



# Università degli studi di Trieste

**LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN GEOSCIENZE**  
**Classe Scienze e Tecnologie Geologiche**

**Curriculum: Esplorazione Geologica**

**Anno accademico 2022 - 2023**

**Analisi di Bacino e  
Stratigrafia Sequenziale (426SM)**  
**Docente: Michele Rebesco**

**Modulo 1.5 – Carbon and Energy Storage**



# Modulo 1.5a

## Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

Docente: **Valentina Volpi**

# Modulo 1.5b

## Energy storage

Docente: **Federica Donda**



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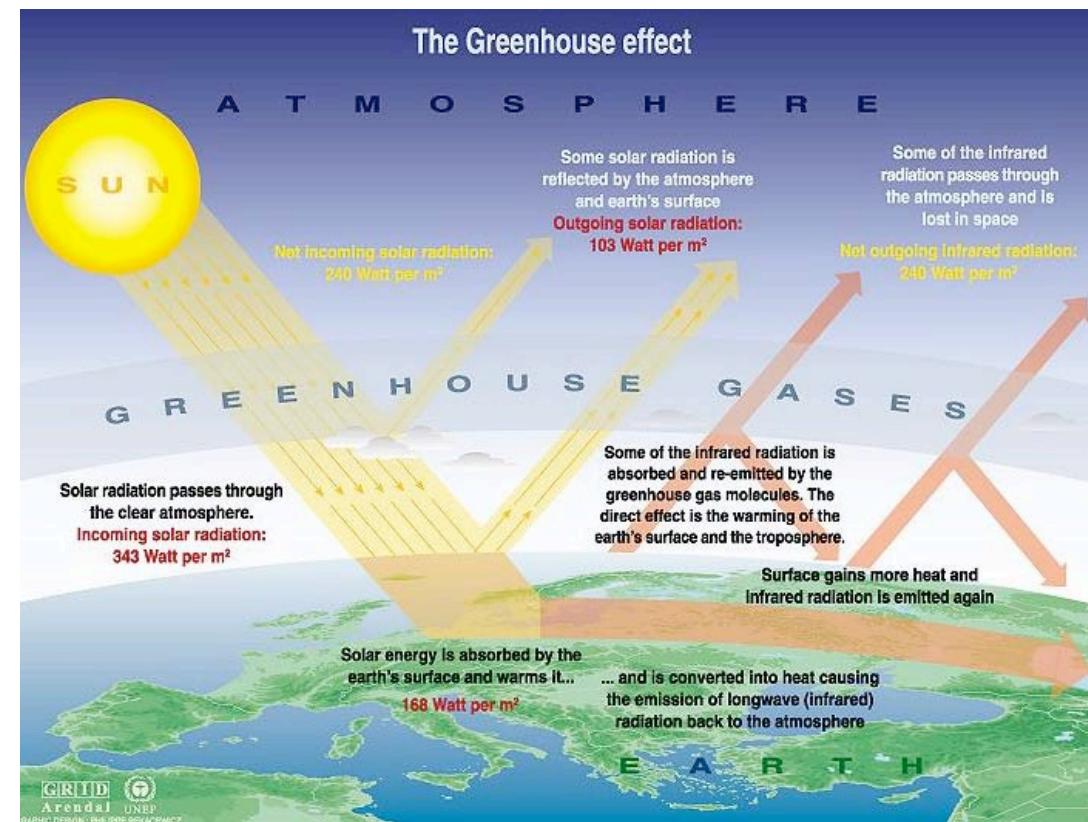
**Modulo 1.5a – Carbon Capture and Storage  
(CCS)**

**Docente: Valentina Volpi**

**Global warming** and **climate change** are terms for the observed century-scale rise in the average temperature of the Earth's **climate system** and its related effects.

## GREENHOUSE GASES

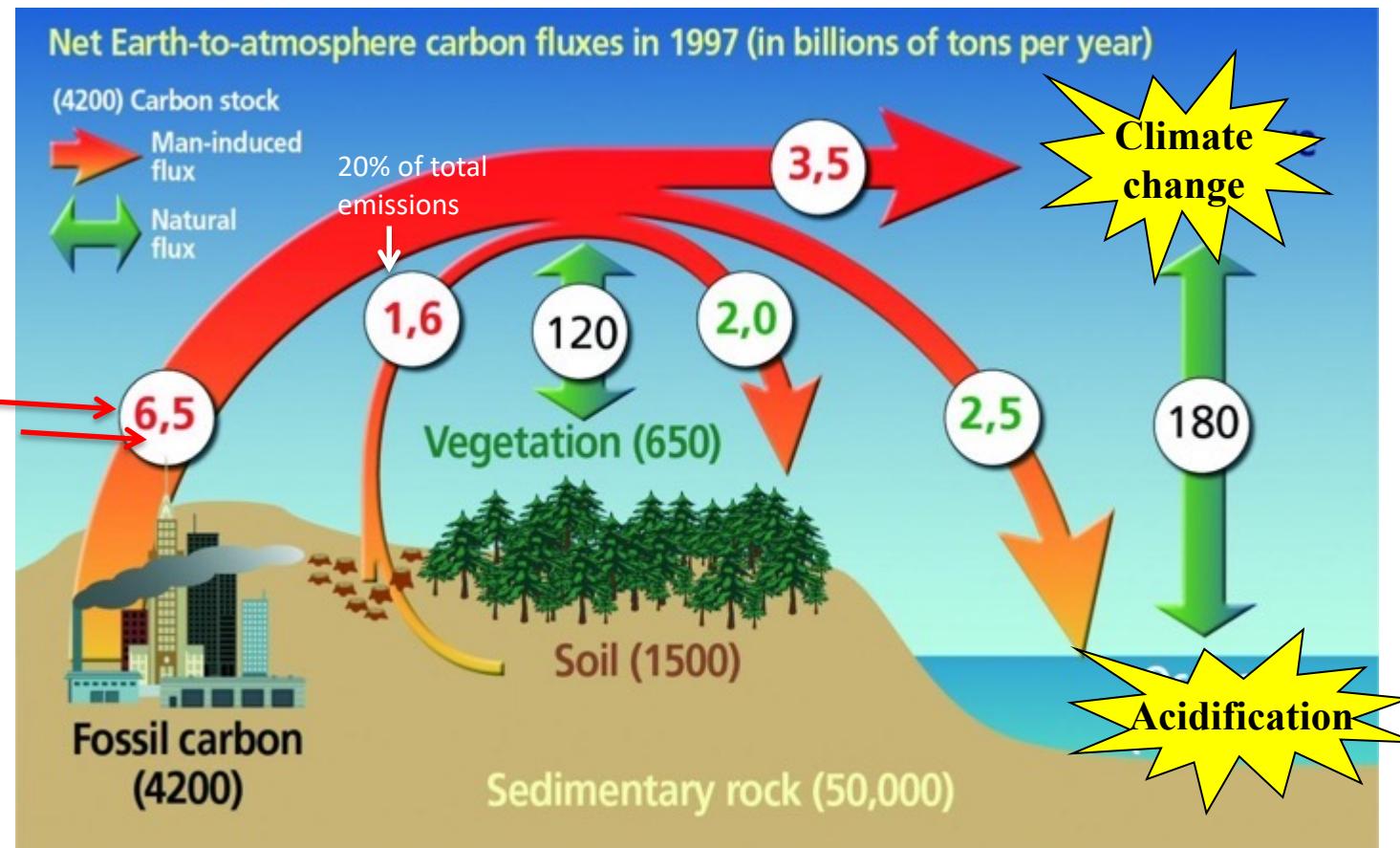
This process consists of the global warming due to the emission of gas ( $\text{CO}_2$ , water steam, methane...) in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases allow sunlight to pass through the atmosphere while obstructing the passage to the space of the infrared radiation from the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere (the heat re-issued); in practice they behave like the glass of a greenhouse and help to regulate and maintain the temperature of the earth with today.



This is a natural process and allows that the temperature of the Earth be 33°C higher than what it would be without the presence of the gases.

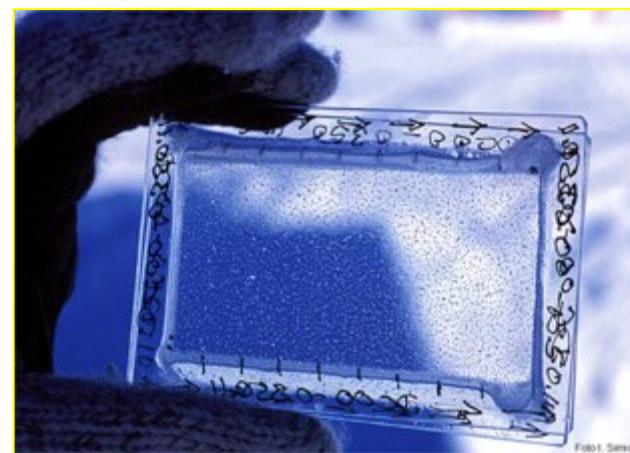
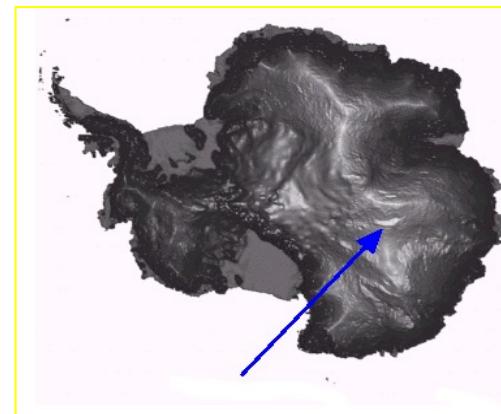
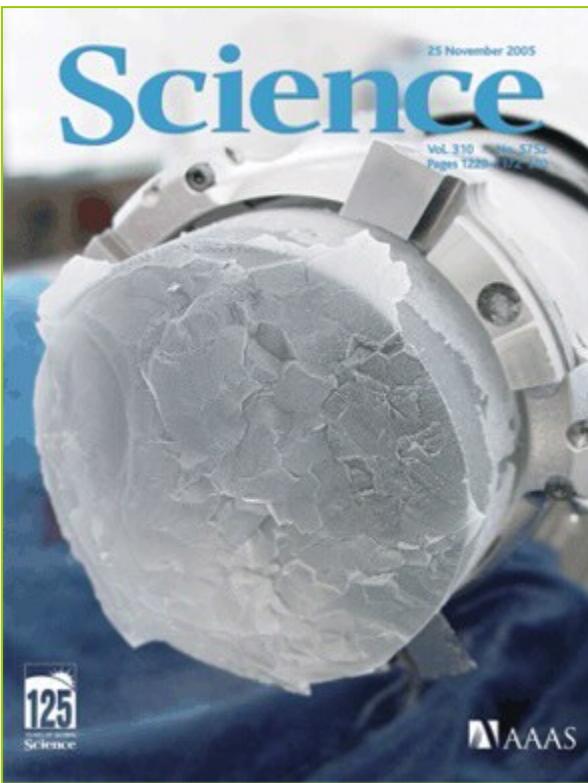
# CO<sub>2</sub> exchange between Earth and Atmosphere (Billiontons/years of Carbon)

Total amount of emitted CO<sub>2</sub> : 30 billion tons /year or 8.1 billiontons/years of carbon



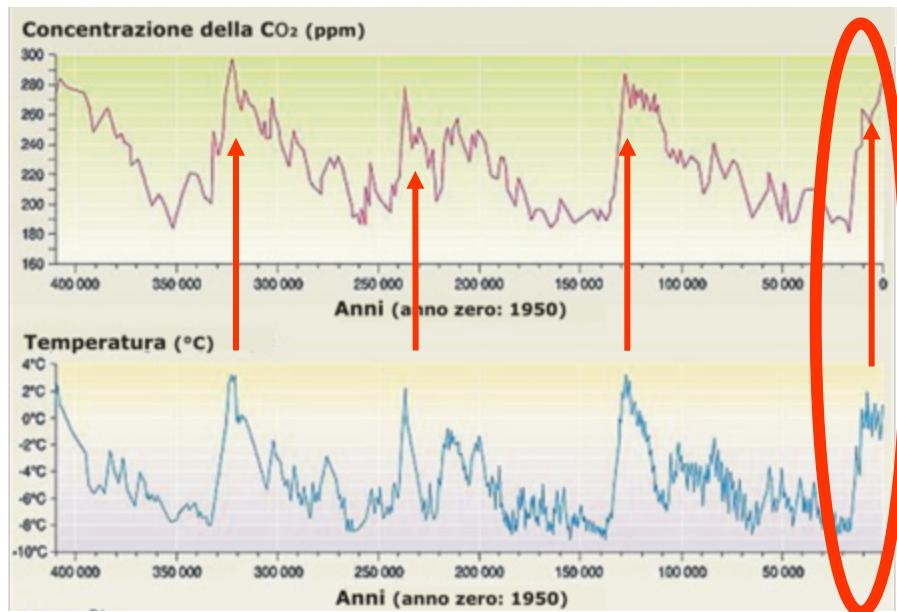
© BRGM [im@gé](http://im@ge)

World emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from the usage of fossil fuels:  
6.5 Gt C/y (o 24 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>/a)



**Ice cores from Antarctica** have allowed to reconstruct the temperature trend and the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere for the last 400.000

## GLOBAL WARMING



Correlation between temperature increase and concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere over the last 400,000 years (drilling of ice in Antarctica)

### *Concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020*

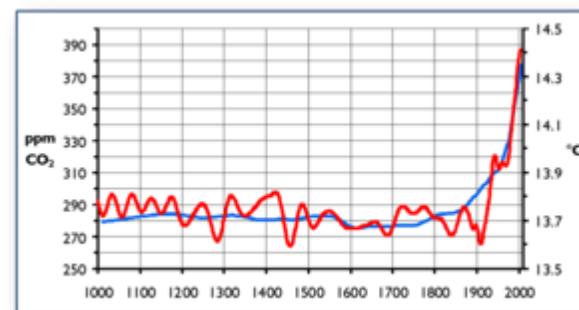
**31.5 Gt - 412.5 ppm (50% higher than when the industrial revolution began)**

**IN 2021 : 36 Gt**

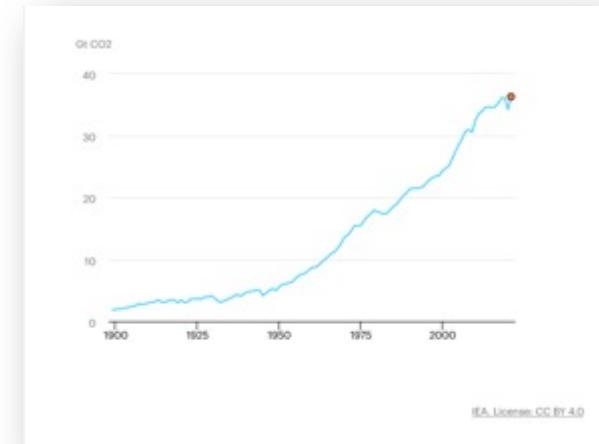
**IEA (2021), Global Energy Review 2021, IEA, Paris**

<https://www.iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2021>

CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere is increased by circa ~40% from 1750 (Rivoluzione Industriale; IPCC, 2014)



Global variation of the temperature (red) and the CO<sub>2</sub> present in the atmosphere (blue) in the last 1000 years.



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy combustion and industrial processes, 1900-2021

# CO<sub>2</sub> GEOLOGICAL STORAGE

## CARBON CAPTURE (USE) AND STORAGE

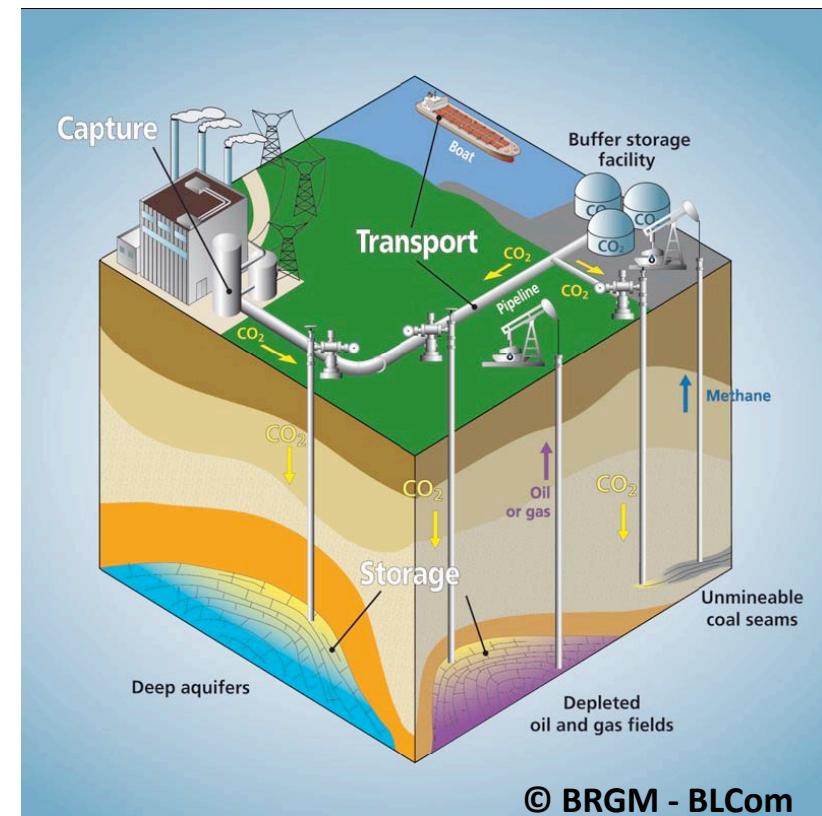
### Three main phases:

**Capture:** the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the combustion processes of large industrial plants is separated from the other gases

**Transport:** Once captured, the CO<sub>2</sub> is compressed and transported through pipelines or by ship to storage sites

**Use:** in the food industry, urea production, water treatment, fire retardant production, refrigerant

**Storage:** CO<sub>2</sub> is injected underground in suitable rock formations



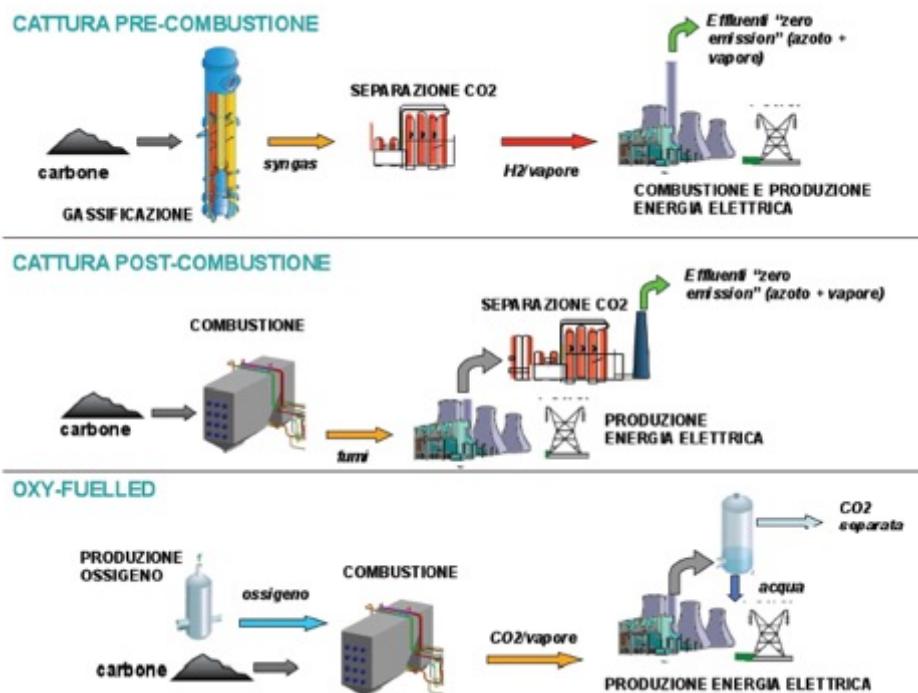
© BRGM - BLCom

## MAIN CO<sub>2</sub> EMITTERS

The main sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions consist of the **BIG STATIONARY SOURCES**:

- FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANTS
- INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF IRON, STEEL,  
CEMENT
- CHEMICALS REFINERIES

# CAPTURE PROCESSES



➤ **PRE- COMBUSTION:** the fuel (coal, gas) is first treated by transforming it into syngas (gas di sintesi) and subsequently separating it in two gas flows: one with a high concentration of hydrogen for the combustion (or other uses) and CO<sub>2</sub>.

