



## **CGS Europe – A pan-European coordination action on CO<sub>2</sub> Geological Storage**

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The EU has made significant progress in CCS as a bridging technology for combating climate change, but this must now accelerate and be spread evenly throughout EU Member States and Associated Countries. This means supporting the 10-12 large-scale demos in Europe from all possible angles, so as to promote commercial deployment from 2020. In this context, the CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet, CO<sub>2</sub>NET EAST and ENeRG networks are joining forces, pooling their expertise and building on their networking experience to form CGS Europe, a unique concerted European reference point on CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

The CO<sub>2</sub> Geological Storage (CGS) part of the CCS chain deserves special attention because of its site-specific and delicate nature (wide range of scientific aspects, regulations still being developed, necessity to guarantee safety and efficiency over at least 1000 years, not yet fully proven, local acceptance issues, etc.). In this context, a three-year Coordination Action, CGS Europe, was launched on 1st November 2010. Financed by the EC FP7 programme the objective of CGS Europe is to build a credible, independent and representative pan-European scientific body of expertise on CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage that will:

1. Instigate a durable networking of research capacity on CO<sub>2</sub> storage in all the relevant EU Member States and Associated Countries;
2. Liaise and coordinate its activities with other stakeholders and existing initiatives in Europe to help define and coordinate CO<sub>2</sub> storage research roadmaps and activities at national, European and international level;
3. Help reduce the existing gap between the 'forerunner' countries, where CCS activities have been started or planned, and those countries where these actions are not yet happening;
4. Contribute to the large-scale demonstration and industrial deployment of CCS;
5. Support the implementation of the European Directive on the geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub> and other regulatory regimes;

This will be achieved by:

1. Setting up coordination and integration mechanisms between the CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet Association and the 23 other participants covering most of Europe with 24 EU Member States and 4 Associated Countries, thus leading to capacity building between the 34 institutes involved – all with experience and references in carbon dioxide storage research;
2. Setting up links and cooperation with other initiatives at national, European and international levels;
3. Preparing a framework enabling the consortium to be independent from EC funding after the end of the project;

One major outcome of CGS Europe will be a better understanding of the current status of CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage throughout Europe, a sort of pan-European knowledge pool structured to provide relevant information (reports, best practices, country status, etc.) to a wide and varied audience. Through various dissemination tools (knowledge-dissemination and awareness-raising workshops, a website with an online knowledge repository, publications, spring/summer school, etc.), CGS Europe will offer access to unbiased, scientific advice to national regulatory authorities, industrial stakeholders, the scientific community, media, the general public, etc.

The first key-event organized by CGS Europe in 2011 will be the 6<sup>th</sup> CO2GeoNet Open Forum, on May 9-11 in Venice. It will bring together CCS stakeholders and provide them with the latest results and progress in the field of CO2 geological storage. A European country-by-country overview will be presented, including an update on demos, FP7 results, status of the transposition of the EC Directive. It will also include the 1st CGS Europe knowledge-sharing workshop focused on “Legal and regulatory issues for the implementation of the EU Directive on the geological storage of CO2”.

The most concrete outcome of CGS Europe, at the end of the EC funding period, will be a durable European-wide scientific body on CO2 geological storage, forming the crossroads between national-European-Worldwide perspectives and needs in the field of CO2 geological storage.