The European Geological Data Infrastructure (EGDI) is a platform first created in 2016 to provide free access to pan-European and national geological datasets and services from European National Geological Survey Organisations. More than 800 map layers, a database for 3D geological models and more than 1300 documents² (reports, images, spreadsheets, etc.) are available on the website.

EGDI contains the results of more than 52 pan-European projects covering a broad range of geoscientific themes. These are viewable via each of the scientific themes sections on the website.

Data on Raw Materials from EDGI are accessible through the European Commission Joint Research Centre’s Raw Materials Information System³.

Why is EGDI Important?

The development of a data infrastructure containing high quality pan-European data which are freely available to decision-makers, the scientific and academic communities and the public, is crucial to make geoscience-based informed decisions. This FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) data can be used in research to answer specific questions or for consultation purposes.

Bringing together all these data of various geoscientific themes and from different European countries and platforms in one unique digital infrastructure allows a pan-European picture of specific geoscientific problems or specific spatial areas.

The EGDI infrastructure thus forms the backbone for delivering multinational, distributed, derived, spatial and temporal datasets, in line with INSPIRE and other international standards.

https://www.europe-geology.eu/
EGDI - The Challenges

Harmonising large amounts of data from different countries and projects is a big challenge. Harmonisation and metadata standardisation is crucial to ensuring that the data are accessible and findable. Moreover, keeping the data platform current and relevant requires substantial financial investment.

What is EuroGeoSurvey’s Role in EGDI?

EGDI is owned by EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) and the EGS community (particularly: GEUS, CGS, GeoZS, IGME-CSIC, BRGM and BGS) which maintains and continues to develop the platform. This work is carried out in close cooperation with EGS’ Spatial Information Expert Group.

How is EGDI Relevant to Policy?

EGDI is at the core of the Geological Service for Europe (GSEU) project. During this project, EGDI will be taken to a next level: from a simple data platform to a knowledge hub, where a broad range of stakeholders can easily access high quality geoscientific data and knowledge to support the decision making process.

EGDI is a central element in EGS’ mission to establish a Geological Service for Europe.

References:
1. https://www.europe-geology.eu/