



Roadmap for a European volcanological infrastructure within EPOS

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During the last decades the European volcanological community substantially contributed to the growth of Volcanology and, in a broad sense, of the Earth Sciences. The European volcanological research and monitoring infrastructures have achieved a valuable know-how, based on both the large amount of multidisciplinary data sets acquired at the different observatories and on the important results of scientific projects carried out within national programs and in European Framework projects. However, the current distribution and technological state of the art of the volcano observatories in Europe is heterogeneous due to the different types of volcanoes, scientific background in the different volcanic areas and social requirements. Similarly, volcanological research centres are heterogeneously distributed and, in general up until now, truly coordinated initiatives, involving the whole European volcanological community (as, for instance, has been achieved in the seismological community), are lacking.

EPOS represents a unique opportunity for covering this gap by encouraging the creation of a real European volcanological scientific infrastructure. Within the EPOS Preparatory Phase, Working Group 2 has the task of defining the roadmap to integrate European Volcano Observatories. One of the first aims of the WG is to promote networking of the observatories, to both strengthen and share the technological level of the current infrastructures and to achieve the minimum goal of deploying one observatory in each active volcanic region, in order to have an efficient and effective volcanic monitoring system at the European level to respond to volcanic crises. This objective will lead to the creation of truly homogeneous European multidisciplinary data sets, which is the necessary prerequisite for enabling the integration of the volcanological research infrastructures at the European level.

The presently existing volcanological infrastructures in Europe, their strengths and deficiencies will be summarized and initial ideas for the roadmap presented.