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An infrastructure for researching on geoethics and facilitating its international promotion

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The development of the theoretical foundations of geoethics and its practical applications have had a notable boost in recent years, seeing the involvement of a growing number of scholars from different disciplines. This has increasingly necessitated the creation of spaces where reflections, discussions, results, and study materials can be shared. The network of scholar relationships has progressively developed physical and conceptual spaces for discussions. The goal has been to sustain conceptual consistency in geoethical thinking by anchoring reflections in the discipline's historical evolution and fostering further developments through open analysis, welcoming contributions from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. Today, what can be defined as a research infrastructure on geoethics and the promotion of its contents possesses a complex structure, serving as a convergence point for various cultural and scientific experiences.

At the core of this infrastructure lies the International Association for Promoting Geoethics - IAPG (<https://www.geoethics.org>), established in 2012. It consists of an Executive Committee, national sections, and Task Groups focusing on specific topics within geoethics. More recently, two new entities have augmented this infrastructure: i) the Commission on Geoethics of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), established in February 2023, that is the supporting branch of the IAPG to the IUGS and the IUGS body that officially deals with geoethics and social geosciences for the Union; ii) the Chair on Geoethics of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH, an organization operating under the umbrella of UNESCO), established in December 2023, with the aim of expanding and reinforcing an international research network of institutions, not-governmental organizations, and individual scholars to foster interdisciplinary initiatives for bridging geosciences, humanities, and social sciences through geoethics.

The research infrastructure on geoethics has been enriched over time with two editorial initiatives: a) SpringerBriefs in Geoethics series by Springer Nature (<https://www.springer.com/series/16482>), founded in 2020 and supported by the IAPG, that envisions a series of short publications that aim to discuss ethical, social, and cultural implications of geosciences knowledge, education, research, practice and communication; b) the Journal of Geoethics and Social Geosciences (<https://www.journalofgeoethics.eu/>), a diamond open access publication of the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (Rome, Italy) and supported by the IAPG, founded in 2021.

Finally, the research infrastructure on geoethics is complemented by the School on Geoethics and Natural Issues (the “Schola”), founded in 2019 (<https://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-school>). The “Schola” is a place for teaching and learning of the principles and values of geoethics in the light of the philosophy and history of Earth sciences. The intent is to provide background knowledge and the evaluation skills necessary to understand the complex relationship between human action on ecosystems and the decisions geoscientists make in the discipline that impact society, including improving the awareness of professionals, students, decision-makers, media operators, and the public on an accountable and ecologically sustainable development.