➤ **POST- COMBUSTION:** separation of CO<sub>2</sub> from flue gases at the end of the cycle; it does not need substantial modification to the power plant.

➤ **OXYGEN COMBUSTION:** The primary fuel is combusted in oxygen instead of air, which produces a flue gas containing mainly water vapor and a high concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> (80%). The flue gas is then cooled to condense the water vapor, which leaves an almost pure stream of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## TRANSPORT OF CO<sub>2</sub>

La CO<sub>2</sub> can be transported, both onland and offshore, in three phases:

GAS

LIQUID

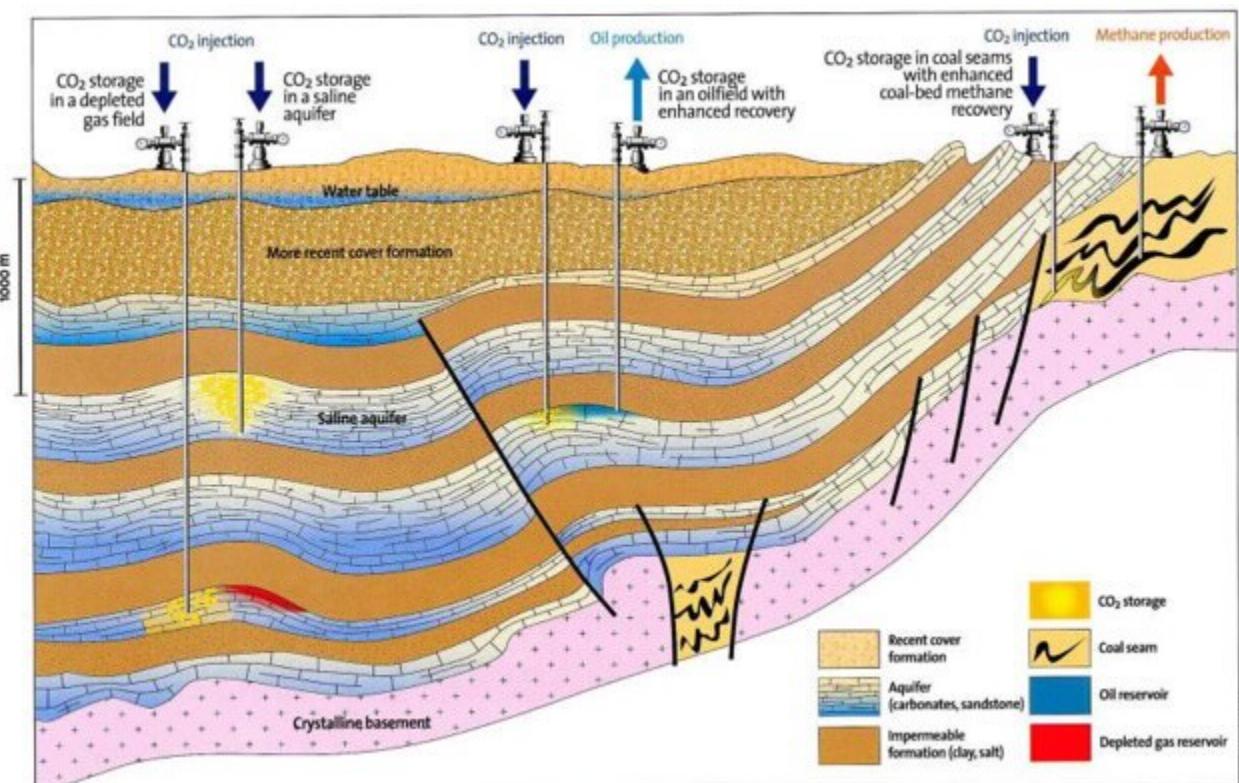
SOLID

Tanks, pipelines and ships

Not economically convenient



## STORAGE OPTIONS



### Existing Reservoir

- Saline aquifers
- Oil and gas filed depleted
- Coal seams

## CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE SITES FOR CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE

**Depth** : between 800 (to allow the CO<sub>2</sub> supercritical stage) and 2000-3000 m

**Characteristics of the reservoir**: good porosity e permeability

**Caprock**: presence of a sealing geological formation

**Distance**: within a radius of 200 km from the source of emission of CO<sub>2</sub>

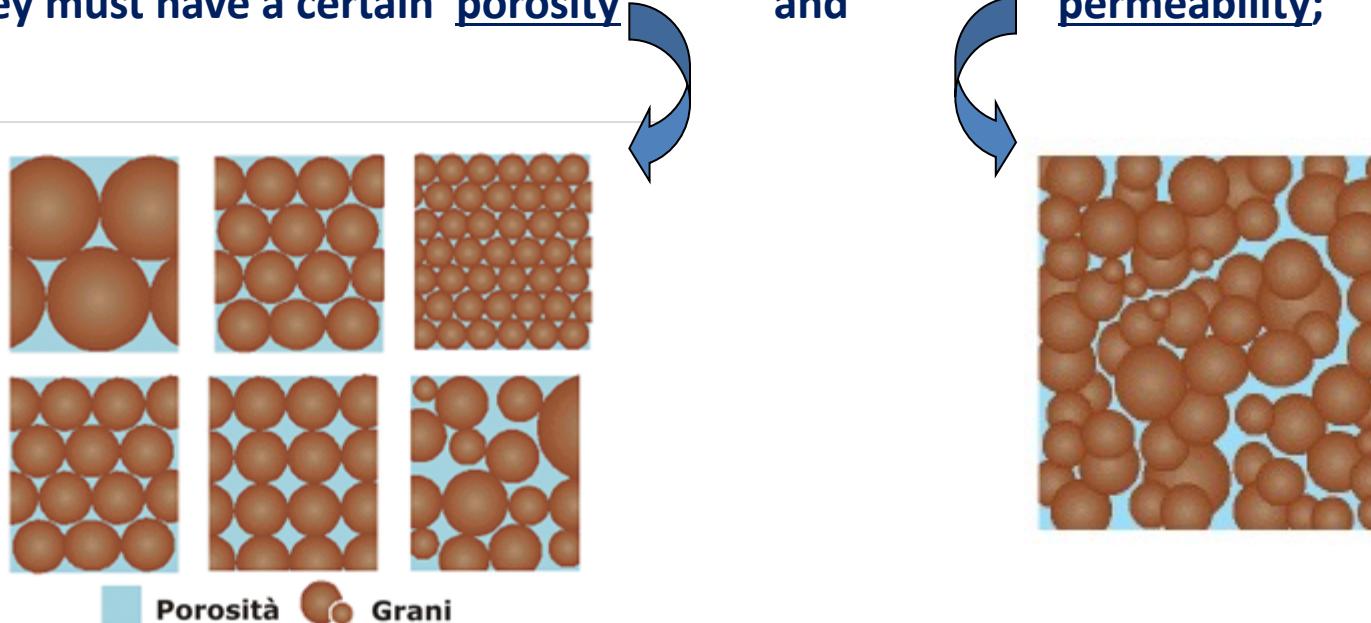
**Heat flow**: the heat flow does not have to be high, in order not to alter the conditions of stability of CO<sub>2</sub>

**Tectonic setting/seismicity**: the area must be stable to ensure the structural conditions for storage

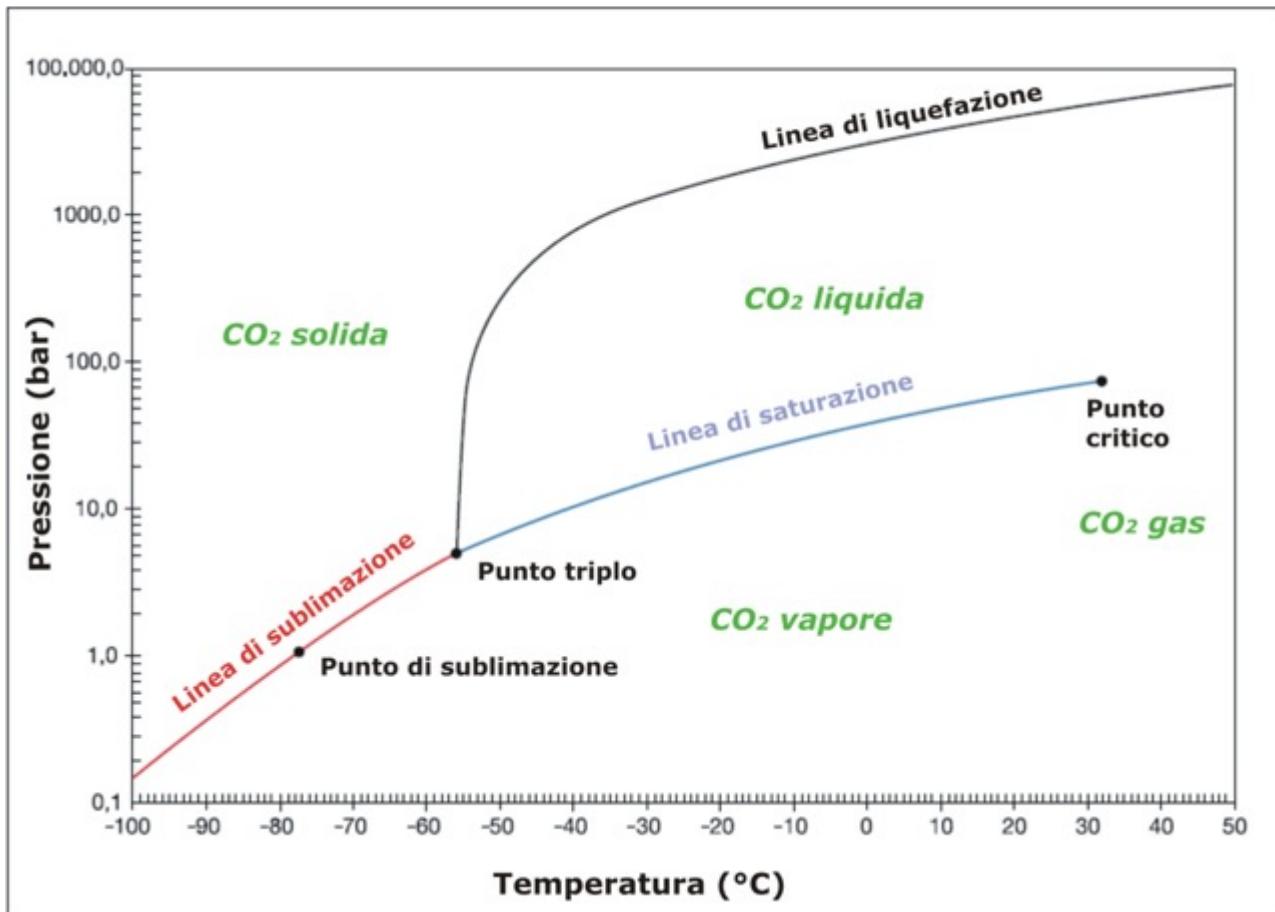
## CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE

For the purposes of CO<sub>2</sub> storage, the rock that serves as a reservoir must meet the following requirements :

- they must be at a DEPTH between 800 (so that the CO<sub>2</sub> remains in conditions of supercritical state) and 1500 m;
- they must have a certain porosity and permeability;



## CO<sub>2</sub> PHASE: “supercritical state”

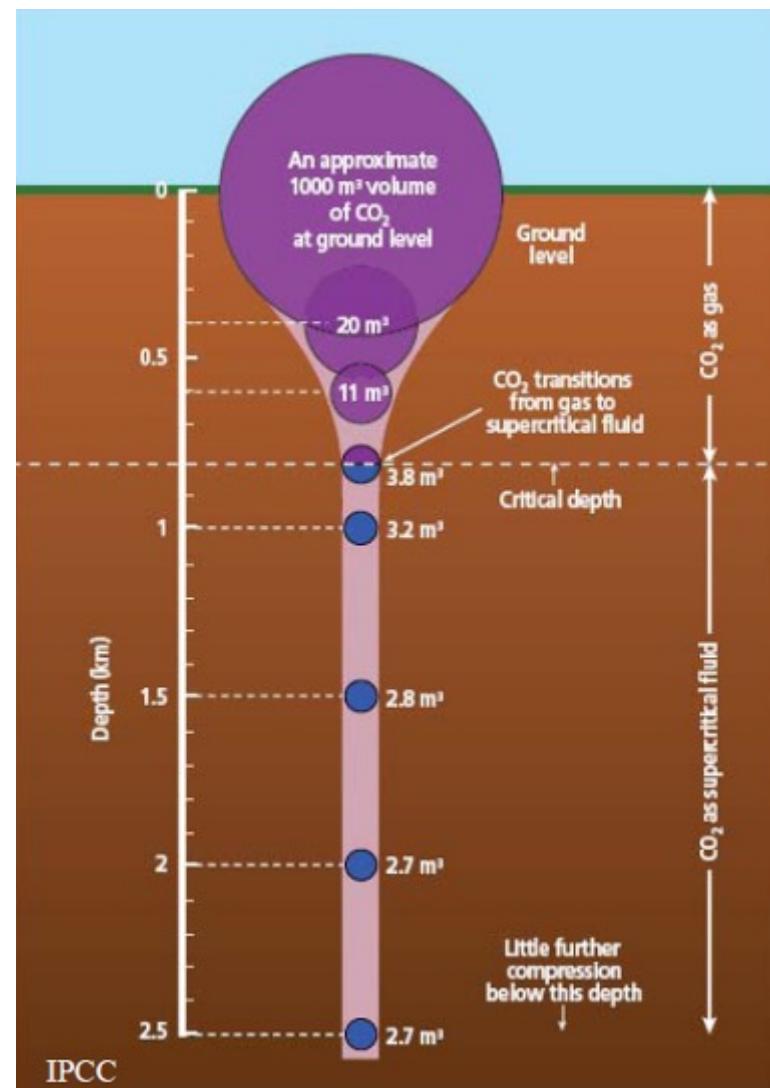


## ...CO<sub>2</sub> in supercritical state is liquid or gas?

ANSWER:

- density similar to liquid
- viscosity similar to gas

T=100°C, P=280bar (2800m)	density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Viscosity (cP)
CO <sub>2</sub> supercritic	615	0.05
water	804	0.16
gas (methan)	150	0.02



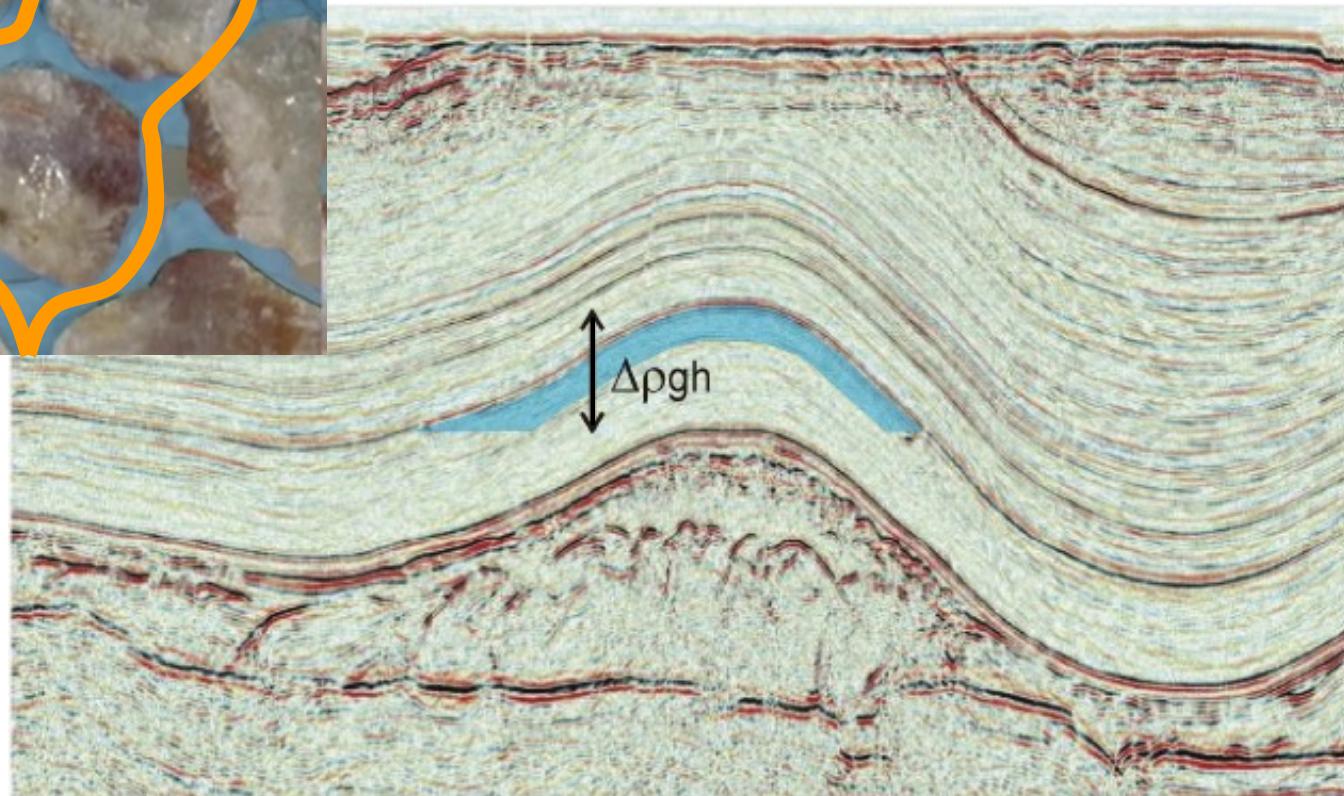
# The CO<sub>2</sub> at supercritical conditions tends to rise ...



