

**MEMORANDUM OF SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION**

Between



**Shërbimi Gjeologjik Shqiptar
(AGS, Albanian Geological Survey)**

and



**Geološki zavod Slovenije
(GeoZS, Geological Survey of Slovenia)**

Preamble

This Memorandum of Scientific Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as “Memorandum”, is written to promote the institutional activities and goals of both surveys, hereinafter referred to as “Surveys”, strengthening their relations and cooperation in the fields mentioned in the section “Areas of Cooperation” and for promotion of mutual understanding and potential staff exchange.

This Memorandum shall not be construed as creating any legal or financial relationship between the Surveys, but as a statement of intent to foster the possibility of genuine and mutually beneficial collaboration.

Introduction

Albanian Geological Survey

In its activity, the **Albanian Geological Survey**, hereinafter referred to as “**AGS**”, directly influences the economic development and welfare of the country.

Raw materials and the energy resources are important factors with high impact in the economic development of every country. Since the first days of its foundation, the primary duty of **AGS** was evidencing the efficiency of natural resources of Albania. Every mining activity opened in Albania was a result of **AGS**'s discovery and research activity. **AGS** is able to offer qualitative expertise in this field of research.

Through groundwater assessment and monitoring, water reserves have been studied and with the aim of providing a significant amount of drinking water to the population on an ongoing basis. The groundwater basins are under permanent monitoring by **AGS** to be protected from damage and pollution, and to ensure their intelligent use.

Research in civil engineering constitutes an important part of **AGS** activity. The development of infrastructure, the demand for different construction projects by the private and the public sectors as well as from individuals, requests a detailed study of the data regarding the soil stability and in-depth knowledge regarding the possible geological hazard, etc. Such detailed data can be provided by **AGS**. For this reason, the observation, the monitoring and the scientific research covers the whole territory of Albania, continuously and uninterruptedly. All observed earth phenomena, such as erosion, landslides, avalanches, rock debris, and ground subsidence, are presented in maps of different scales.

AGS processes, creates, publishes, and provides multipurpose maps in the field of geosciences, in different scales, stored in digital format. **AGS** creates, maintains, and updates databases of landslides, groundwater (wells, drilling, springs); mineral raw materials, as well as geosites. Mineral deposit 3D modelling is another area in which **AGS** has started to operate.

AGS collaborates and supports the preparation of university curricula in pre- and postgraduate educational programs, at home and abroad.

AGS collaborates and participates as a partner in joint projects with **EGS** (European Geological Services) with EU funding for land and sea geosciences issues.

AGS provides consultancy, conducts expertise in the field of geosciences, contributing to the sustainable development of the territory by fulfilling the duties deriving from its legal status as a technical and scientific consultant to the Albanian government.

Geological Survey of Slovenia

The **Geological Survey of Slovenia**, hereinafter referred as “**GeoZS**”, provides information about the geological setting and natural resources of Slovenia and participates in the development of knowledge about past and the present processes taking place in the Earth's interior and at its surface. **GeoZS** collects, stores, and disseminates data about the geology of Slovenia and, through international cooperation with its partners abroad, extends its activities beyond Slovenian borders.

The experts of the **GeoZS** are involved in the research, expertise and development within the frame of public services for the Slovenian government and the EU. **GeoZS** provides expert support and consultancy for geosciences related applied projects. It actively cooperates in pre- and postgraduate educational programs.

GeoZS is involved in research activities through the association with similar institutions and thus contributes in the development of geosciences. It ensures comprehensive availability and use of knowledge for society and industry, the transfer of scientific achievements into practice, the popularization of science, and the spread of scientific culture and information for the expert and general publics.

Areas of Collaboration

Whereas both Surveys desire to establish collaboration in the area of geology, they have agreed to cooperate in the following areas of expertise:

- a) Correlation and compilation of various geological information and maps;
- b) Services in the exploration of mineral deposits;
- c) Geological information systems;
- d) Geochemistry and environmental protection;
- e) Structural evolution of the Dinarides and Albanides;
- f) Raw materials including the evaluation of mineral deposits (mines) and regional land-use planning;
- g) Digital geospatial data processing;
- h) Geohazards, with particular emphasis on landslide susceptibility, earthquake geology, and groundwater vulnerability maps;
- i) Exploration, exploitation, and management of groundwater resources;
- j) Evaluation and use of geothermal potential;
- k) Exchange of geoscientific literature, periodicals and geological maps published by the Surveys;
- l) Geoheritage;
- m) Public outreach of geosciences;
- n) Mutual information on national and international geoscientific meetings, conferences, congresses etc., organized and held in Slovenia and Albania;
- o) Training of specialists in areas of common interest.

Management of Collaboration

Each Survey shall designate a coordinator to develop and coordinate the cooperation activities.

The initial coordinators are Eng. Elisa Prendi for **AGS** and Matej Draksler for **GeoZS**. Notification of change or successor shall be in writing to the other Survey.

Terms of Cooperation

Each Survey shall cover its expenditures incurred in carrying out cooperative projects, unless special financing becomes available for selected projects of mutual interest. Cooperative activities will depend on the availability of financing and workforce. The terms of financing, where necessary, shall be established by the Surveys during the drafting of the joint project. The host will assist in the organization of travelling in his home country.

In order to successfully carry out the activities under this Memorandum, the Surveys will exchange certain information in written, oral, or other forms. The Surveys agree that the research results, all relevant information and the gained know-how of cooperative projects shall be shared and published or held as confidential in accordance with specific terms agreed upon by both Surveys for individual projects.

The research activities shall be carried out according to the laws and regulations of the Republic of Albania and of the Republic of Slovenia. The manner of conduct and the protection of intellectual property must be in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Slovenia. The signatories commit themselves to undertake the activities set out in this Memorandum with best intentions for both Surveys.

Entry into Force, Duration, Termination

The Memorandum shall come into effect after signed by both Surveys and remain in effect for 5 (five) years. It may be amended or extended by mutual written agreement of the Surveys. The Memorandum may be terminated at any time by either Survey after 6 (six) months of written notice to the other Survey. The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of projects which that been initiated under this Memorandum prior to the end of this agreement.

The Memorandum is written in the English language, in two (2) copies; both versions of the Memorandum are equally authentic, and each Survey will receive one copy.

October 25, 2022

AGS
General Director
Dr Viktor Doda

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GeoZS
Director
Dr Miloš Bavec

