



## **The Contribution of the IAG Intercommission Project WEGENER to TOPO-Europe**

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WEGENER is the acronym for **W**orking group of **E**uropean **G**eoscientists for the **E**stablishment of **N**etworks for **E**arth-science **R**esearch. At present it is established as the Inter-commission Project 3.2, between Commission 1 and Commission 3, of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). The WEGENER Project, has promoted the development of scientific space-geodetic activities in the Mediterranean and European area for the last twenty years and has contributed to the establishment of geodetic networks designed particularly for Earth science research. The mission of WEGENER is the development of interdisciplinary work for the integration of space and terrestrial techniques in the study of the Eurasian/African plate boundary deformation zone and adjacent areas, including the establishment of an European velocity field, by promoting international cooperation and by being a Forum for European and other Earth-Scientists interested in the Eurasian/African plate boundary zone. WEGENER activities cover substantial parts of the scientific objectives of TOPO-Europe and WEGENER can contribute particularly in the anticipated monitoring of the 4-D evolution of the topography of the European continent and adjacent parts of North Africa, Asia and the Middle East by space geodetic and remote sensing techniques, in particular, by supporting the acquisition, processing and interpretation of satellite gravity and geodetic data, including exploitation of airborne multi-sensor data. TOPO-Europe involves very many geophysicists and geologists and it promotes modeling activities. These may perfectly be supported by the observational expertise of the geoscientists of WEGENER. The amount and heterogeneity of the data to be expected from the TOPO-Europe program asks for dedicated data and product centers. One useful product that WEGENER, through its members, is already producing and which will be made available is a reliable and accurate vector velocity field map and a strain-

map. Via the involvement of the GEODAC, the WEGENER **GE**odynamic **D**ata and **A**nalysis **C**enter, WEGENER will take care of a homogeneous and state-of-the-art GPS analysis. WEGENER will also address the important issue of the realization of an integrated multi-purpose network for the acquisition and availability of long-term, continuous, high-quality spatial and in situ measurements.

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