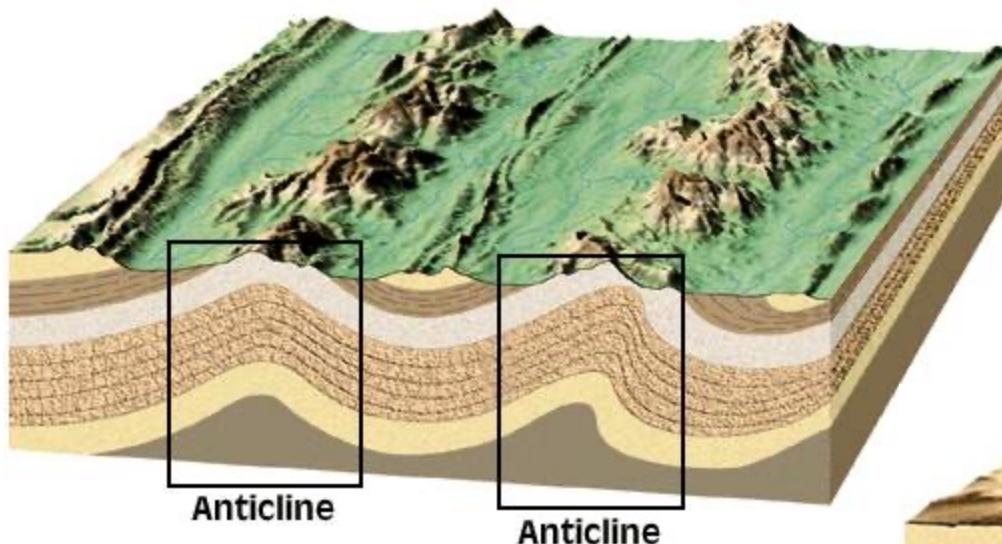
CAP ROCK



ESSENTIAL PRESENCE OF SEALING  
ROCK FORMATIONS (CAPROCK)



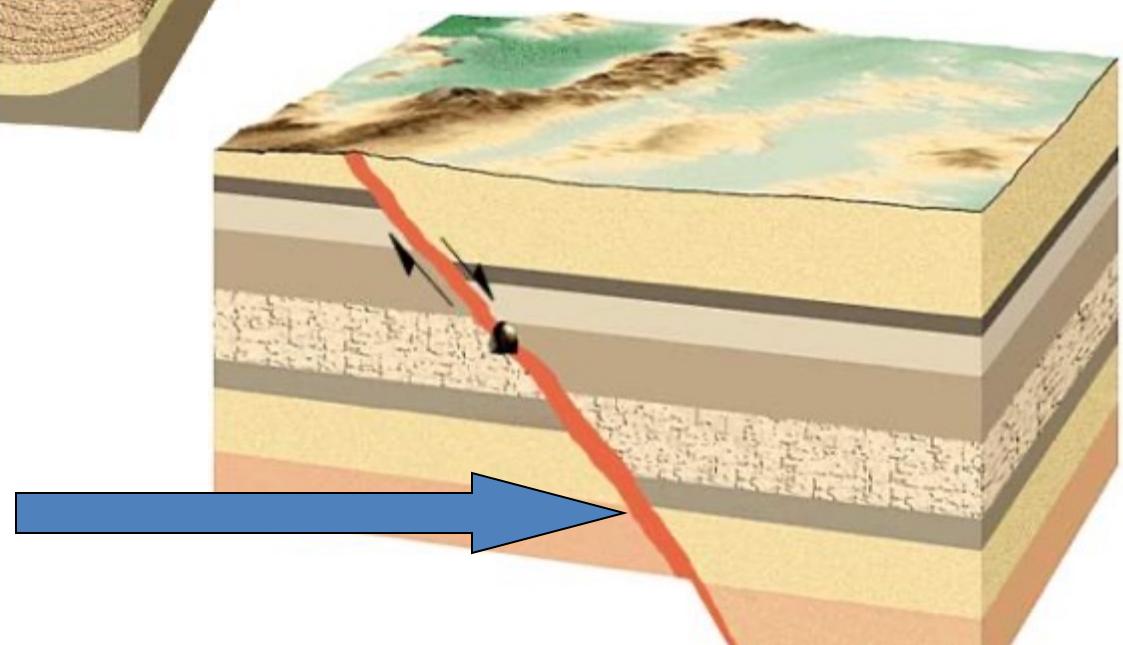
## STRUCTURAL TRAPS



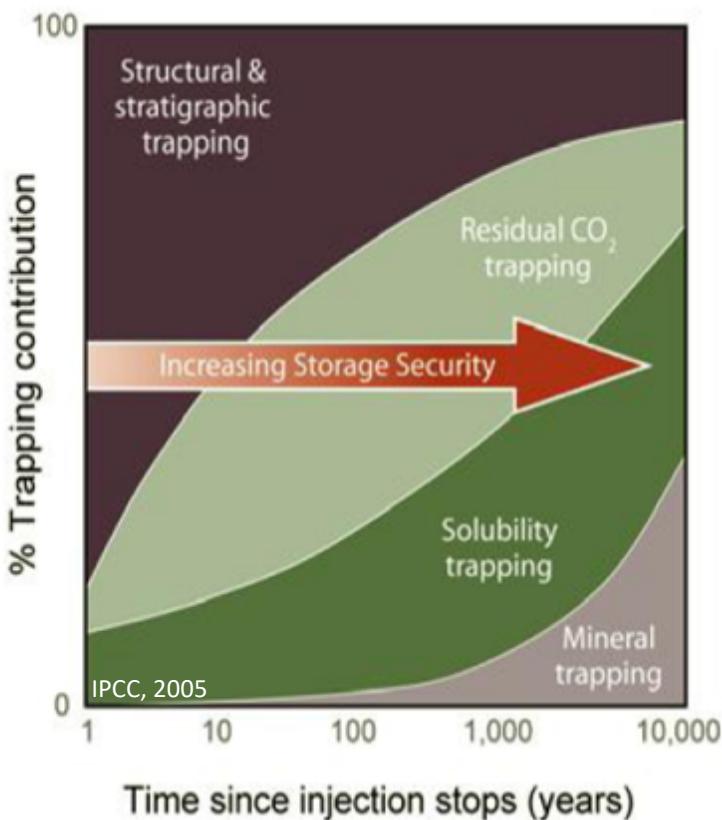
Folding and  
anticlines

Fault consists of  
different material

Faults and  
unconformities



## Trapping mechanisms



- **Structural trapping:** the CO<sub>2</sub> is lighter than the salt water present in the interstices of the rock and it tends to rise upward and trapped by the impermeable rocks (caprock)
- **Hydrodynamic trapping**, where CO<sub>2</sub> is injected into supercritical conditions at depths > 800 m and it moves the present salt water
- **Dissolution trapping:** once injected CO<sub>2</sub> starts to dissolve in salt water. The water now becomes heavier and tends to drop. This mechanisms put in contact water with dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> with fresh water, promoting additional dissolution. After 10 years: 15% of injected CO<sub>2</sub> is dissolved; after 10.000 years 95% of CO<sub>2</sub> is dissolved.
- **Mineral trapping** where CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with some minerals in the aquifer to form crystalline carbonates

## KEY DATA FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF A RESERVOIR-CAPROCK SYSTEM

### Wellbore data

- Logs (Sonic, Gamma Ray)
- Porosity e permeability of reservoir e caprock rock formations
- Temperature and pressure at reservoir depth

### Multichannel seismic data

2D - regional scale

3D - site scale

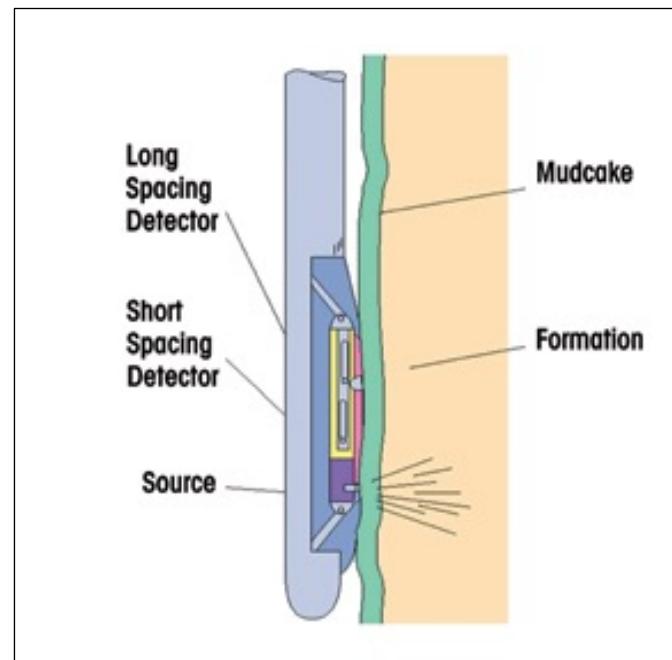
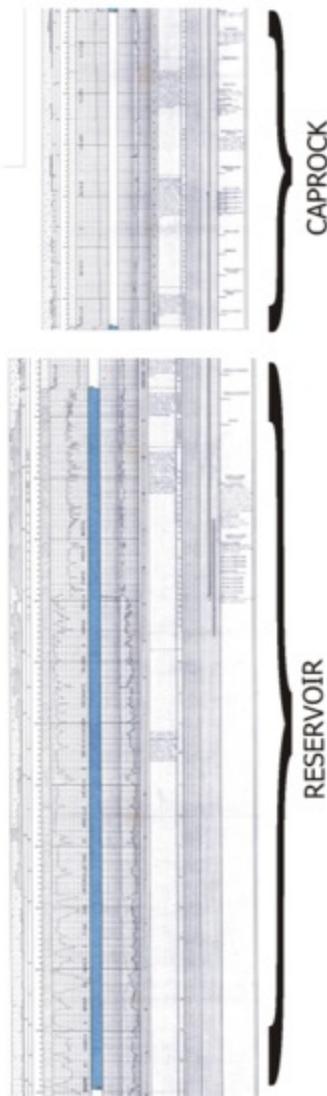


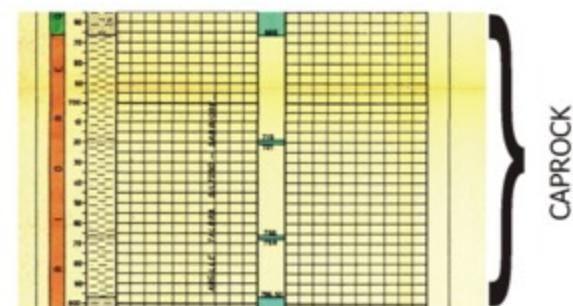
Image of a logging tool in a hole

# CHARACTERIZATION RESERVOIR-CAPROCK: WELL DATA analysis

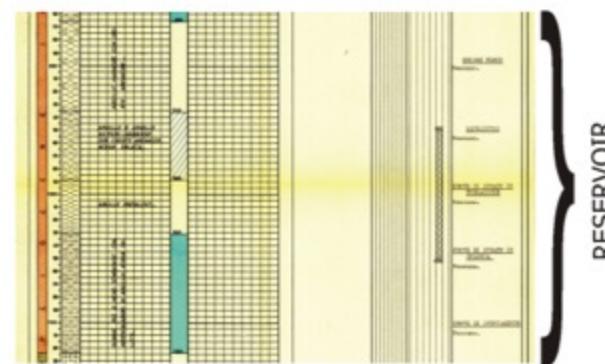
ANTINEA 1



RICCIONE MARE 2

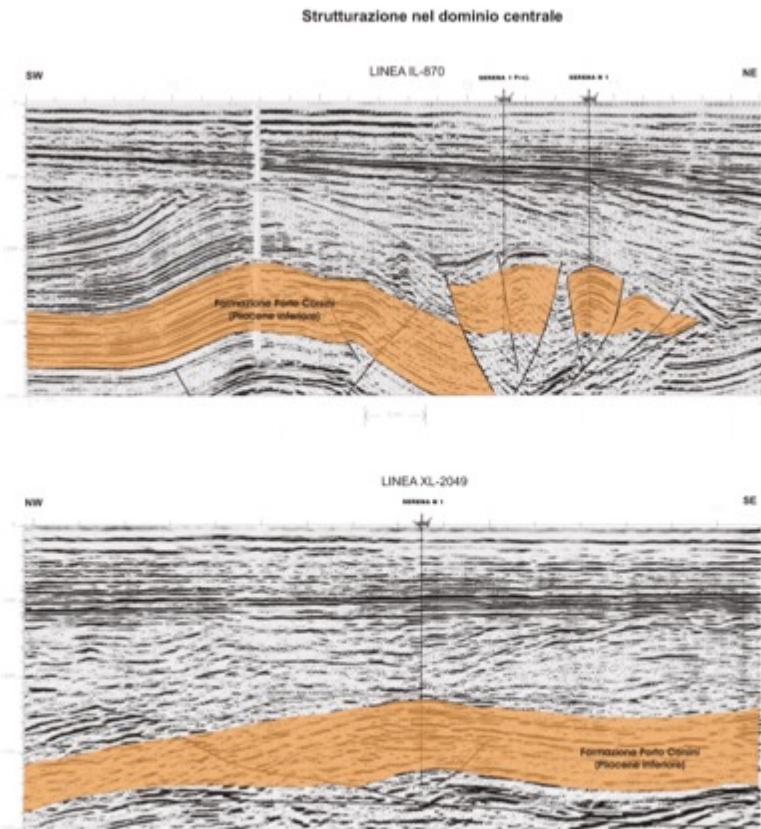
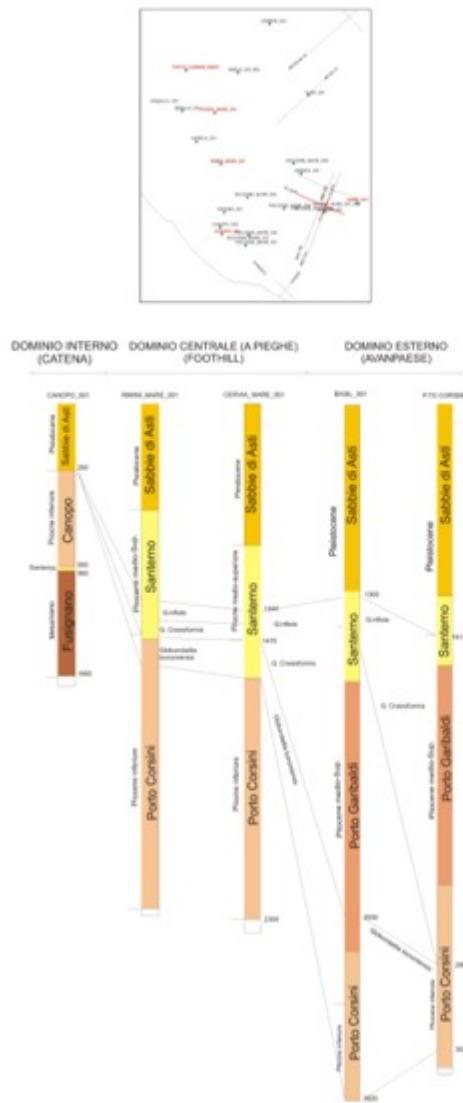


RESERVOIR



RESERVOIR

# CHARACTERIZATION RESERVOIR-CAPROCK: SEISMIC DATA ANALYSIS



## *Main characteristics of a potential site for CO<sub>2</sub> storage*

- *Capacity*, to contain the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> to be stored; key parameter: **porosity**
- *Injectivity*, to inject the CO<sub>2</sub> a certain rate of injection; key parameter: **permeability of reservoir**
- *Containment*, to avoid CO<sub>2</sub> leakage; key parameter: **permeability of caprock**

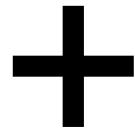
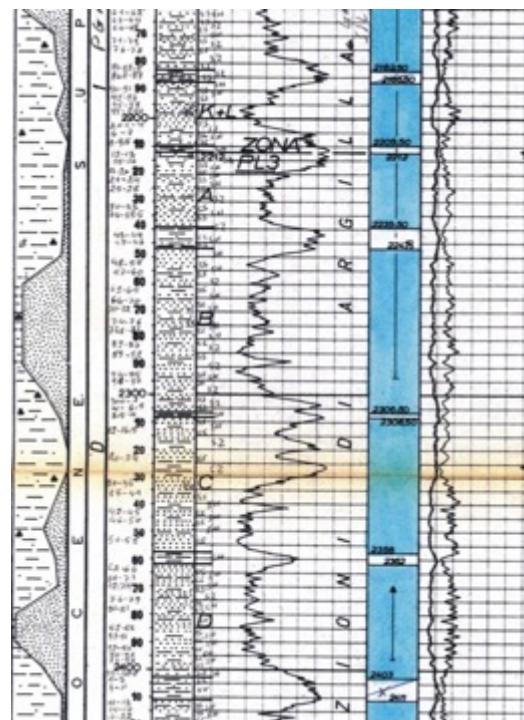
## *CCS Project*

### *Main steps*

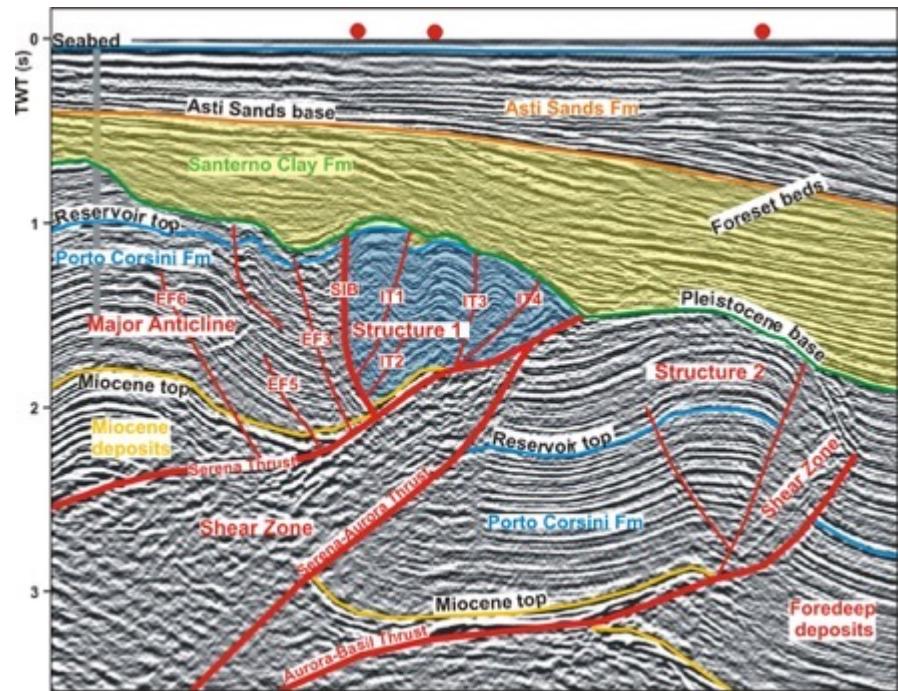
1. Identification of the potential storage site
2. Modelling of CO<sub>2</sub> injection
3. Monitoring (pre-, during and post-injection)
4. Risk evaluation and remediation plan

