



## **Running and recently-ended COST Actions in the area of the geosciences: An overview of their scientific objectives, main research activities and possible interactions**

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A multidisciplinary session entitled “COST Actions in Geosciences: breakthrough ideas, research activities and results” was successfully organized by Members of COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action TU1208 “Civil engineering applications of Ground Penetrating Radar” ([www.gpradar.eu](http://www.gpradar.eu)) within the 2018 edition of the European Geosciences Union General Assembly (2018 EGU GA, 8-13 April 2018, Vienna, Austria). The session aimed at creating a common space for scientific discussions among researchers working in different areas involved in running or recently ended COST Actions. Delegates from 25 Actions contributed to the event, shared ideas, presented the research activities carried out in their Actions, and discussed how to best use the COST networking tools; the session actually represented a valuable opportunity for the participating Actions to identify possible synergies and establish new collaborations. Many abstracts authored by scientists not yet involved in the COST programme were submitted to the session, too; the authors of those abstracts decided to present their activities and results to a multidisciplinary audience, rather than to the specialized community of a thematic session, with the objectives of broadening their perspective, finding innovative ideas and partners for new research ventures.

The manifold purposes of the present report are:

- to keep track of last year’s successful event;
- to disseminate knowledge about the scientific objectives, research activities and most innovative results of 25 ongoing and recent COST Actions that have been operating or operated in the geosciences area of research;
- to perform a critical analysis of such objectives, activities and results; by taking into account also the geographical coverage of the various Actions, a graph of possible scientific interconnections and collaboration opportunities between the Members of the Actions was realized;
- to spread ideas concerning the effective use of COST networking tools, which might inspire Members of other COST Actions;
- to share information about techniques and tools that can be used to keep trace of the complex network of collaborations within a COST Action and how this grows during its lifetime, as well as to evaluate the impact of a COST Action during and after its lifetime;
- to spread information about successful follow-up initiative undertaken and brought forward by recent Actions, which might help Members of ending Actions to build on their networks and keep them cohesive and alive after their end date;
- finally, to resume and share information about difficulties and challenges experienced by Members of different Actions during their participation in the COST programme.

We will publish the full version of the report on an open-access scientific journal, please take contact with us should you come across this abstract and be interested in reading the full report.