

Europe's Strategic Ambitions Require Greater Investment in Geological Knowledge

Brussels, 10 September 2026 – Europe's ambitions on critical raw materials, clean energy, CO₂ storage, water security, and climate resilience are increasing the need for investment in geoscientific research and geological knowledge.

In response to these growing demands, around 100 participants from European institutions, industry, research organisations, and national geological surveys gathered in Brussels to identify priorities for future geoscientific research, feeding into the update of the EuroGeoSurveys Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA).



Geological knowledge connects challenges that are often addressed separately. Securing mineral resources, developing geothermal energy and CO₂ storage, managing groundwater, and preparing for geohazards all depend on understanding the subsurface, where different uses can overlap, interact, or even compete. As Europe accelerates implementation of initiatives including the Critical Raw Materials Act and the Net-Zero Industry Act, the need for reliable geological knowledge is becoming increasingly important.

The workshop, convened by [EuroGeoSurveys](#) (EGS), brought these different perspectives into the same discussion to identify where Europe needs to strengthen geoscientific research and innovation.

Julie Hollis, EGS Secretary General, said: *“Europe cannot deliver its ambitions on resources, energy, water and resilience without investing in geological knowledge. The SRIA is about setting a shared direction for that investment, strengthening the scientific foundation for Europe's future competitiveness, strategic autonomy and resilience.”*

From geological knowledge to economic value

A central theme of the workshop was the economic value of geoscientific knowledge. Better geological information can reduce uncertainty around major public and private investments, helping decision-makers identify opportunities, understand risks, and allocate resources more effectively.

Discussions also highlighted that the value of public geoscience is not always captured in direct financial returns. Avoided costs, increased productivity, and the creation of new options for governments, investors, and communities can be equally important measures of its impact.

Research needs across Europe's strategic priorities

Dedicated breakout discussions explored research needs across critical raw materials, geothermal energy, CO₂ storage, groundwater, climate resilience, and geohazards. Geoscientists worked alongside users of geological knowledge to identify emerging needs, research gaps, and areas where greater coordination across disciplines is required.

Across the discussions, a recurring message was that producing more data, maps, and models is not enough: geological information needs to be accessible, interoperable, and designed around the decisions it is intended to support. This includes unlocking the value of existing information. Participants pointed to examples of geological data collected over decades that remain unpublished or difficult to access, as well as the need for long-term investment to maintain and update shared data resources. Participants also highlighted the growing need for integrated subsurface planning, as demands for resources, energy, water, and infrastructure increasingly interact.



The workshop forms part of [GSEU – Geological Service for Europe](#), EGS' flagship project, which is laying the foundations for its future service arm. Its conclusions will feed directly into the updated SRIA, which aims to reflect the priorities of the wider European geoscientific community and those who rely on geological knowledge.

The discussions reinforced the need for a long-term European capability that connects national geological knowledge and expertise, aligns research with evolving policy needs, and turns geoscientific information into knowledge that can support strategic decisions. The updated SRIA will help set the research direction for building that capability.

About EuroGeoSurveys

EuroGeoSurveys represents the Geological Survey Organisations of Europe. Its members provide trusted geoscientific data, information, and expertise supporting sustainable resource management, environmental protection, and evidence-based decision-making across Europe.

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