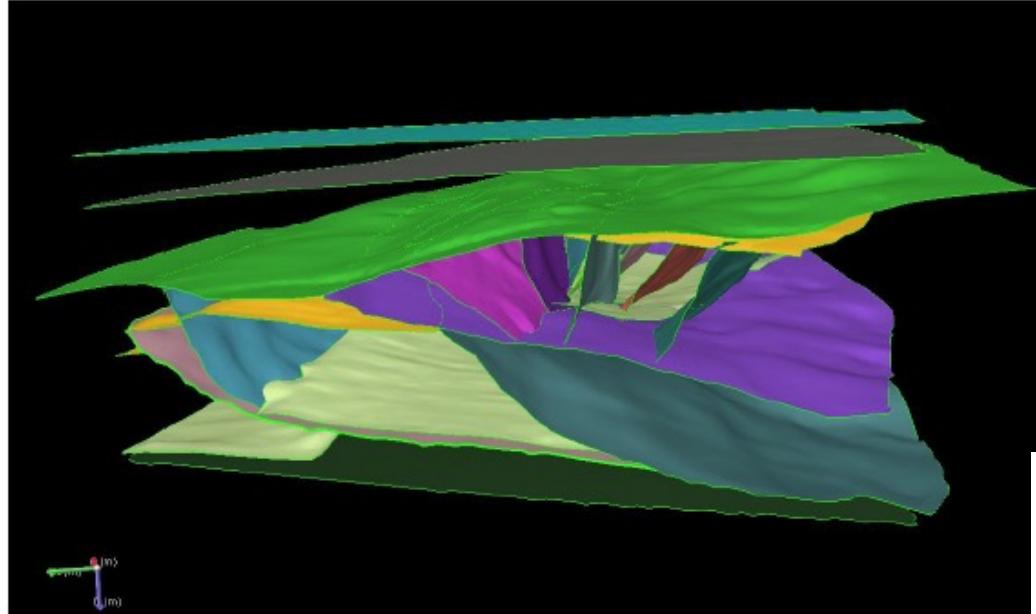
# Data analysis

Geophysical log analysis



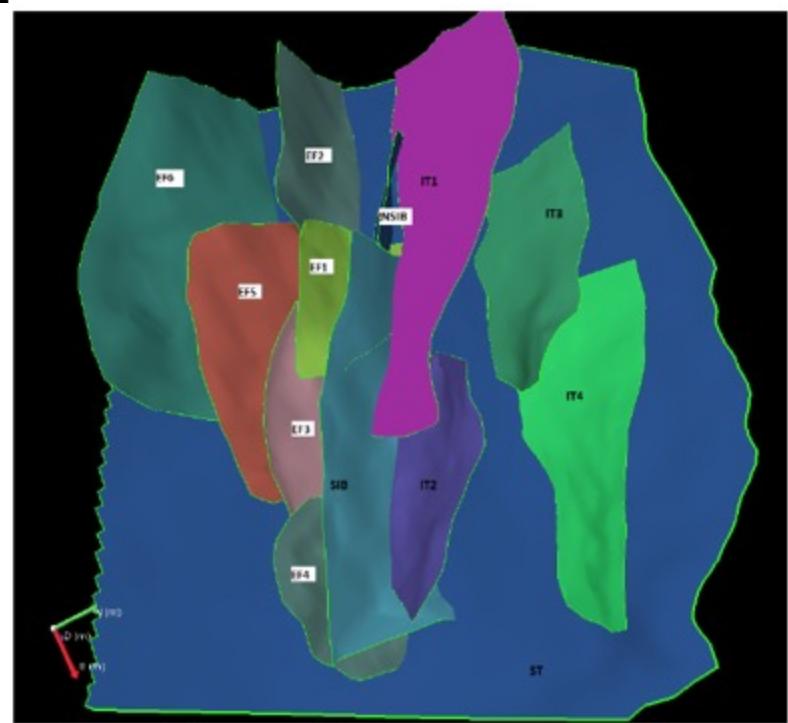
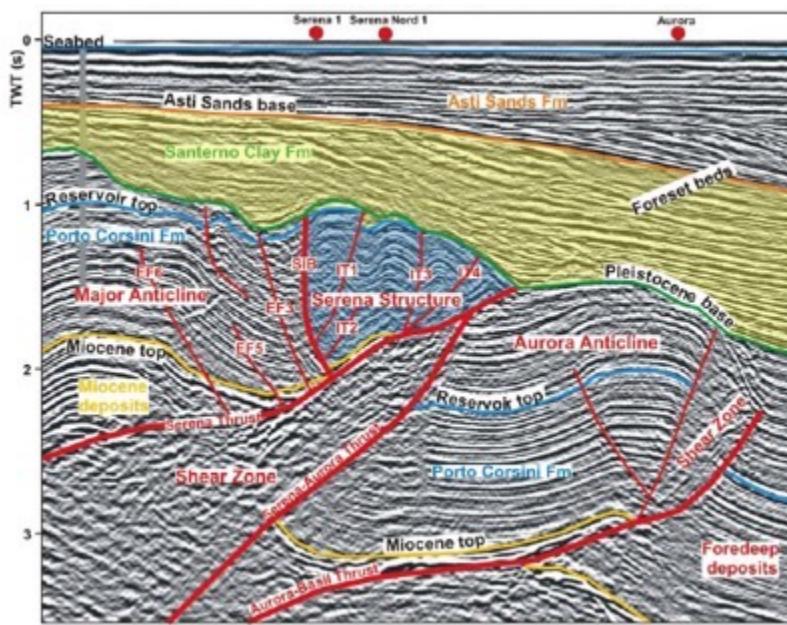
Seismostratigraphic and structural interpretation  
of multichannel seismic profiles

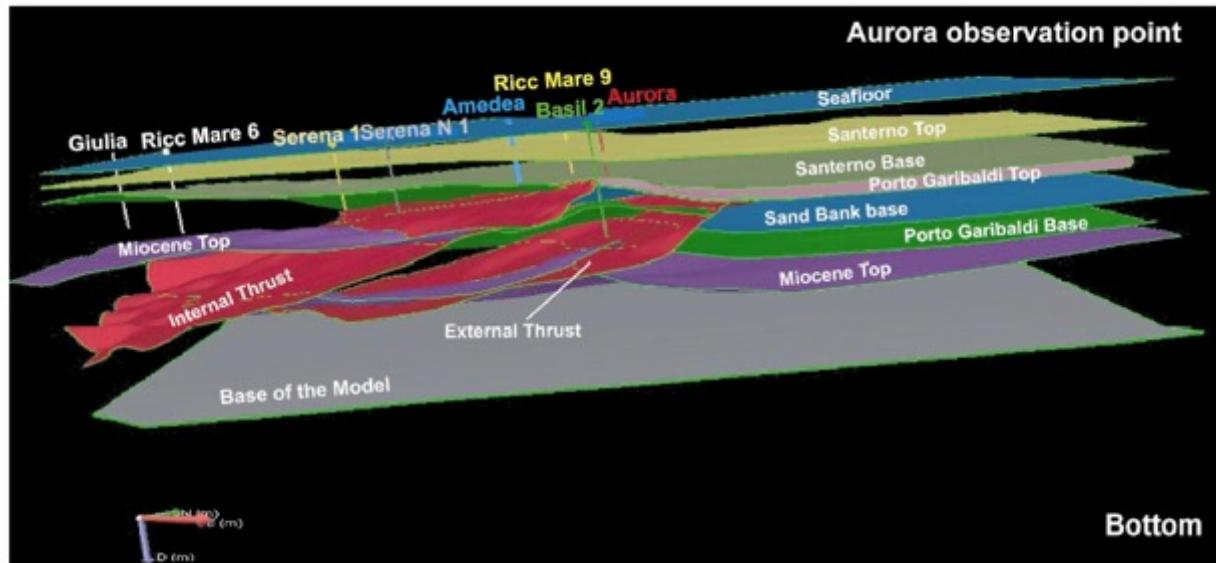




## Geological modeling

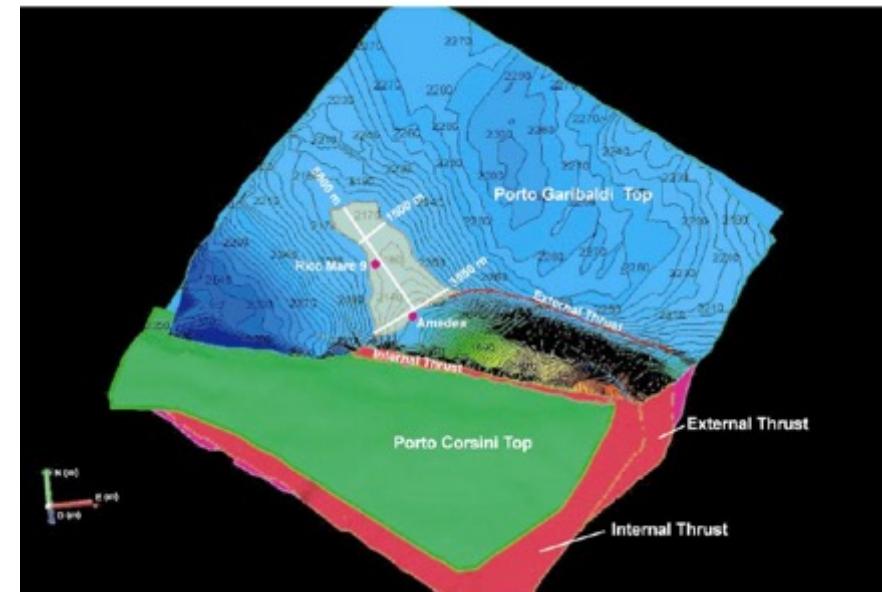
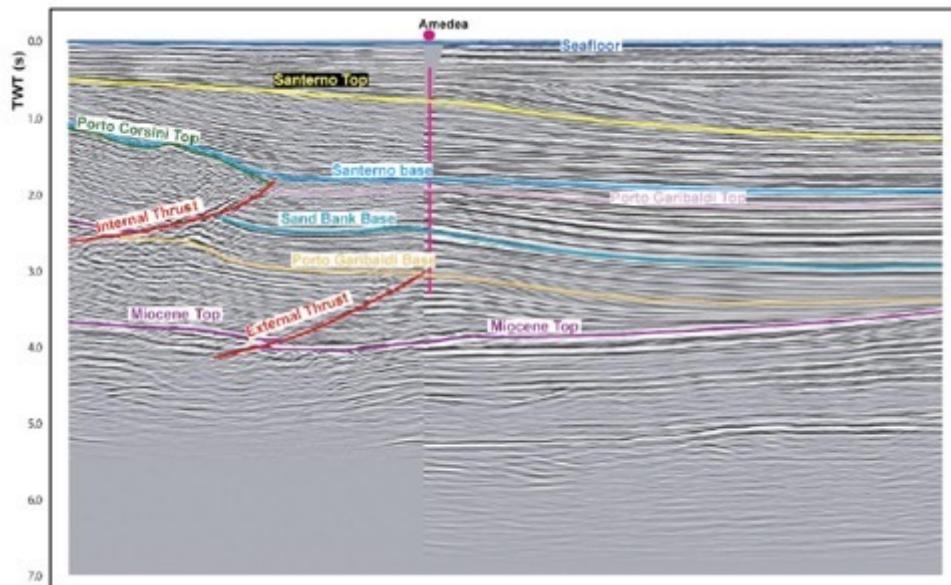
Example of 3D geological model





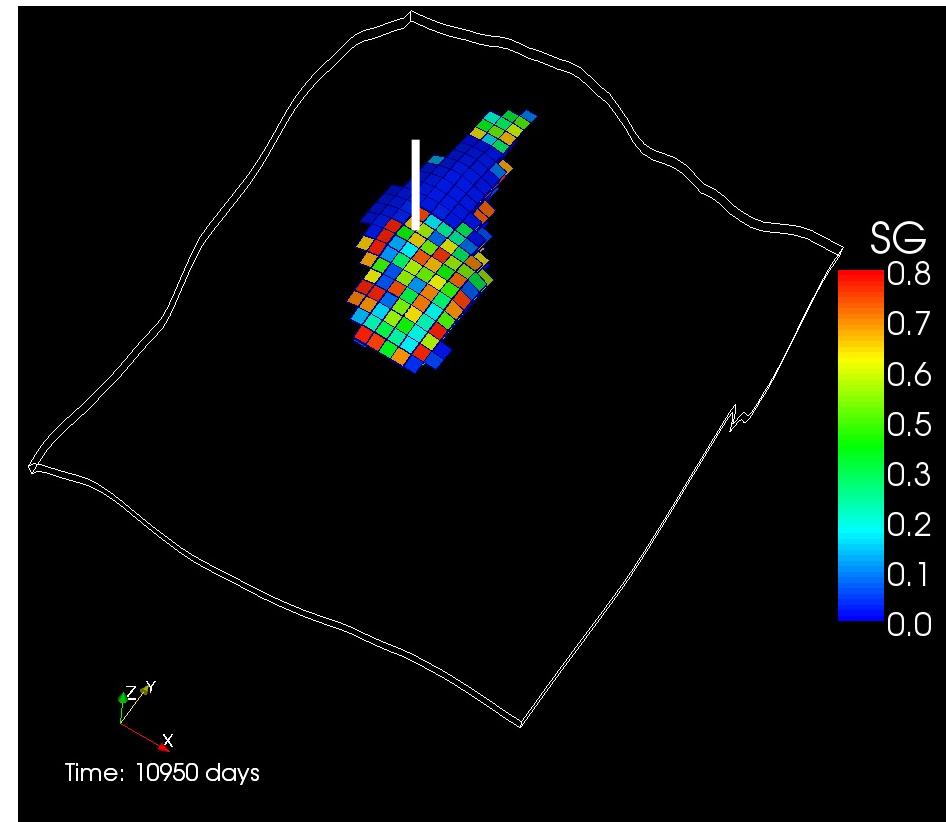
## Geological modeling

Example of  
3D geological model

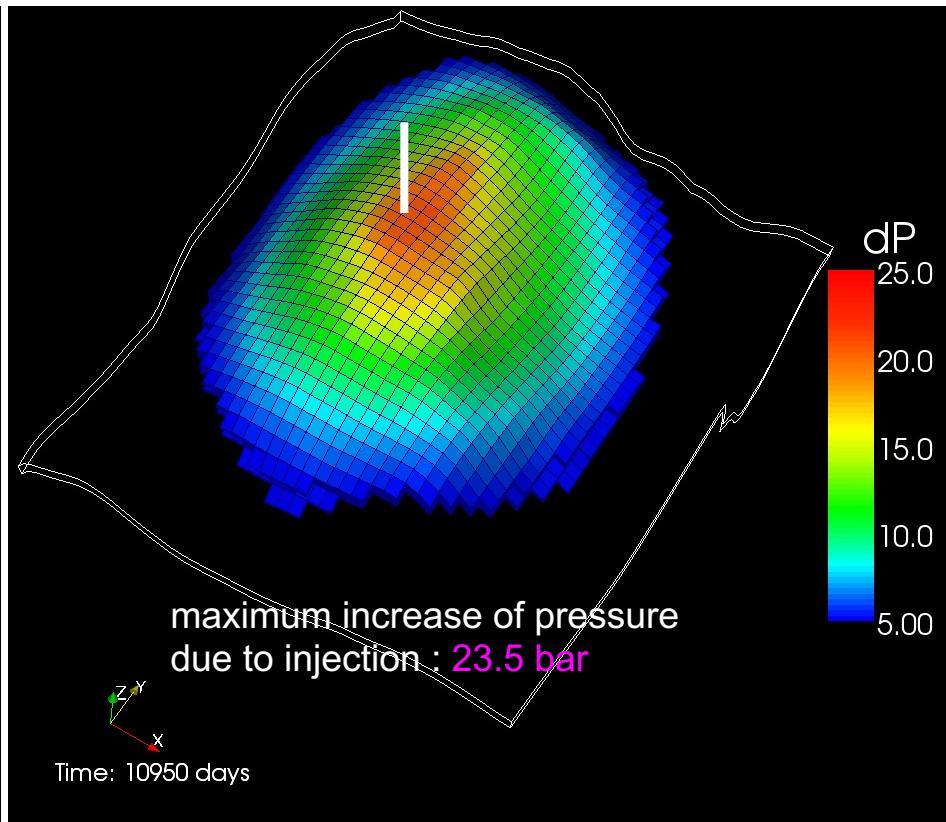


## Modeling of CO<sub>2</sub> Injection

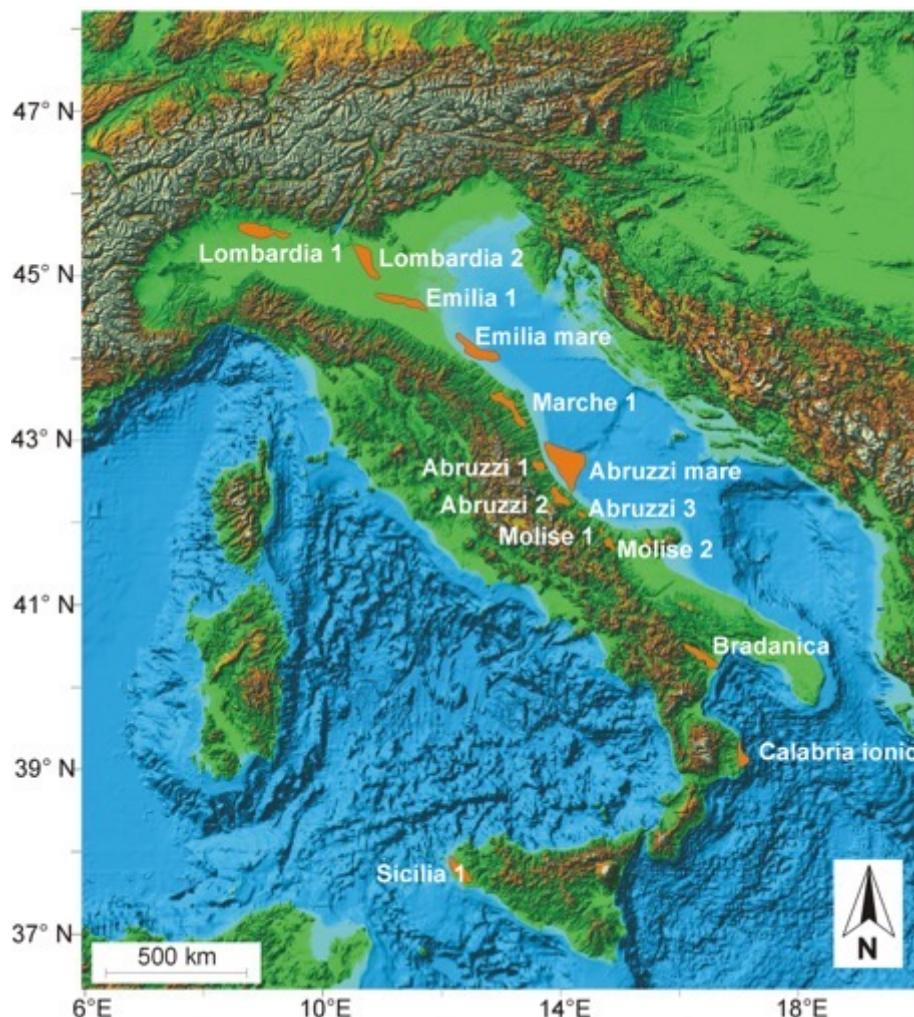
**ONE WELL located on top of the anticline**



Free CO<sub>2</sub> saturation



Pressure increase (>5bar) from static conditions



*Potential areas suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage in siliciclastic formations*

**PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF THE STORAGE CAPACITY: ~ 12 Gt**

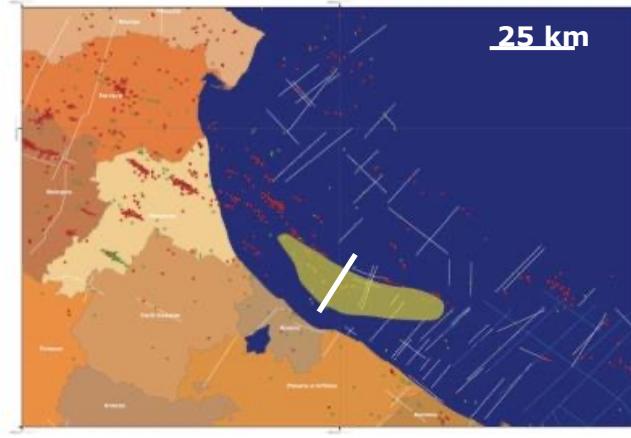


*Storage of Italy's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the next 50 years*

