



Press Release

12th April 2013

8th CO₂GeoNet Open Forum: European developments on CO₂ storage pilots and international research collaboration

Researchers from all over Europe have met in Venice on 9-11 April 2013 to propose a scientific perspective on the way forward for the geological storage of CO₂ in Europe and discuss progress together with stakeholders.

Pilot projects have a key role for the advancement of CO₂ storage related research in Europe, which could bring a significant contribution to the innovation goals of the Horizon 2020 European programme. Further, the importance of pilot projects has been highlighted for the strategic developments they can offer, at a moment when big demo projects are facing delays. Pilot projects will also provide vital information to enable the wide deployment of CO₂ geological storage.

The climatologist Hervé Le Treut, member of the IPCC panel, explained that climate changes foreseen through scientific models are now happening: models are being confirmed by real data. This makes it all the more important to act for the reduction of CO₂ emissions. “CO₂ capture and storage can contribute 20% of the necessary reductions and combined with biomass energy it is the only carbon negative technology available” declared Nick Riley, Chair of CGS Europe Assembly.

Unfortunately, the low value of carbon credits has undermined public efforts for supporting CO₂ capture and storage demonstration and increased the uncertainty in investment planning. In this situation storage pilots remain the place for different stakeholders to work together and further improve methodologies that can apply to specific geological aspects of storage sites: “Each site is unique and requires individual evaluation. European researchers are developing tools and sharing knowledge that will enable safe and reliable CO₂ storage in Europe” affirmed Isabelle Czernichowski-Lauriol, President of CO₂GeoNet and Co-ordinator of the CGS Europe project.

When storing CO₂ in the underground we should keep in mind it might become a resource in the future, suggested Lionel Perrette, representative of the French Ministry of Ecology. Within this forward looking perspective there is an important role for CO₂GeoNet in explaining to the wider public what CO₂ geological storage is and why we need to achieve the urgent goal of reducing CO₂ in the atmosphere, suggested Manfred Treber from GermanWatch.

A new paradigm for CO₂ storage public involvement was proposed by Samuela Vercelli, CO₂GeoNet Executive Committee member: “People should not find themselves in the position to 'accept' a storage site. If given the possibility to identify and understand the advantages of storing CO₂ and hosting a storage site they will have their own reasons for doing it. Instead of looking for public acceptance dialogue should be sought. Storage pilots can be an excellent opportunity to experience a dialogue approach with the population”.

Press Contacts:

CO₂GeoNet Secretariat – Sergio Persoglia: +39 329 26 07 303 email:info@co2geonet.com

Other contacts can be added for national translations & release

Many delegates expressed appreciation for the event for the high level of presentations, open discussions and opportunities for exchange.

Each year, the CO₂GeoNet Open Forum offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders to meet and interact directly with Europe's largest group of researchers on CO₂ geological storage. Over 150 delegates from more than 30 countries have participated in the 2013 Forum. Academic experts, Research institutes, Industry leaders, Scientific journalists, Regulators, Representatives of the European Commission and of several government services and international bodies have participated in the debates and lectures offered during the three days of the agenda. Presentations will soon be available on the website.

Full details of the 8th CO₂GeoNet Open Forum are available at www.co2geonet.com

Press Contacts:

CO₂GeoNet Secretariat – Sergio Persoglia: +39 329 26 07 303 email:info@co2geonet.com

Other contacts can be added for national translations & release

About CO₂GeoNet

CO₂GeoNet is the European scientific body on CO₂ geological storage. It currently comprises 13 public research institutes from 7 European countries, and brings together over 300 researchers with the multidisciplinary expertise needed to address all aspects of CO₂ storage. With activities encompassing joint research, training, scientific advice, information and communication, CO₂GeoNet has a valuable and independent role to play in enabling the efficient and safe geological storage of CO₂. CO₂GeoNet was created in 2004 as a Network of Excellence supported by the EC FP6 programme for 5 years. In 2008, CO₂GeoNet became a non-profit association under French law. From 2013, the membership of CO₂GeoNet is expanding thanks to the support of the FP7 CGS Europe project.

More about CO₂GeoNet at www.co2geonet.eu

Members of CO₂GeoNet:

- GEUS (Denmark)
- BRGM (France)
- IFPEN (France)
- BGR (Germany)
- OGS (Italy)
- URS (Italy)
- TNO (Netherlands)
- IRIS (Norway)
- NIVA (Norway)
- SPR Sintef (Norway)
- BGS (UK)
- HWU (UK)
- IMPERIAL (UK)

About CGS Europe

CGS Europe is a networking project that pools together the expertise of 34 key research institutes in the area of CO₂ geological storage across 28 countries (24 European member states and 4 associated countries). Funded by the EC FP7 programme, it builds upon the networking and integration experience of CO₂GeoNet with the ultimate goal of providing an independent, scientific, pan-European platform and reference source where national, European and international experts, institutes and regulators can access the most up-to-date results of CO₂ storage-related studies, share experiences and good practices, discuss the implementation of regulations, identify research needs to face upcoming challenges, and build new projects.

More about CGS Europe at www.cgseurope.net

CGS Europe partners:

- CO₂GeoNet
- GBA (Austria)
- RBINS-GSB (Belgium)
- SU (Bulgaria)
- UNIZG-RGNF (Croatia)
- CzGS (Czech Republic)
- TTUGI (Estonia)
- GTK (Finland)
- G-IGME (Greece)
- MFGI (Hungary)
- GSI (Ireland)
- LEGMC (Latvia)
- GTC (Lithuania)
- PGI-NRI (Poland)
- LNEG (Portugal)
- GEOECOMAR (Romania)
- AGES (Serbia)
- SGUDS (Slovakia)
- GEO-INZ (Slovenia)
- S-IGME (Spain)
- SGU (Sweden)
- METU-PAL (Turkey)

Press Contacts:

CO₂GeoNet Secretariat – Sergio Persoglia: +39 329 26 07 303 email: info@co2geonet.com

Other contacts can be added for national translations & release