



An Overview of the EUROMARGINS Programme

B. Avril and the EUROMARGINS Community

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The nations of Europe share one of the world's longest margin systems. A remaining frontier for natural resources, passive margins mark the complex transition between continental and oceanic crust, with large sedimentary accumulations. In addition, passive continental margins, associated with unstable slopes, represent a major source of natural hazards. The EUROMARGINS Programme provides the international framework for promoting innovative, interdisciplinary work for the imaging, monitoring, reconstruction and modelling of the physical, chemical, and biological processes in the European passive continental margins. It encourages the development of new technologies and conceptual models aiming at the advancement of integrated research into the mechanisms responsible for continental break-up and ocean margin formation. The pooling of human resources, training of a new generation of interdisciplinary geoscientists, and optimal sharing of observational platforms or analytical and modelling facilities are considered important "value-added" ingredients of the EUROMARGINS Programme. The presentation highlights on behalf of the EUROMARGINS Community the latest activities and few key achievements within this Programme, which will end in 2007.

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