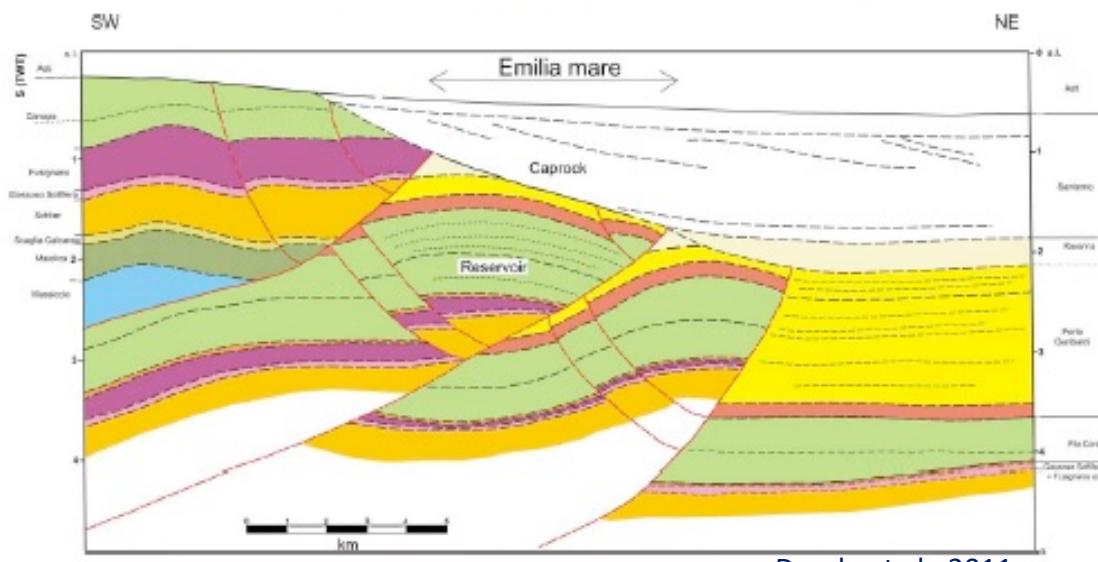
Donda et al., 2011

## Example of a potential area suitable for

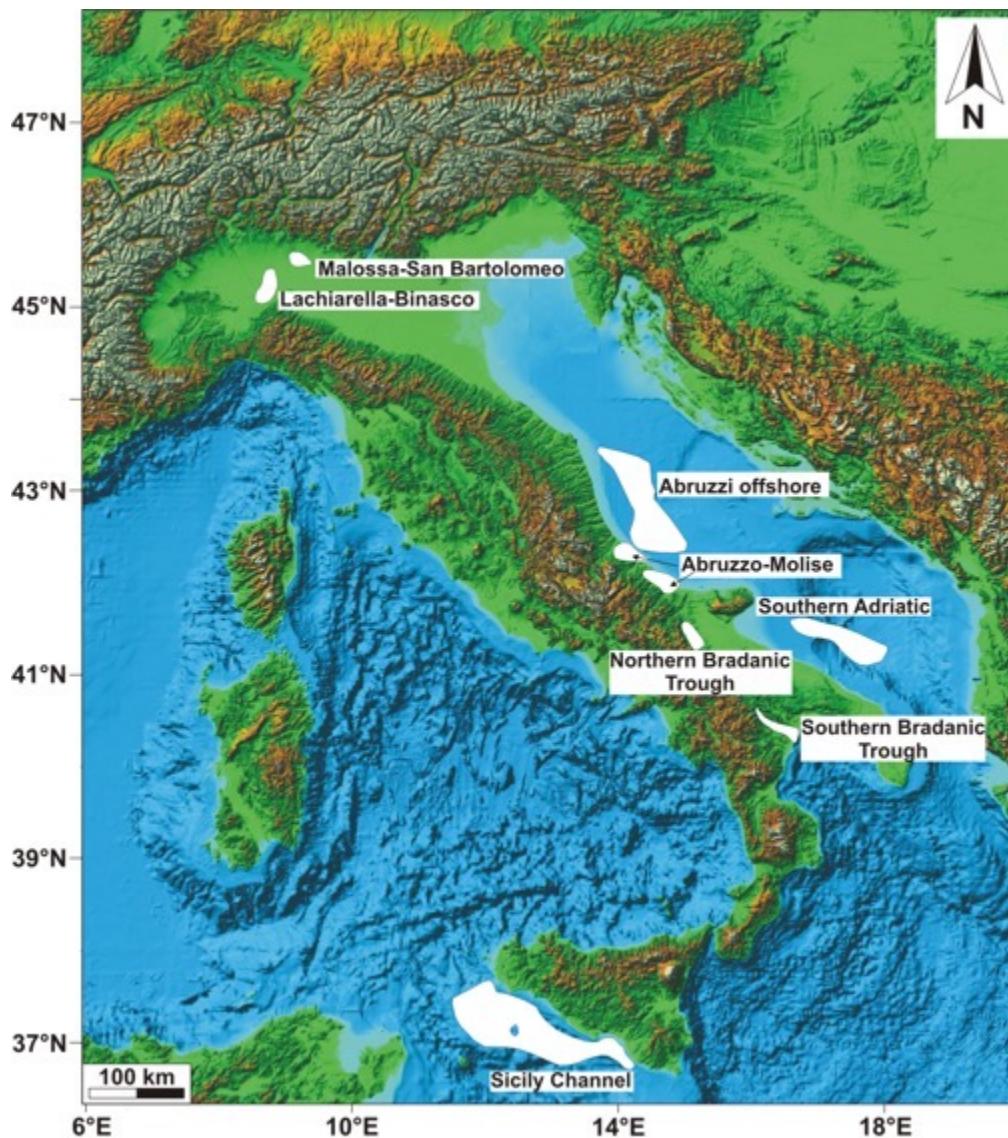
# CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage in a terrigenous formation



# **“EMILIA MARE”**



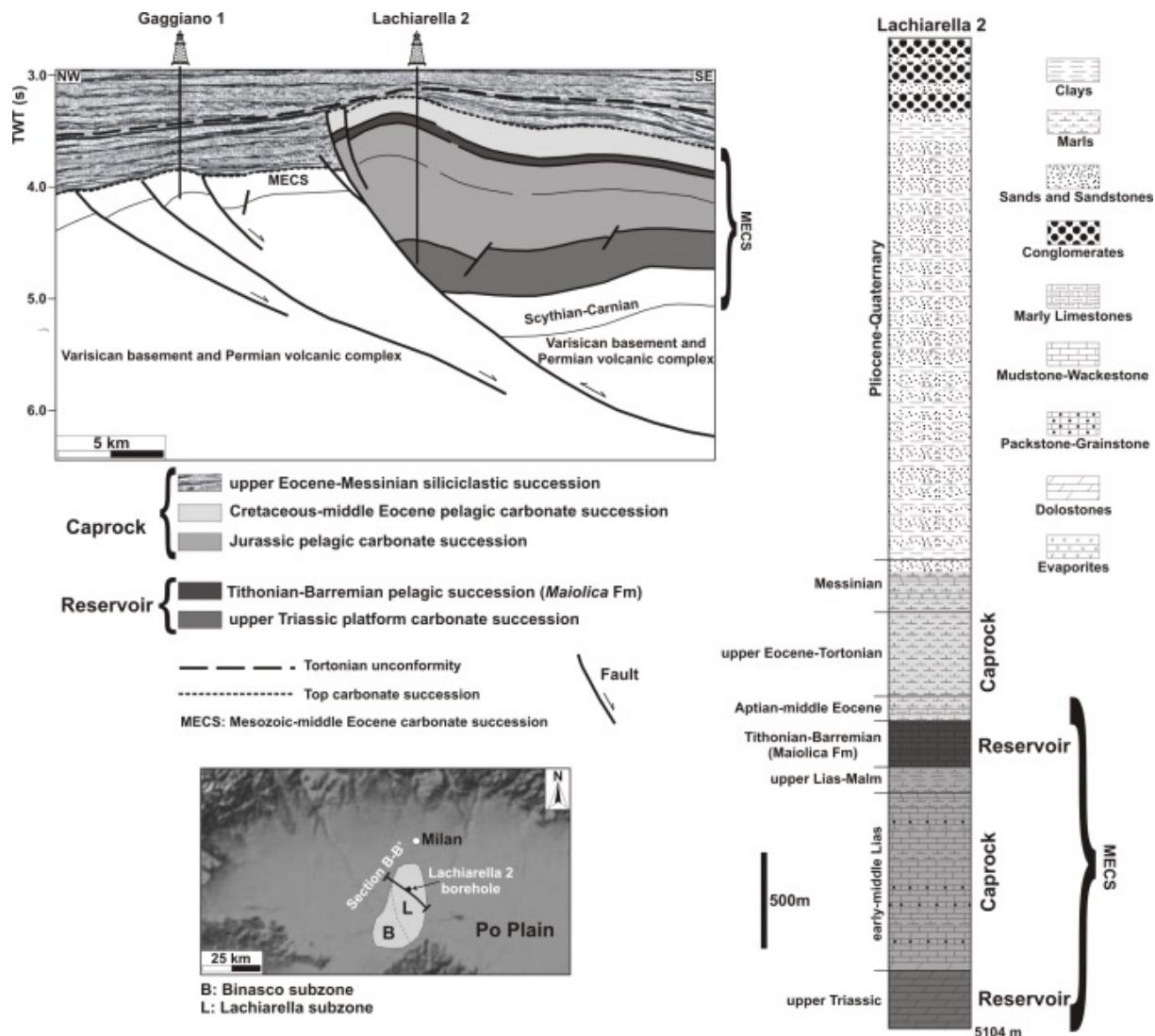
Donda et al., 2011



*Potential areas suitable for CO<sub>2</sub>  
geological storage in carbonate  
formations*

Civile et al., 2013

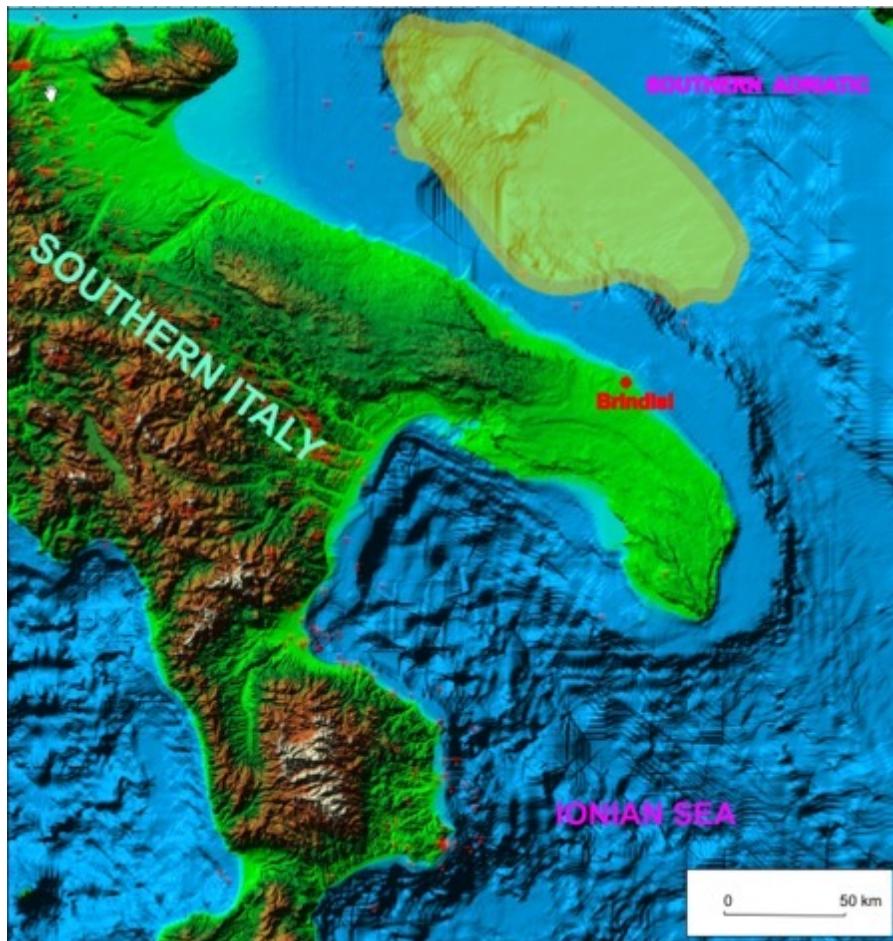
## *Example of a potential area suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage in a carbonate formation*



**“Lachiarella–  
Binasco”**

Civile et al., 2013

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOUTHERN ADRIATIC SITE OPTIONS



### Storage options

- Saline aquifer/structural trap

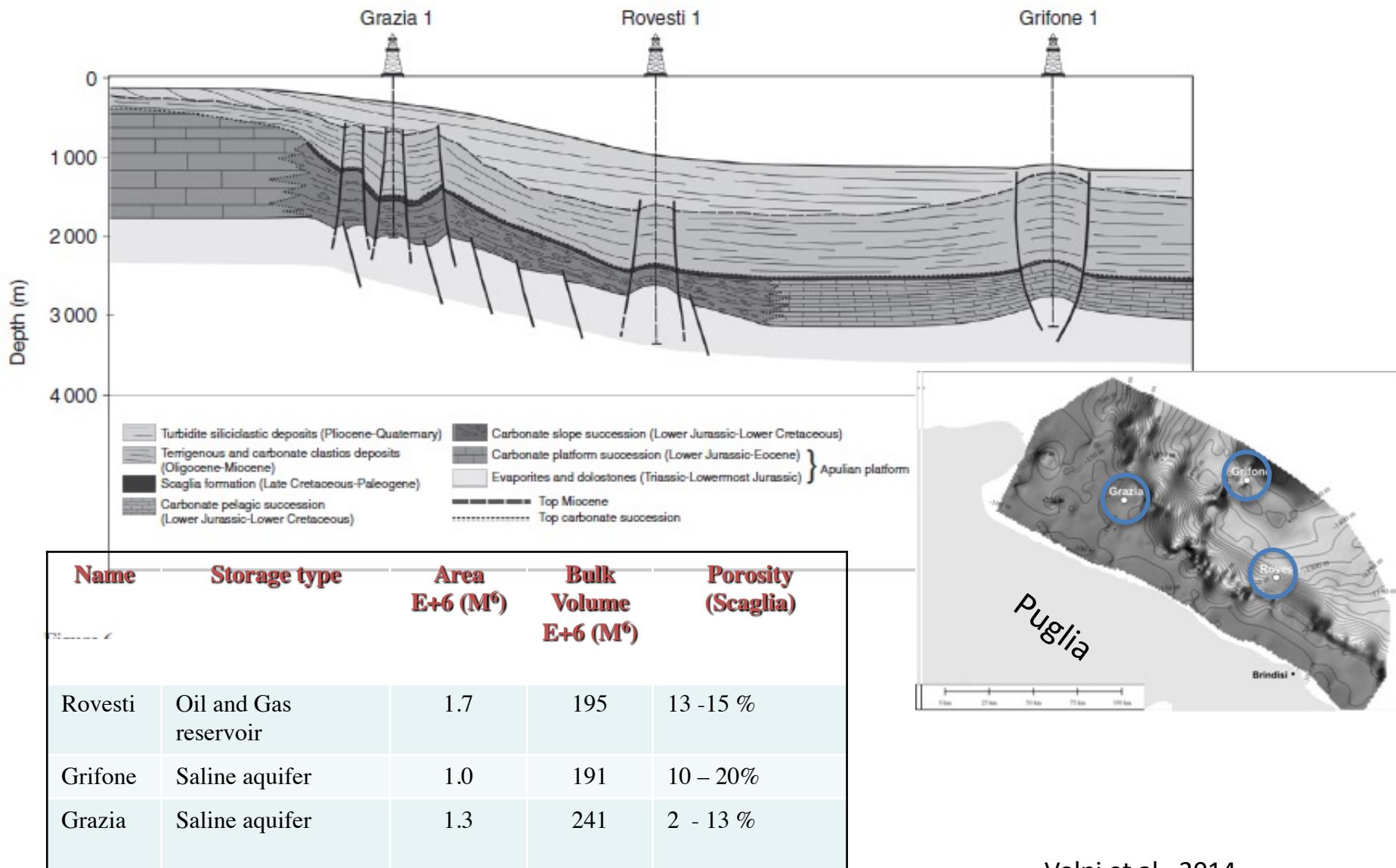
### Location

- Off shore

### Lithology

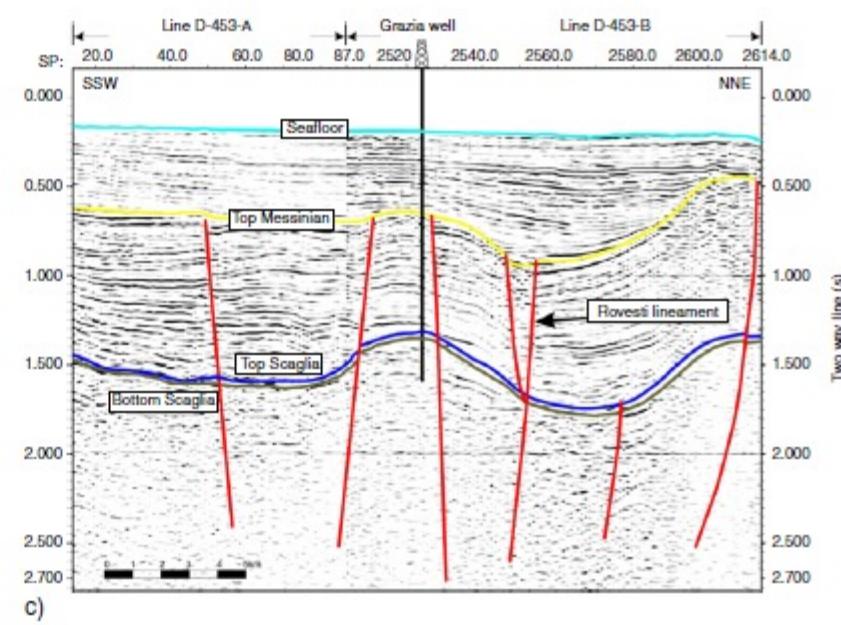
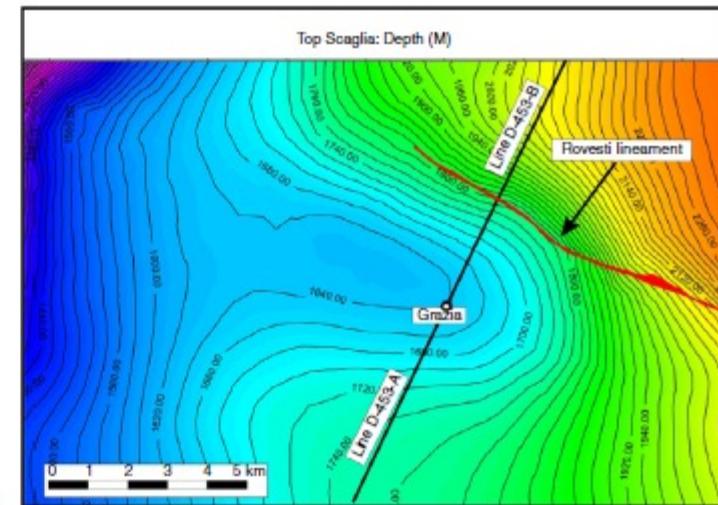
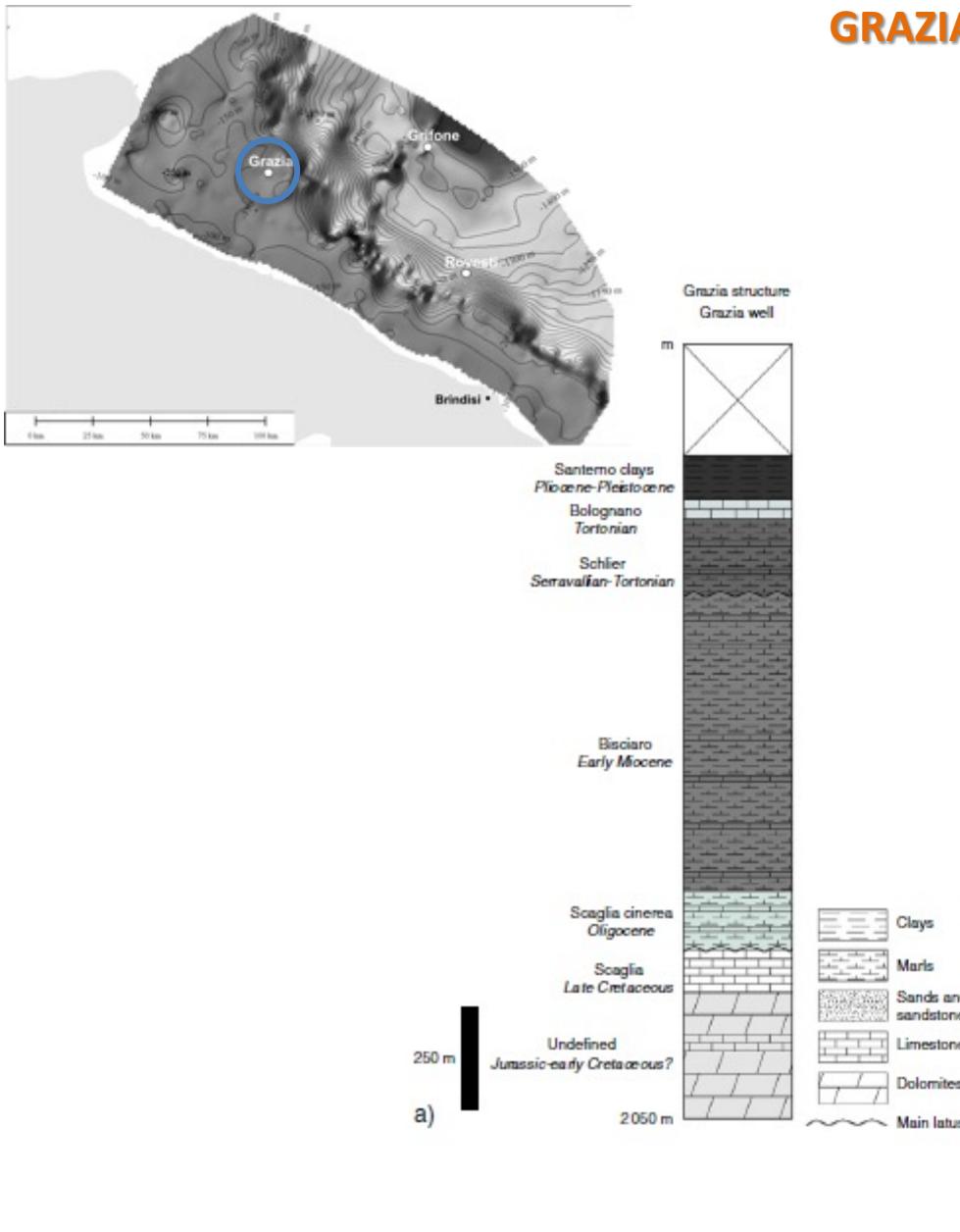
- Carbonate reservoir

