energy.

More information: [www.geotherm-germany.com](http://www.geotherm-germany.com)

## 6. Natural Hazards

### Events:

#### **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai City, Miyagi, Japan, 14-18 March 2015.**

A draft programme for this conference is now available at:

<http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads>

More information: <http://www.wcdrr.org/>

#### **Adaptation futures 2016: 4th International climate change adaptation conference, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 10-13 May 2016.**

Adaptation Futures is the biennial conference of the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA). In 2016, the European Commission and the Government of the Netherlands will co-host the fourth edition. Adaptation Futures 2016 is where scholars, practitioners and policymakers go to connect, learn and inspire. It highlights adaptation practices and solutions for people, governments and businesses. The programme will address all sectors and all parts of the world, with a special focus on urban and coastal areas.

More information: <http://www.adaptationfutures2016.org/>

### Publications:

#### **Study on Rainfall Erosivity in Europe.**

The erosive force of rainfall is expressed as 'rainfall erosivity', which takes into account the rainfall amount and intensity. The study resulted in a Rainfall Erosivity Database at European Scale (REDES) and a rainfall Erosivity map at 500m grid cell resolution for the European Union (EU) and Switzerland. The scarce availability of high-temporal resolution data obliges soil erosion modellers to estimate this factor based on rainfall data with only low temporal resolution (daily, monthly, annual averages). The purpose of this study was to assess rainfall erosivity in Europe using a model based on the best available datasets. Data were collected from 1 541 precipitation stations in all EU Member States and Switzerland, with temporal resolutions of 5 to 60 min.

The model used showed a very good performance, with some prediction uncertainty in northern Scandinavia, the west of Ireland, Scotland, the high Alps and parts of

Spain due to the low number of stations and high diversity of environmental features. The Mediterranean and Alpine regions were found to have the highest rainfall erosivity values, while Scandinavian countries were found to have the lowest.

Rainfall erosivity in Europe is a key parameter for estimating soil loss and soil erosion risk, but the use of this dataset can be widely extended to other applications: landslide risk assessment, flood risk forecasting, post-fire conservation measures, ecosystem modelling, agricultural management and design of crop rotation scenarios.

The data is available for download: <http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

### **Science for Environment Policy - Thematic issue on Coastal zones.**

Issue 46 of Science for Environment Policy is dedicated to the management of Coastal zones. Linking land and the sea, coastal zones are unique areas, highly diverse in species, habitats and ecosystems and very important to human activities. But there is a mounting stress on these valuable ecosystems from economic, social and environmental pressures. This Thematic Issue presents key pieces of research that demonstrate tools and experiences for achieving more sustainable coastal ecosystems, and highlights that policy action must continue to strive for significantly improved management.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

## **7. Oil and Gas**

### **Events:**



#### **Shale UK 2015, London, UK, 4-5 March 2015.**

Organised on behalf of The Geological Society, the 2nd Shale UK Conference combines expert analysis and views from industry, government and academia.

The 2015 programme will feature the latest research findings and technical developments, drawing on lessons from the US on how geosciences can enable better understanding of the challenges and empower better decision making. Confirmed speakers are now available.

More information: <http://www.shaleuk.com>

### **Consultations:**

#### **Shale gas in a low-carbon Europe: the role of research, Brussels, Belgium, 23 February 2015.**

The objective of this conference is to facilitate an exchange of views on the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of shale gas exploration and exploitation, and how research and innovation can provide the input for a science-based policy in this field.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research>

#### **DG Energy: Consultation on the list of proposed Projects of Common Interest.**

The objective of this consultation is to seek the public's views on the need for a gas or electricity project from an EU energy policy perspective bringing together security of supply, market integration, competition and sustainability.

The deadline for participating in this consultation is **13 March 2015**.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy>

### **Publications:**

### **Oil spills could be cleaned up by bacteria from underground petroleum reserves.**

According to recent research, bacteria taken from underground petroleum reserves could be used to effectively break down crude oil from spills at sea. The study measured the breakdown of crude oil components in simulated seawater by four bacterial strains that had been isolated from petroleum reservoirs, as well as by four genetically modified strains. The findings raise the possibility of tailor-making organisms to clean up specific types of contamination.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

## **8. CCS**

### **Publications:**

#### **EU paper calls for binding CCS targets by 2030.**

According to a new report produced by consultants for the European Commission, European countries should be given binding targets for installing technology to capture and store carbon emissions.

More information:

<http://www.euractiv.com>

## **9. Jobs and Training**

### **Jobs:**

#### **Postdoc (f/m) Natural-, Environmental-, Geosciences / NMR at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany.**

#### **Job content:**

- MR relaxometry and imaging experiments on natural soil cores from TR32 test sites with the aim of identification of different water flow domains
- these NMR data in combination with other soil physical methods should be used for the derivation of soil physical parameters which will be implemented in a model for the prediction of water fluxes under natural conditions.
- coordination with on-site NMR investigations performed by RWTH Aachen on the test fields
- cooperation with other partial projects of TR32
- publication in international scientific journals and presentation on national and international meetings

More information and application: <http://www.fz-juelich.de>

For more information on jobs and training possibilities please visit the [EFG website](#). You will also find there an updated list of job vacancy platforms all over Europe.

We hope you enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter and would be pleased to receive your comments, feedback or information on events relevant to the geological profession in Europe. The deadline for submitting news items for the next issue of GeoNews is the **5th of March 2015**.

Best wishes,  
EFG Office

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