



# OneGeology

Building a global geological SDI...



## François Robida - Ian Jackson



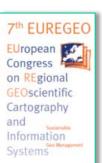


# OneGeology

Building a global geological SDI...



WORLD award WINNER



François Robida - lan Jackson







Award for « Excellence in Geospatial Standards Implementation »

April 2012 - Amsterdam





# OneGeology

- A project to make web-accessible geological map data worldwide
- Initiated by BGS in 2006 as a geological survey contribution to the UN International Year of Planet Earth
- World-leading example of liberating science data for the benefit of society
- Deploying cutting-edge web mapping technologies
- Now being delivered by 117 geological surveys worldwide







# **Objectives**

- Make existing geological map data accessible
  - in whatever digital format is available in the participating country
- Transfer know-how to those who need it
- Adopt an approach that recognizes that different nations have differing abilities to participate
- Stimulate interoperability = data sharing
- Stimulate harmonisation = scientific consistency





#### Who funds it?

Support of geological survey staff and data around the world..... but also



Additional funding for coordination and data portal



€3.25 million for 20 nation OneGeology-Europe project 2008-2010 (supporting the European SDI -INSPIRE)



\$700 000 for Geoscience Information Network for 50 US State geological surveys



## How it works - the technology

- State-of-the-art...but straightforward and open to all
- Distributed dynamic system each nation serves its data, or works with a "buddy" survey
- Open global (OGC) standards Web Map Services and Web Features Services
- User needs only an internet browser







## An operational system - not an experiment

- Portal and catalogue allow discover, view, zoom, pan, interrogate, download.... and transfer to Google, or wherever
- Many data services: 229 WMS and 23 WFS data layers from 57 data providers
- Help desk and extensive easy to use documentation
- 1-5 Accreditation scheme which defines service levels which must be met (Michelin Stars for rocks edible geology!)
- Users in research, education and commerce





### 138 organisations from 117 countries



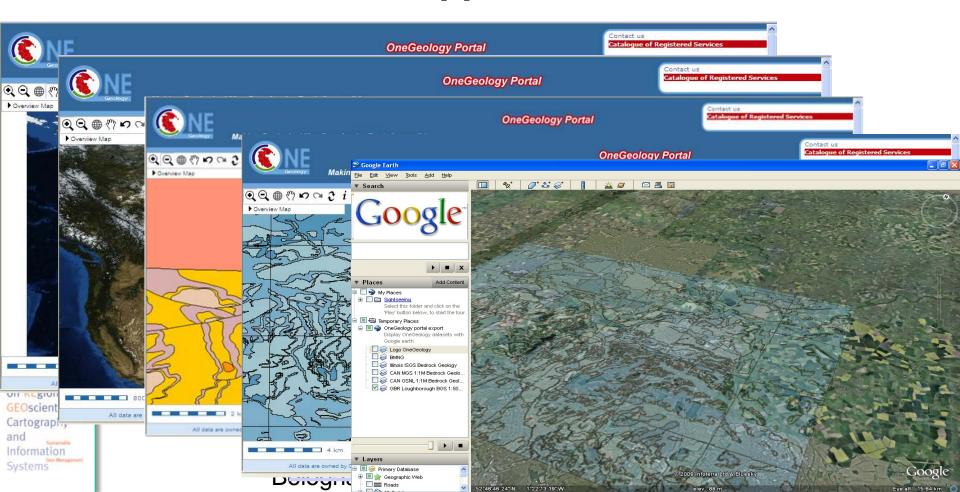


More than 250 national and state datasets being served by geological surveys across the world





# Evolving from national and small scale to large scale, local, applied and flexible







on REgional GEOscientific Cartography

## Transferring know-how.....

.....to those who need it

**Technical workshops** 



 $12^{th} - 15^{th} 2012$ 





# What were the obstacles? Technical

- Launched at a time when interoperability technical platform available ... but.....
- Initial lack of awareness and experience in interoperability amongst global partners
- Global/major scale implementations did not exist
- Geological map data is more interpretive and complex than most other spatial domains
- Geologists need considerable scientific discussion to agree on common features and standards







# What were the obstacles? Cultural and organisational

- Global implementation many different cultures, languages, domains, business drivers, states of progress
- Sensitivity over map ownership and copyright
- Weakness in outreach and communication
- Different Survey data access models
- Reluctance to disseminate information that is not "perfect"
- Sustainability after initial enthusiasm and launch
- Delivering a robust industry strength professional service not a flaky research data application







#### Why has OneGeology worked?

- Short simple mission and vision: 3 simple objectives
- Uncomplicated initial proposition: first WMS, then WFS
- Inclusivity: all geological surveys welcome different nations have differing abilities to participate
- Minimal intrusion into local systems
- A pragmatic approach to coordination and governance those prepared to lead drive it forward
- A "let's do it" ethos, not excessively strategise about it!
- A "buddy" system to help those who need it
- Putting significant effort into outreach and media profile
- Pre-existence of international network of geoscientists and geological surveys







#### What next for OneGeology

Come to Brisbane!



- A new portal with new functionalities
- New datasets
- 'The OneGeology Best Application Competition'
- A new operational structure will be proposed to the Directors of Geological Surveys to ensure sustainability of the initiative
- ...