## STORAGE SITE IN THE SOUTH ADRIATIC OFFSHORE

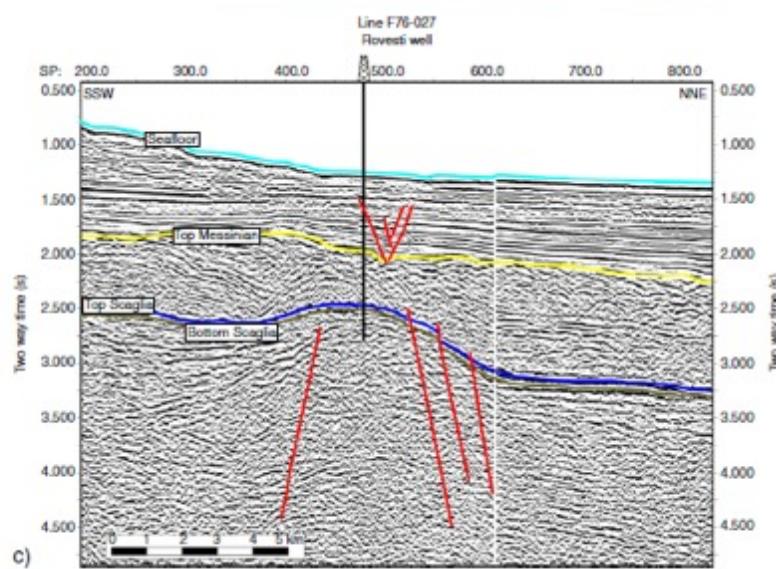
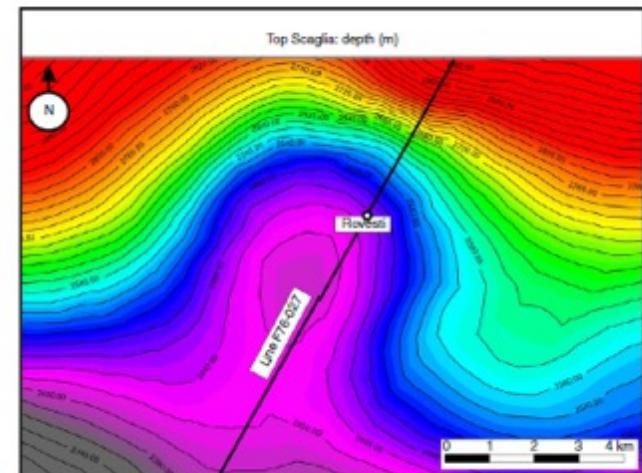
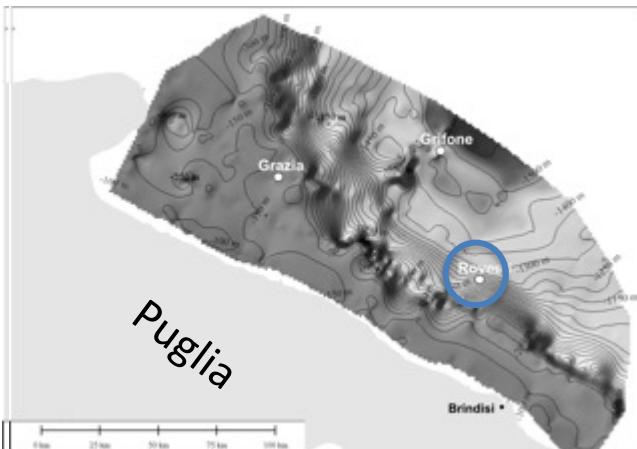


Volpi et al., 2014.

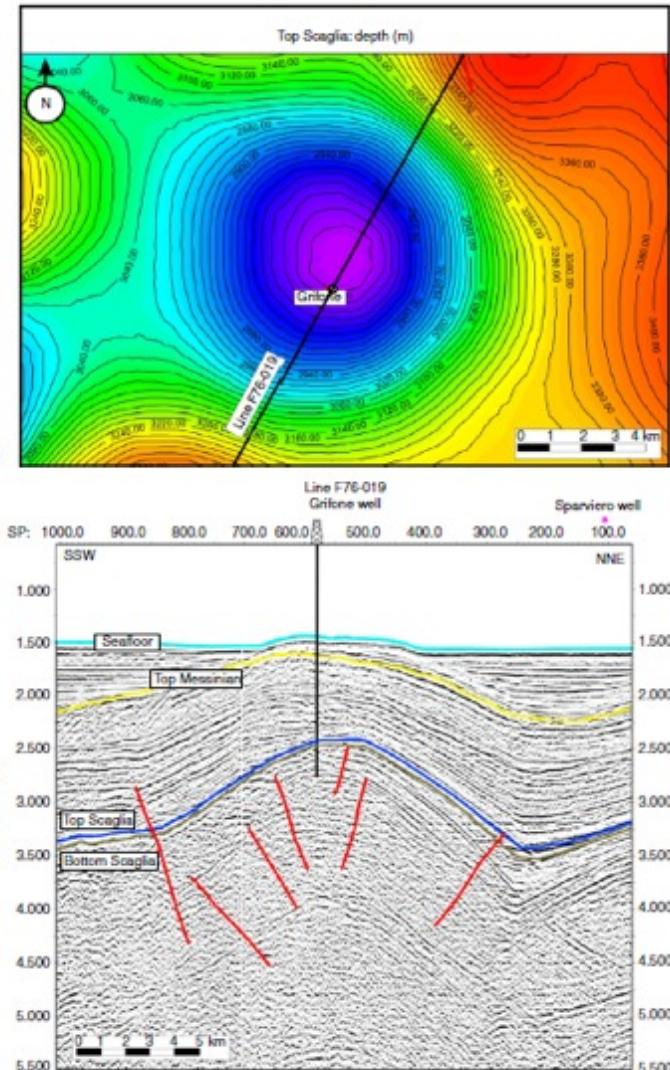
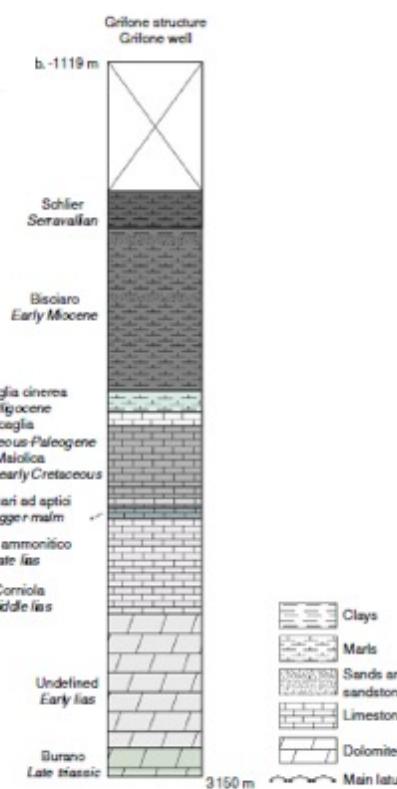
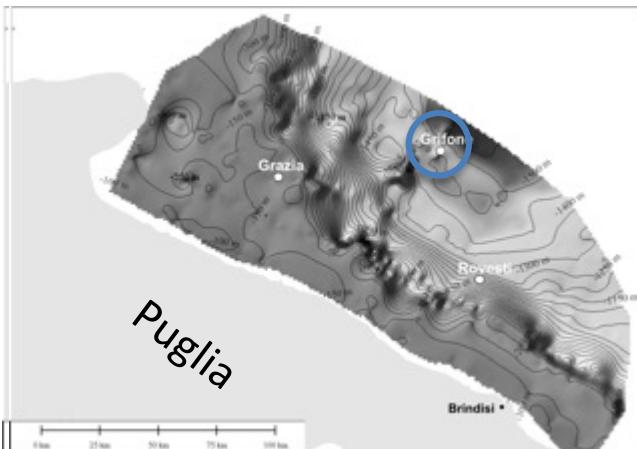
## GRAZIA STRUCTURE



## ROVESTI STRUCTURE



## GRIFONE STRUCTURE

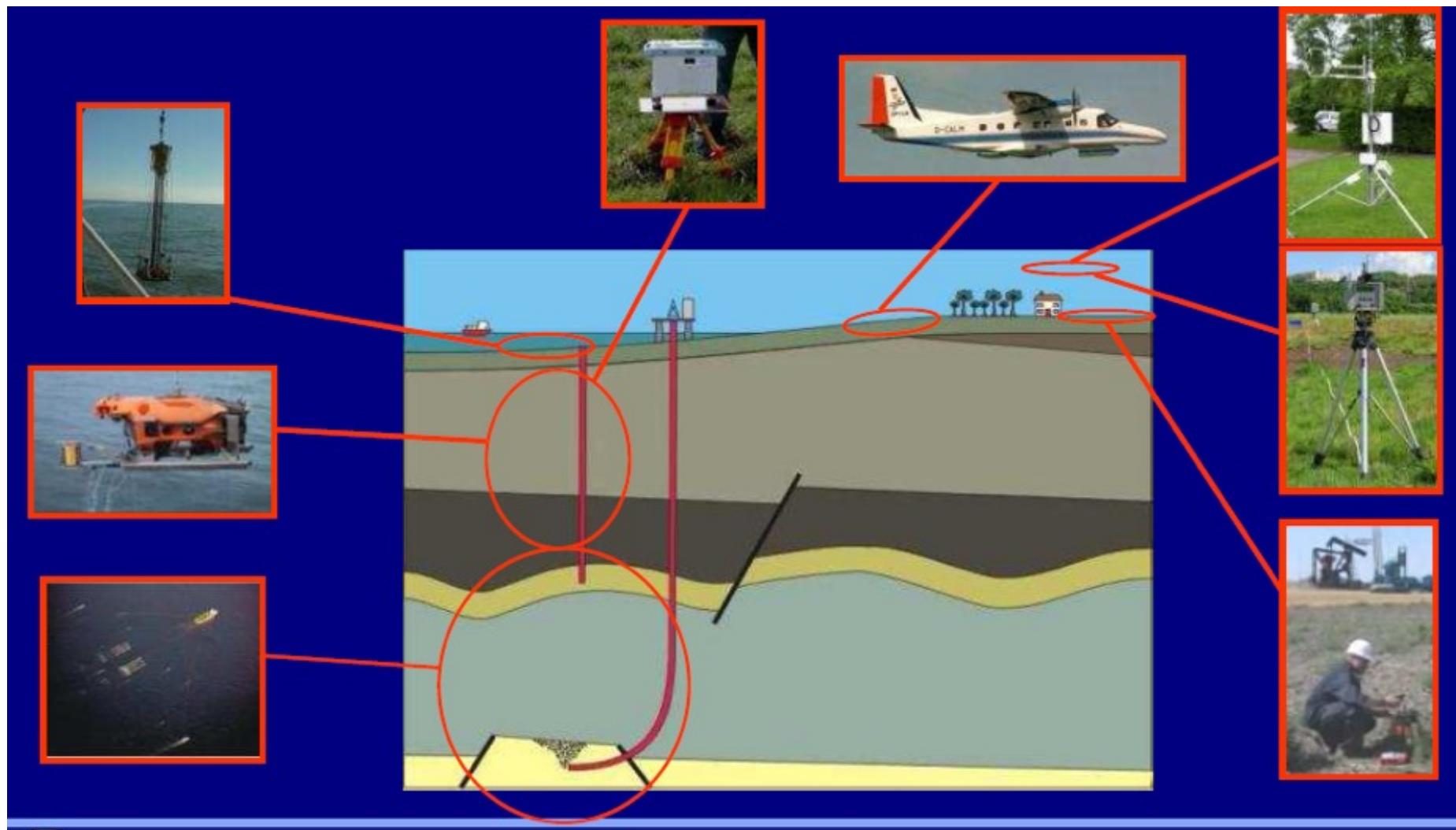


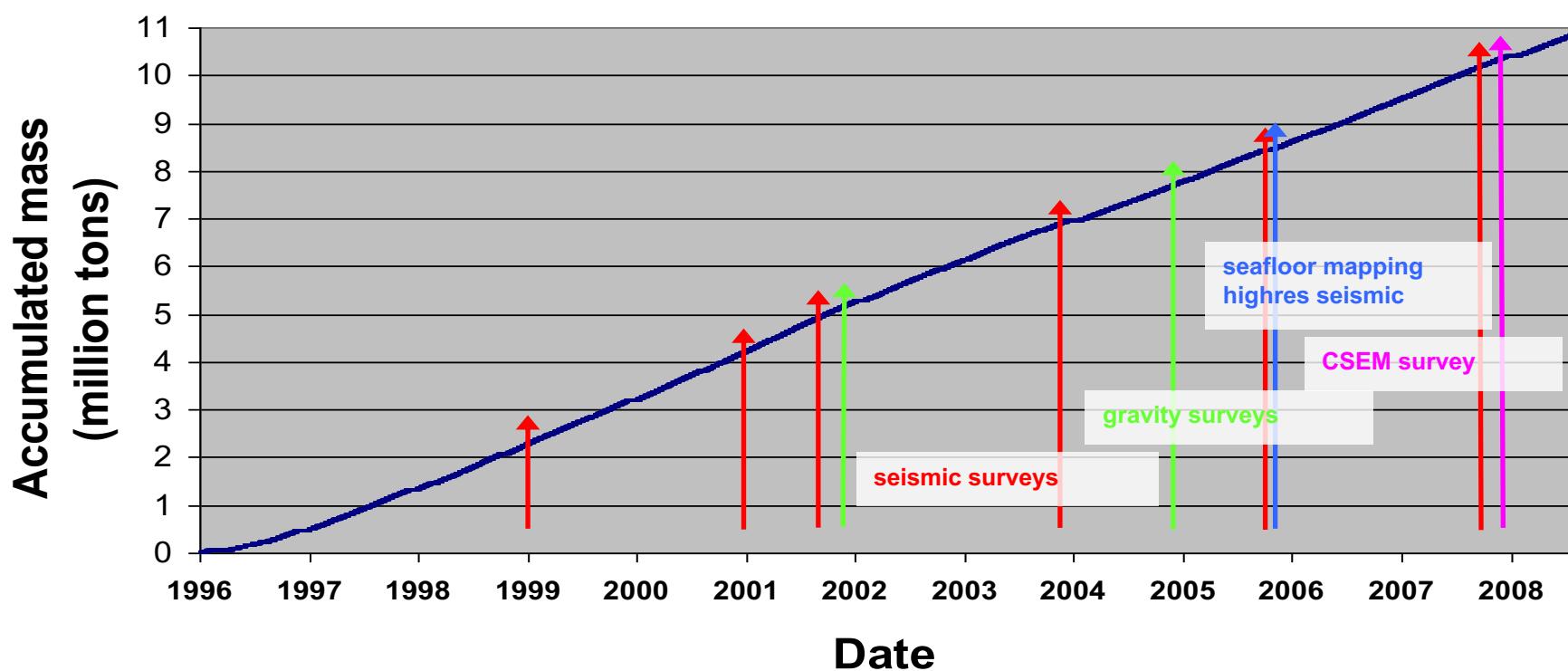
# ***Monitoring of the selected sites***

Monitoring is required in order to see whether:

