Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 13, EGU2011-9474-2, 2011
EGU General Assembly 2011

One Geology, One Europe, One Foundation

Kristine Asch
Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe, Hannover

The OneGeology-Europe project was a two year project funded by the EC which has made geological spatial data held by the Geological Surveys of Europe more easily discoverable, accessible and shareable.
The project has accelerated the development and deployment of an international interchange standard for geology, GeoSciML which includes common Europe accepted accepted scientific and geological data specifications including a vocabulary/dictionary. It has also progressed the harmonisation of spatial geological data across data Europe. These are enabling the sharing of data both within and outside of the geological community, within Europe and globally. An interoperable geology spatial dataset at in 1:1 million scale has been made available for more than 20 European nations on a state-of-the-art web map portal. OneGeology-Europe has addressed the legal aspects of data access and the outcome is a single harmonised licence agreed by all data providers allowing free access for all. A multilingual discovery metadata portal has been developed to facilitate access to the data in the portal and much more data residing in geological surveys. Arguably Europe is now leading the world in the development of a multinational geoscience spatial data infrastructure (SDI) and the project is making substantial contribution to the implementation of INSPIRE.
This is a practical, nevertheless science-based working foundation which provides the European continent with a better geological base for geoscience research than any other continent. The presentation will describe the outcomes of the project and discuss the challenges and opportunities that it now presents. The challenges include sustaining the infrastructure that has been developed, increasing the resolution of the spatial data and its descriptors and providing information which allows both scientists and the wider user base to exploit the richness of the data which exist in the geological institutions across Europe.