

SOCIAL GOVERNANCE FOR SUBSURFACE ENGINEERING - GÉFISS

The project GÉFISS “Gouvernance Élargie pour les Filières d’Ingénierie du Sous-Sol” is a 4-year, multi-partner project that aims to promote social governance methods for subsurface industries. With a budget of €3.5m euros and **twenty partners**, the ambitious program of **research, analysis, experimentation and diffusion** brings together private, public and academic organisations.

GEFISS aims to facilitate the access and use of geological resources for the energy transition by promoting **stakeholder engagement and enabling informed debate** concerning different subsurface industries as well as specific projects. A second objective is to encourage co-construction of projects in order to enhance compatibility with local context.

The program will be carried out by **multidisciplinary teams** including human and social sciences researchers, public consultation experts, scientific research institutes, industrial operators and representatives of state institutions.

How should a social governance framework be defined and executed?

Who are the stakeholders? What are their respective issues? How can they participate in co-construction?



How can the common foundation of understanding necessary for informed debate be established?

How are subsurface industries represented in energy transition policy?

Management team

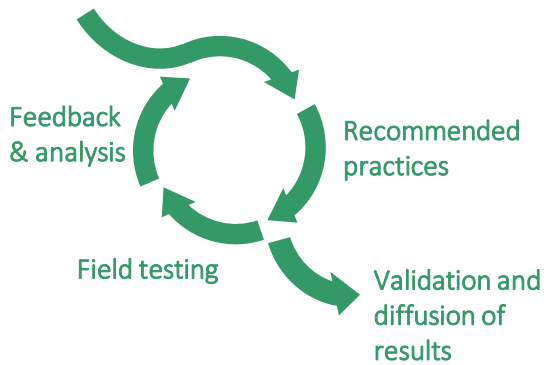


Partners



AN ITERATIVE PROCESS PRODUCING TAILORED RESULTS FOR THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Research programs & knowledge building



Research results. Regular project workshops will enable the partners to contribute to the evolution of the five research programs. Partners will have full access to the results and conclusions.

Recommended best practices and corresponding training programs. Guidelines on stakeholder engagement throughout the project lifecycle adapted for each subsurface industry.

Communication material for educational and information purposes. Communication methods and supports concerning the different sub-surface industries, associated technologies and their respective rôles in the energy transition.

The results are shared with the partners throughout the project via regular project presentation days, publications & training.

A FOUR YEAR PROGRAM

The principal objective of GÉFISS, to facilitate the use of geological resources for the energy transition by promoting stakeholder engagement and enabling informed debate, will be achieved by the following actions:



Characterisation, for each subsurface industry, of their respective contribution to the energy transition and their role in regional development policies.



Testing and validation of stakeholder engagement methods with the aim of :

- 1) establishing a common understanding and encouraging implication and debate and
- 2) co-construction of project characteristics.



Identification of the stakeholders, their respective issues and potential impact.



Transposition of the experience gained as guidelines of recommended good practices and training modules for industry, state institutions and public organisations.



Understanding how stakeholder opinions and attitudes are formed.

FIVE ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

Fundamental to the actions above are the five academic research projects which will provide results and recommendations throughout the four-year program.

1. **Social perception and attitudes** concerning the subsurface in general and the use of geological resources in the context of the energy transition. What role for virtual reality simulations?
2. **Stakeholder engagement:** Concertation, co-construction, co-deciding. How to promote engagement and informed debate? How can an approach be adapted according to preconceptions, differing social and cultural norms, societal groups, values and ideologies?
3. **Cooperative learning methods:** How can collective knowledge of a specific sector or project be improved using innovative cooperative learning techniques? How can cooperative learning be used to build competencies?
4. **Political geography** of the subsurface: Can we consider the subsurface as a common good? How does the national, regional and local political situation affect subsurface projects? How are the various stakeholders, public and private, positioned and how do they interact?
5. **Legal and regulatory issues:** How do regulatory frameworks affect subsurface projects and what evolution would be recommended? How can litigation risk be mitigated? How does the legal framework support stakeholder engagement?

The project unites industrials from various sectors, public and state representatives, research institutes and specialists from multiple disciplines: sociology, social psychology, educational sciences, law and political geography. Regular interdisciplinary workshops will ensure that the recommendations are developed in synergy, fully capitalising the collective intelligence.

PLANNING

BUDGET

CONTACT

July 2018 – June 2022

3,51M€ total budget. 1,05M€ public subsidy; 0,83M€ industry contribution; 1,63M€ partner contributions in kind.

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