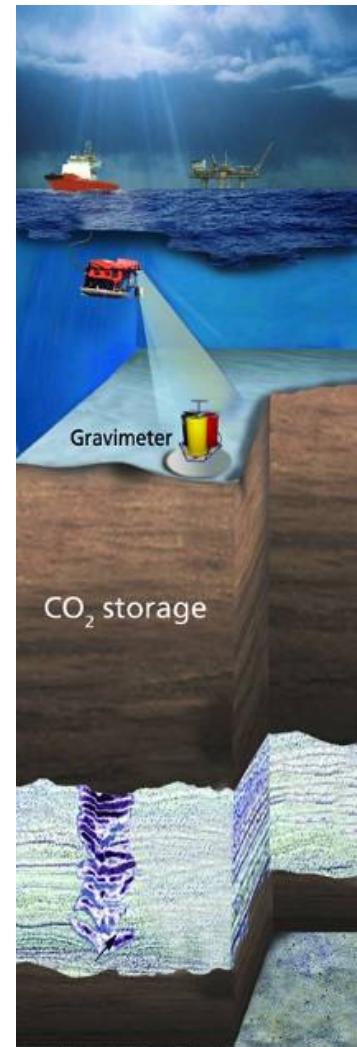
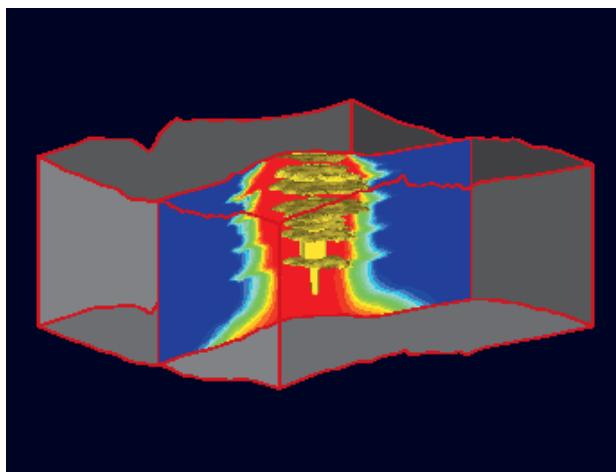
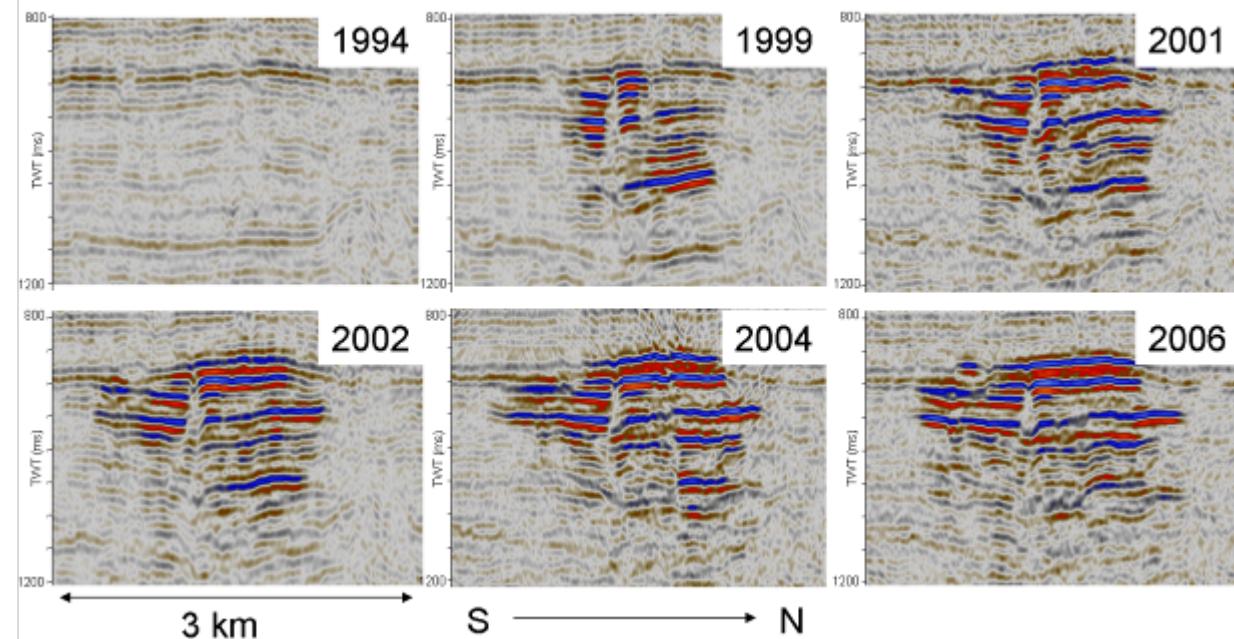
- stored CO<sub>2</sub> behaves as expected
- migration or leakage occurs
- identified leakage damages environment or human health

# Monitoring of storage site



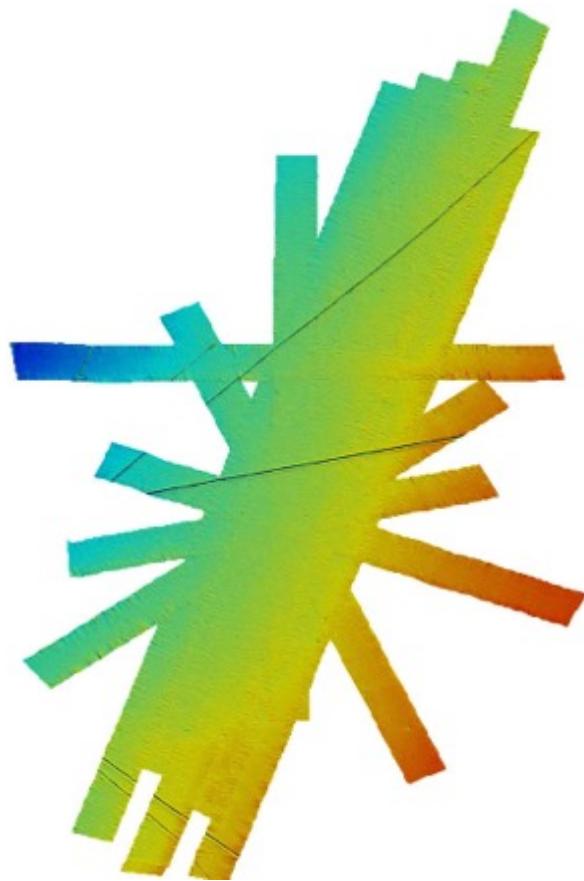
SELECTION OF MONITORING TECHNIQUES DURING INJECTION OF CO<sub>2</sub>Injected CO<sub>2</sub>

## IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF CO<sub>2</sub> BEHAVIOUR AFTER INJECTION

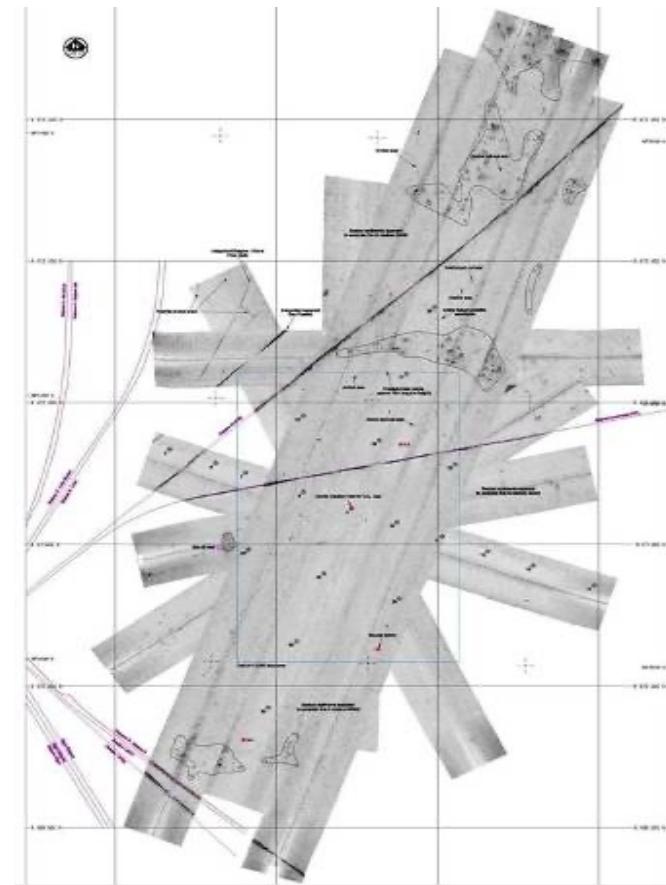


Courtesy Statoil/CO2STORE project

## HIGH RESOLUTION SEAFLOOR CHARACTERIZATION FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF GAS SEEPAGE RELATED FEATURES

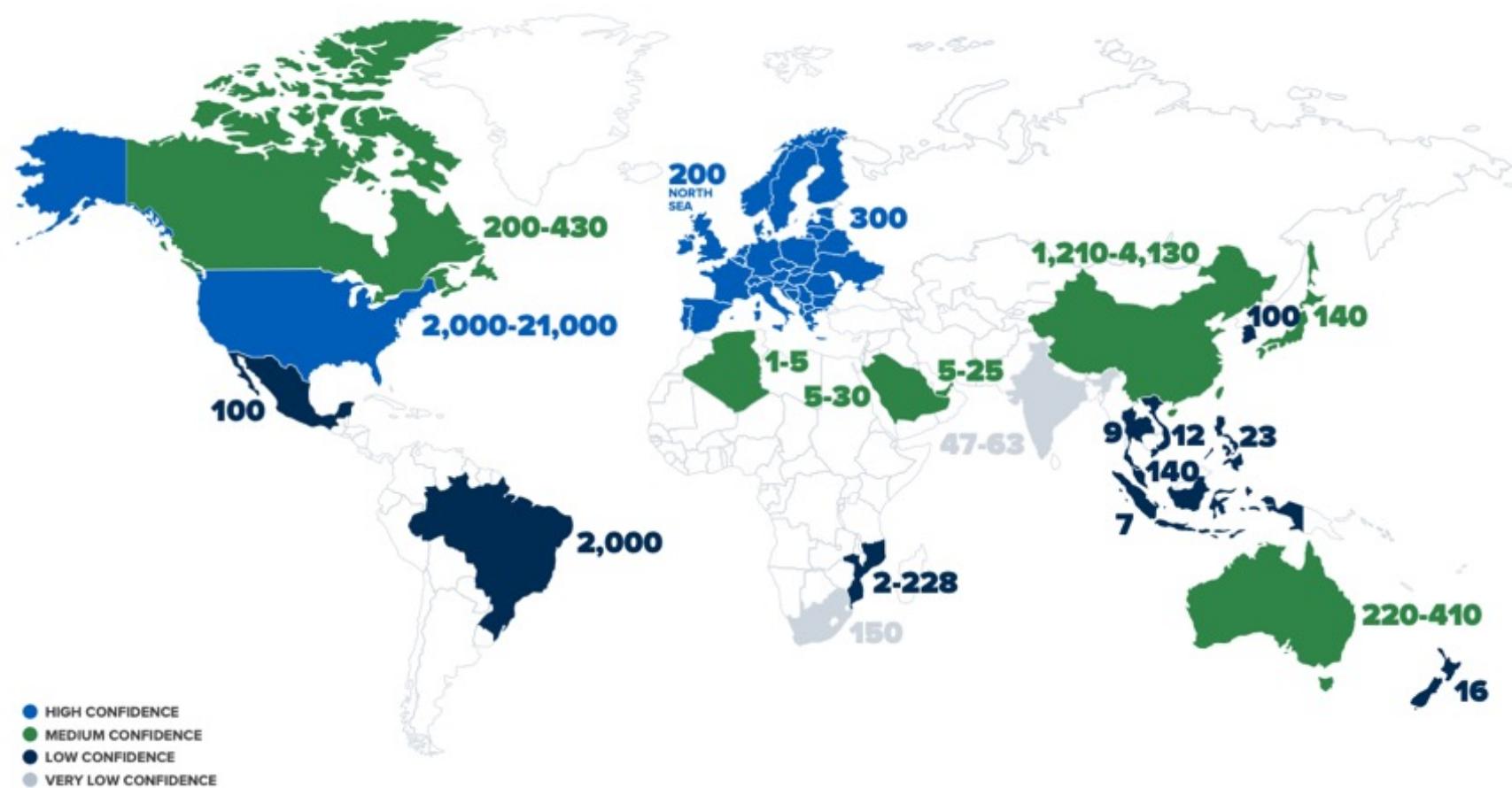


Seafloor morphology, from multibeam echo sounding



Mosaic of side scan sonar data

## GLOBAL ESTIMATE OF CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE AVAILABILITY IN THE WORLD (GIGATONS)



Map from: Global CCS Institute, 2019. The Global Status of CCS: 2019. Australia

<https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/resources/global-status-report/previous-reports/>

## WORLD MAP OF CCS FACILITIES AT VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE 2020



19 active plants

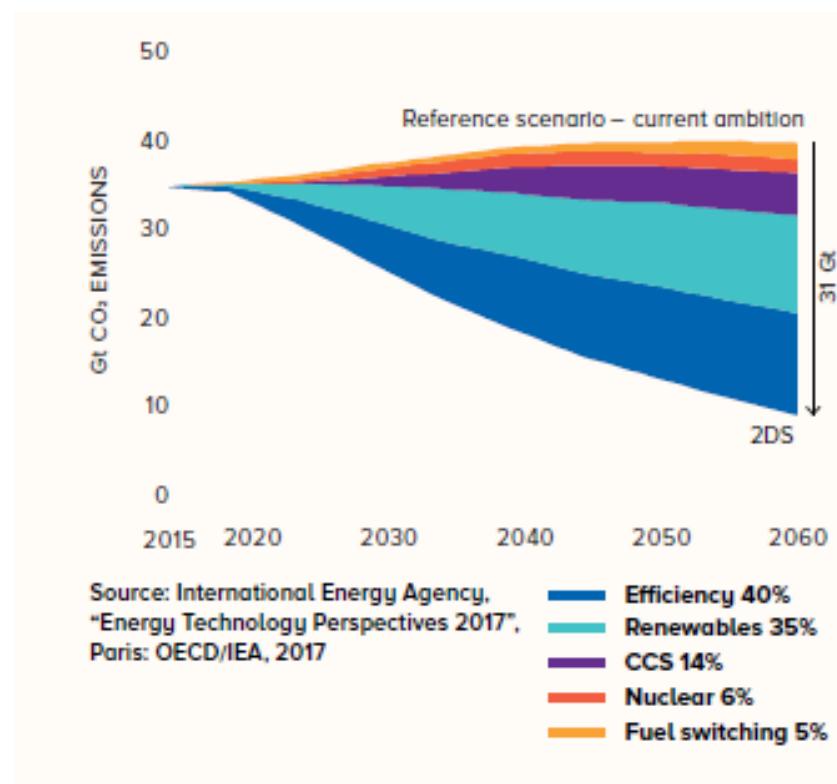


around  
40 Mton/year  
of CO<sub>2</sub> are  
stored today

- COMMERCIAL CCS FACILITIES IN OPERATION & CONSTRUCTION
- COMMERCIAL CCS FACILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT
- OPERATION SUSPENDED

- PILOT & DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES IN OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT
- PILOT & DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES COMPLETED

Map from: Global CCS Institute, 2020. The Global Status of CCS: 2020. Australia  
<https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/resources/global-status-report/previous-reports/>



**CCS IS CRITICAL** to achieve the limit average global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial times, with the aspiration of limiting warming to 1.5°C (Paris Agreement, December 2015)



# Università degli studi di Trieste

**LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN GEOSCIENZE**  
**Classe Scienze e Tecnologie Geologiche**

**Curriculum: Esplorazione Geologica**

**Anno accademico 2022 - 2023**

**Analisi di Bacino e  
Stratigrafia Sequenziale (426SM)**

**Modulo 1.5b – Energy Storage**

**Docente: Federica donda**

## OUTLINE

- Main concepts on energy storage
- Underground hydrogen storage
  - the EU Hystories project
  - the case study of the Veneto-Friuli Plain
- The role of the geological-structural setting in the identification of storage sites
  - triggered and induced seismicity
- Underground gas storage
  - OGS gas storage monitoring

## *ENERGY STORAGE*

Energy storage is the capture of energy produced at one time for use at a later time to reduce imbalances between energy demand and energy production



UNDERGROUND ENERGY STORAGE

## *UNDERGROUND ENERGY STORAGE*

- Pumped Hydro Energy Storage: a type of hydroelectric energy storage; it is a configuration of two water reservoirs at different elevations that can generate power as water moves down from one to the other (discharge), passing through a turbine
  - Underground Thermal Energy Storage: heat pump schemes applied to single boreholes or arrays of boreholes suitably drilled in the subsurface, in which heated or chilled fluid is injected and extracted
  - Compressed Air Energy Storage: is a way to store energy for later use using compressed air
- Underground Hydrogen Storage
  - Underground Gas Storage



## IDROGENO

Tra i tanti elementi che compongono la materia, l'idrogeno è **il più leggero e il più abbondante**. Costituisce quasi il 90% della massa visibile dell'universo, per la maggior parte nella sua forma gassosa, costituita da una semplice molecola a due atomi ( $H_2$ ).

L'idrogeno è il carburante delle stelle, cioè il propellente di cui si alimentano le reazioni di fusione nucleare con cui bruciano le stelle.

Tra i combustibili convenzionali è quello con il **massimo contenuto di energia per unità di peso**, tre volte superiore a quello della benzina.

Può giocare un ruolo decisivo per la **decarbonizzazione** delle industrie ad alta intensità energetica, come quella dei trasporti aerei e marittimi, della siderurgia o della chimica, e quindi viene considerato uno dei pilastri del futuro sistema energetico

## I «COLORI» DELL'IDROGENO

**Nero.** L'idrogeno viene estratto dall'acqua usando la corrente prodotta da una centrale elettrica a carbone o a petrolio.

**Grigio.** È “grigio” più del 90% dell'idrogeno oggi prodotto. Questo elemento ha usi industriali, per esempio nella chimica; può essere lo scarto produttivo di una reazione chimica, oppure può essere estratto dal metano (che è formato da idrogeno e carbonio) o da altri idrocarburi.

**Blu.** Viene definito “blu” l'idrogeno estratto da idrocarburi fossili dove — a differenza del “grigio” — l'anidride carbonica che risulta dal processo non viene liberata nell'aria bensì viene catturata e immagazzinata.



**Viola.** L'idrogeno “viola” viene estratto dall'acqua usando la corrente prodotta da una centrale nucleare, cioè a zero emissione di CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Verde.** L'idrogeno “verde” viene estratto dall'acqua usando la corrente prodotta da una centrale alimentata da energie rinnovabili, come idroelettrica, solare o fotovoltaica.

*Soltanto il cosiddetto “idrogeno verde”, ottenuto separandolo dall'acqua con un processo di elettrolisi alimentato da energia rinnovabile, è davvero a impatto zero*



## *STOCCAGGIO DI IDROGENO*

Lo **stoccaggio di energia** ha acquisito un'importanza fondamentale per la sicurezza energetica, nell'ottica di una **progressiva transizione energetica** dai combustibili fossili a fonti rinnovabili quali energia solare ed eolico.

Lo stoccaggio di idrogeno per approvvigionamento energetico può essere fatto anche attraverso **l'iniezione e l'immagazzinamento in formazioni geologiche profonde**, come avviene per il gas naturale e l'anidride carbonica (CCS), e da esse può successivamente **venire estratto** per essere utilizzato nei picchi di richiesta energetica.