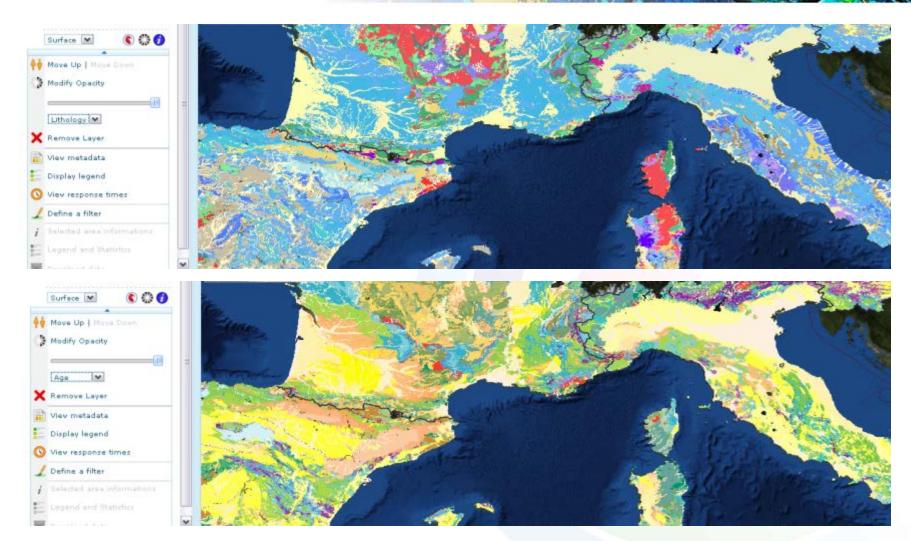


### An excursion to Europe - OneGeology-Europe





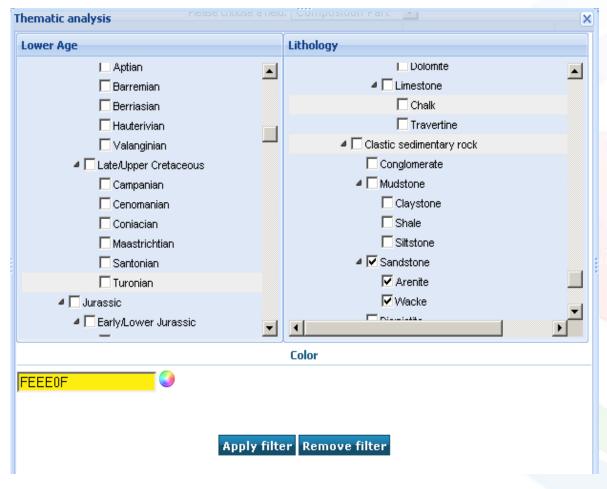
#### Making geological map data for the Earth accessible



4 harmonised WMS (Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia) with two different legends



### Custom map of lithology and/or age

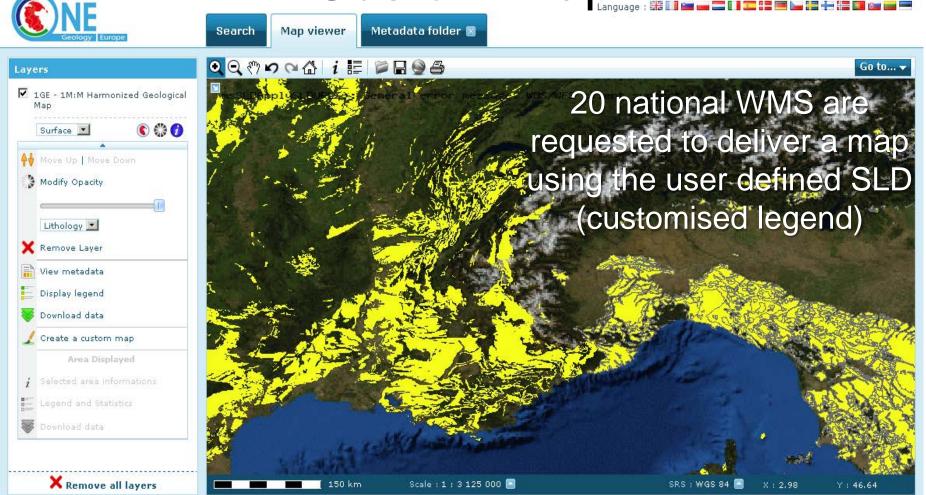


Creation of new maps in real time from 20 WMS sharing a common interchange data model and common vocabularies



Making geological map data for the Earth accessible

Custom map

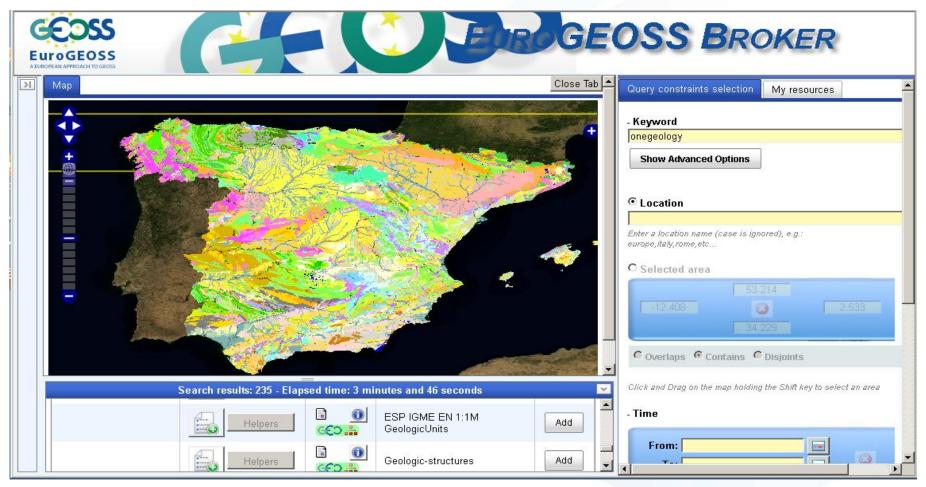


Geologic units with sandstone (colour: yellow)



Making geological map data for the Earth accessible

# OneGeology services accessible in EuroGeoss / GEOSS





#### Thank you for your attention

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