

Foreword from the Director of the Czech Geological Survey

Joined for millions of years by the geological setting, hundreds of years together in one empire, then separated by state and political borders, and currently living all together in the European Union. Geologists of the neighbouring countries, Austria and originally Czechoslovakia, then Slovakia and the Czech Republic, have always been eager to collaborate closely and join efforts to solve common geological challenges. Geological units do not respect state borders, the Bohemian Massif stretches far into Austria, the Vienna Basin forms a part of Moravia, and the Carpathians straddle the boundaries. This year we commemorate 50 years of the official collaboration underpinned by agreements between the respective geological surveys. Let me remember those who organised the collaboration on the Czech side over the years: since the beginning it has been Dr. Dagmar Minaříková and for the last 18 years it has been Dr. Lenka Hradecká. This is the right opportunity to express my warm thanks for her work, that Lenka put into the international collaboration of the Czech Geological Survey.

Our intention was always for the collaboration to equally serve both parties. To tell the truth, however, it surely was of more benefit to us. Above all, before 1989 it helped open the doors of the European geology. We will also remember our Austrian colleagues who supported our admission in EuroGeoSurveys. Apart from the work on common geological problems like the correlation of stratigraphic and crystalline units, joint mapping and other topics, the research into the history of geology in both countries was fruitful. We should recall the role of Czech geologists in studies of Tyrol, Styria and Salzkammergut, as well as Austrian geologists mapping the Bohemian Massif. We are pleased that our colleagues appreciate the ongoing collaboration on the stratigraphy of the Eastern Alps, the Quaternary of the Pannonian Basin and other areas. As to future collaboration, I believe it lies in joint projects which deserve financing from the European research resources. Cross-border collaboration with Austria will always be a stable part of our future objectives.

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