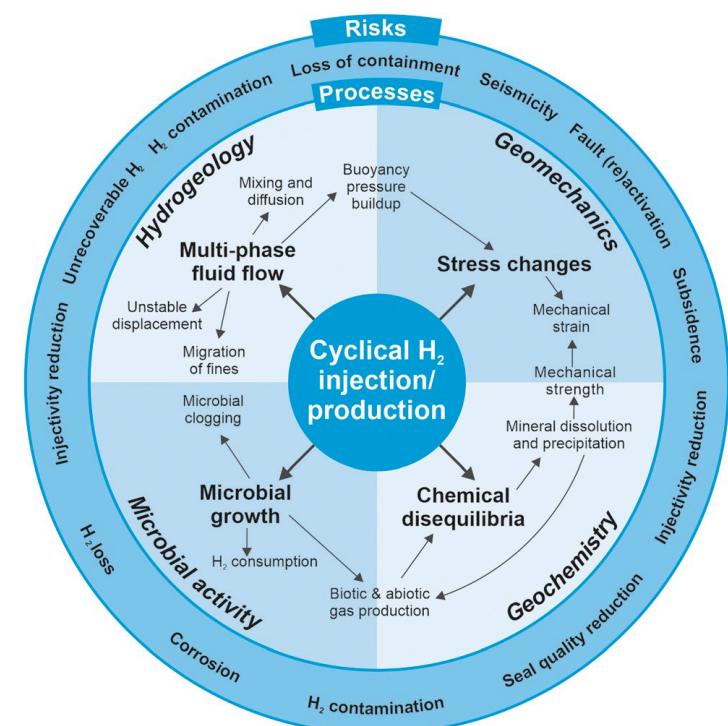
# UNDERGROUND HYDROGEN STORAGE

- Salt caverns (since the 70's in Europe)

- Deep saline aquifers
- Depleted hydrocarbon (gas) reservoirs



**New frontiers and challenging!**





Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation



## HyStorIES

# HYDROGEN STORAGE IN EUROPEAN SUBSURFACE

- Call: H2020 FCH-02-5-2020 “Underground storage of renewable hydrogen in depleted gas fields and other geological stores”
- Duration: 24 months (2021-2023)
- Budget: 2,5 M€

Coordinator: GeoStock SAS (France)

*OGS: CO2GeoNet third party*

## HyStorIES Hydrogen Storage In European Subsurface

## CONCEPT

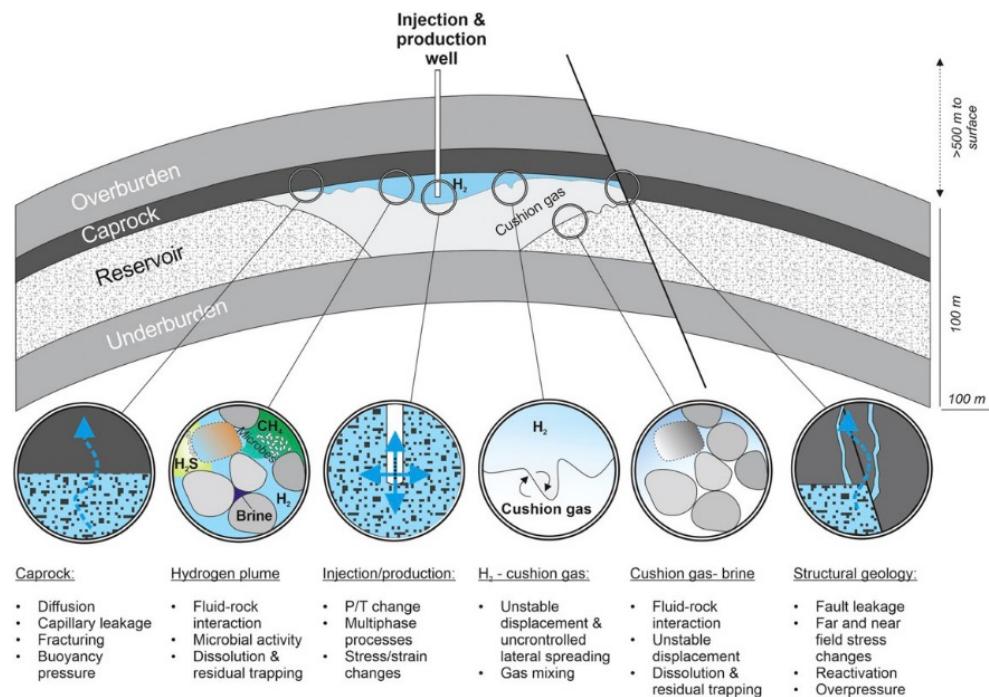
- **Renewable hydrogen**, when combined with large scale underground storage, balances out the impacts of **variable energy production** from renewable energy sources;
- While storing pure hydrogen in salt caverns has been practiced since the '70s in Europe, **hydrogen storage has not yet been carried out anywhere in depleted fields or aquifers**;
- Technical developments are still needed to validate this solution, i.e. **bio- and geo-chemical impacts** on the subsurface and **quality of hydrogen** extracted from the store.



*HyStorIES proposes to address the **main technical feasibility questions** and to assess the **techno-economical potential of underground large-scale storage of renewable hydrogen by 2050***

## CRITERI

- Presenza di **reservoir** (formazioni geologiche porose e permeabili-es. sabbie) e **caprock** (formazioni geologiche impermeabili-argille)
- Profondità del reservoir: almeno 500 m
- Distanza da sorgenti sismogenetiche (Database of Individual Seismogenic Sources (DISS)  $M > 5.5$  - INGV)



da Heinemann et al., 2021

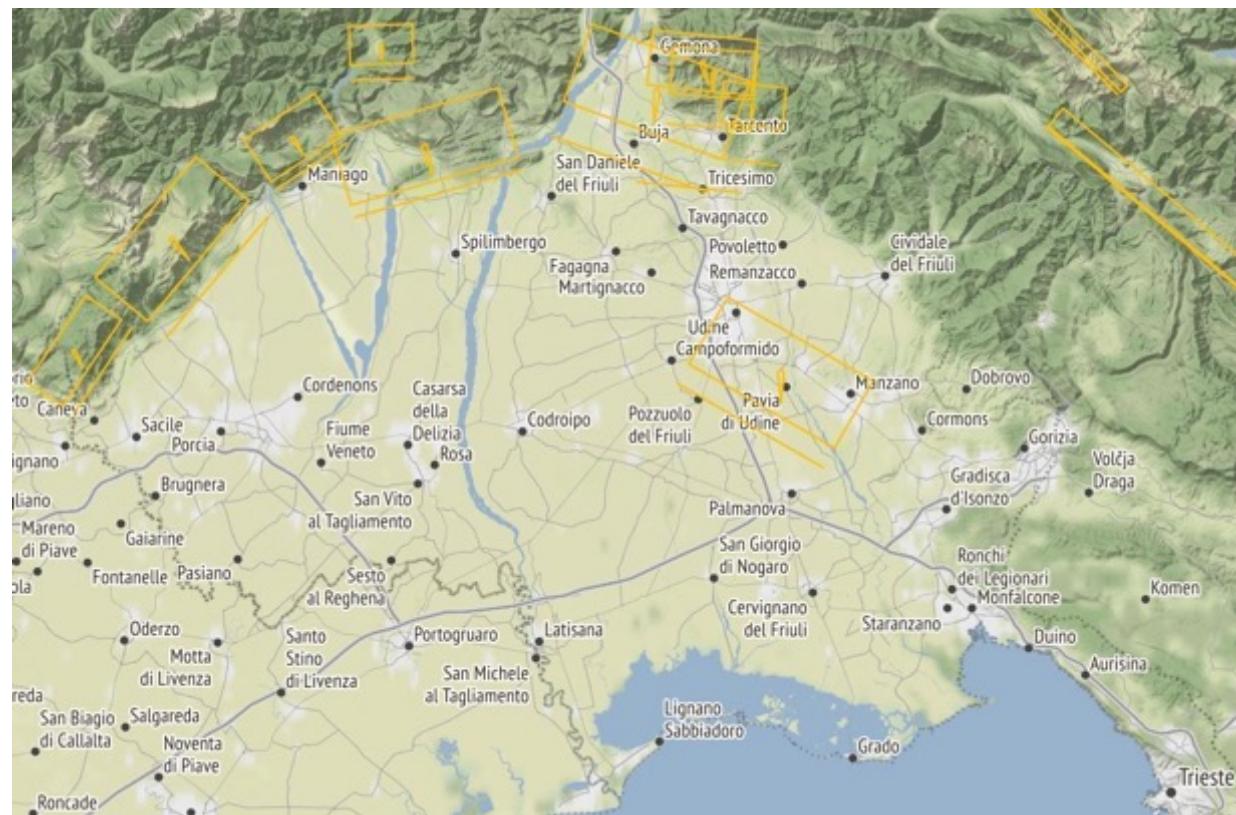
## OGS NEL PROGETTO HYSTORIES

### Analisi dei logs di pozzo e revisione dei precedenti studi sugli acquiferi

- Acquiferi profondi carbonatici e terrigeni già identificati come possibili siti di stoccaggio della CO<sub>2</sub> (Civile et al., 2013; Donda et al., 2011)
- Acquiferi superficiali individuati dai logs di pozzo (database ViDEPI)
- Campi depleti ad idrocarburi, inclusi quelli attualmente usati come stoccaggio di gas naturale (<https://unmig.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/dati/stoccaggio-del-gas-naturale>)



# SITES POTENTIALLY SUITABLE FOR HYDROGEN STORAGE IN THE VENETO-FRIULI PLAIN REGION

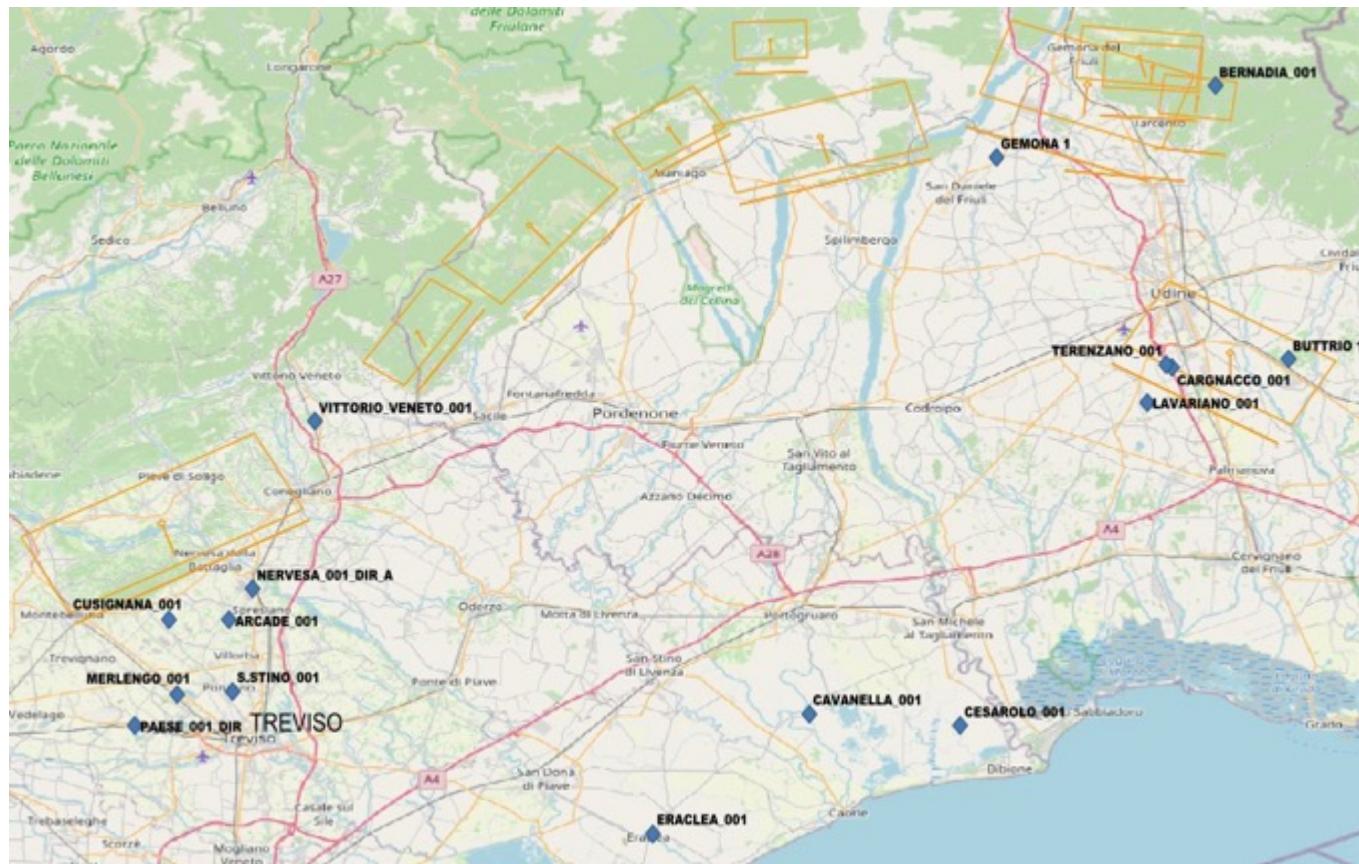


Mattera et al., under review

## *SITES POTENTIALLY SUITABLE FOR HYDROGEN STORAGE IN THE VENETO-FRIULI PLAIN REGION*

The study area has been chosen in light of some key initiatives that have been undertaken in the northern Adriatic region concerning hydrogen-related technologies: on April 2022, the “**North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley**” initiative was officially launched with the aim of building the **first cross-border hydrogen valley**. This initiative brings together Friuli Venezia Giulia district, Slovenia and Croatia through a cooperation agreement that has been finalized to pursue the **Hydrogen Strategy** for a climate-neutral Europe which was launched in 2020 by the European Commission.

# SITES POTENTIALLY SUITABLE FOR HYDROGEN STORAGE IN THE VENETO-FRIULI PLAIN REGION

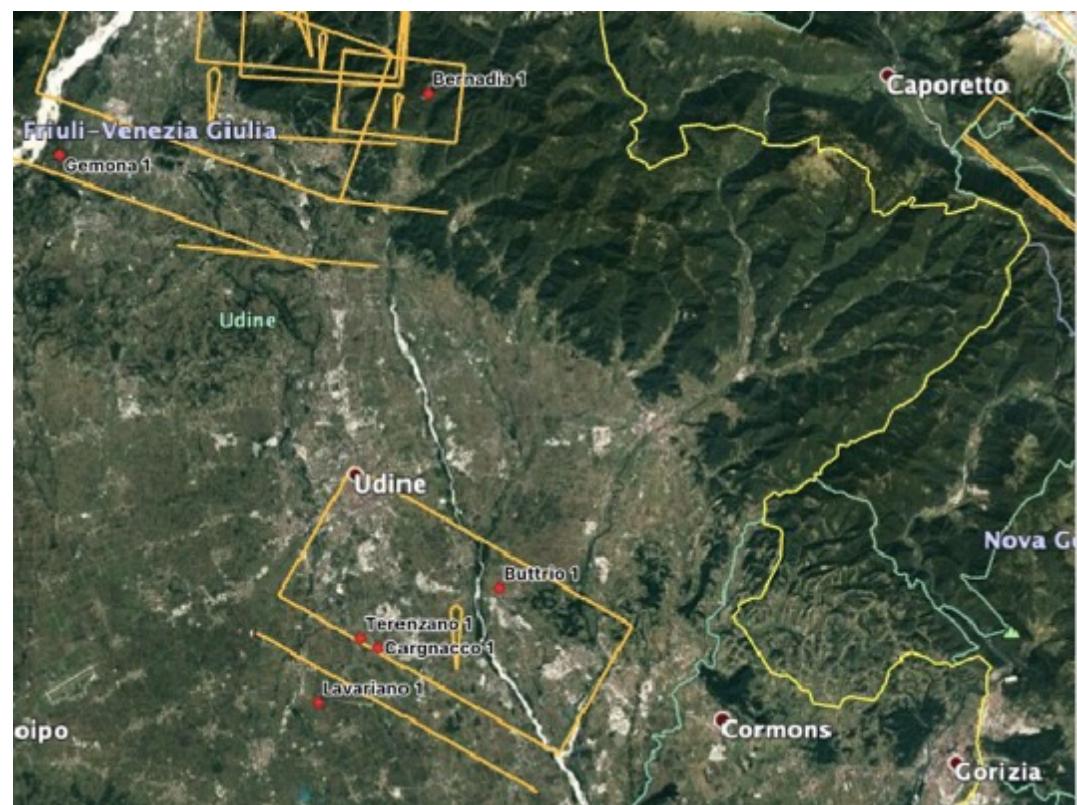


17 boreholes available  
from the  
«Visibility of petroleum  
exploration data in Italy  
(Videpi)» database

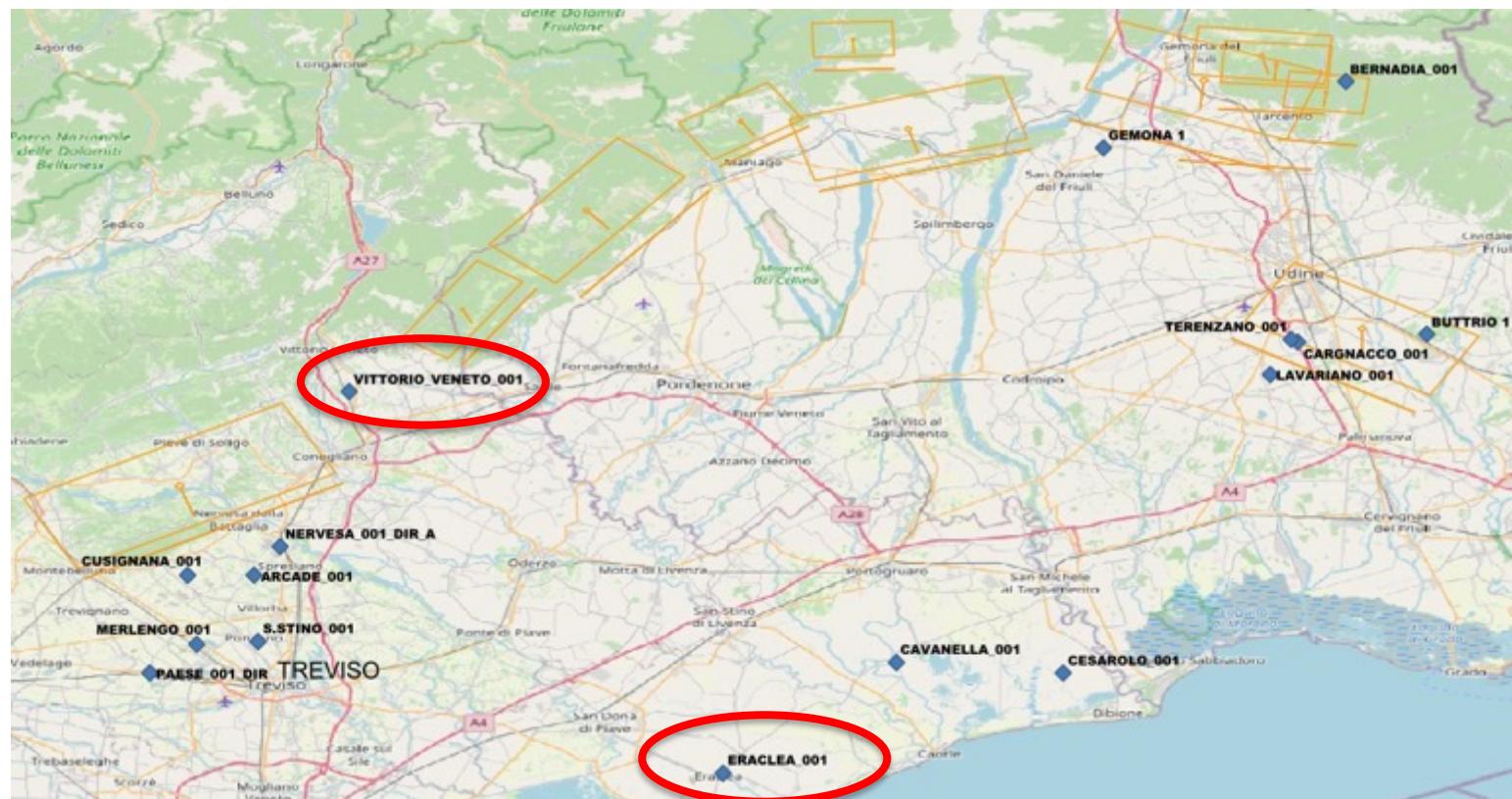
Mattera et al., under review

## NOT SUITABLE AREAS

- Per mancanza di potenziale complesso di stoccaggio (Cesarolo 1, Cavanella 1 e Cusignana 1)
- Per prossimità a faglie sismogeniche (Bernadia 1, Buttrio 1, Cagnacco 1, Gemona 1, Lavariano 1, Terenzano 1)



# INDIVIDUAL SUITABLE WELLS



Reservoir: Late Cretaceous/Eocene limestones  
thickness: ca. 180 m  
Caprock: Eocene marls  
thickness: ca. 860 m

Mattera et al., under review

## THE «TREVISO SITE»

- 7 boreholes
- 5 suitable boreholes

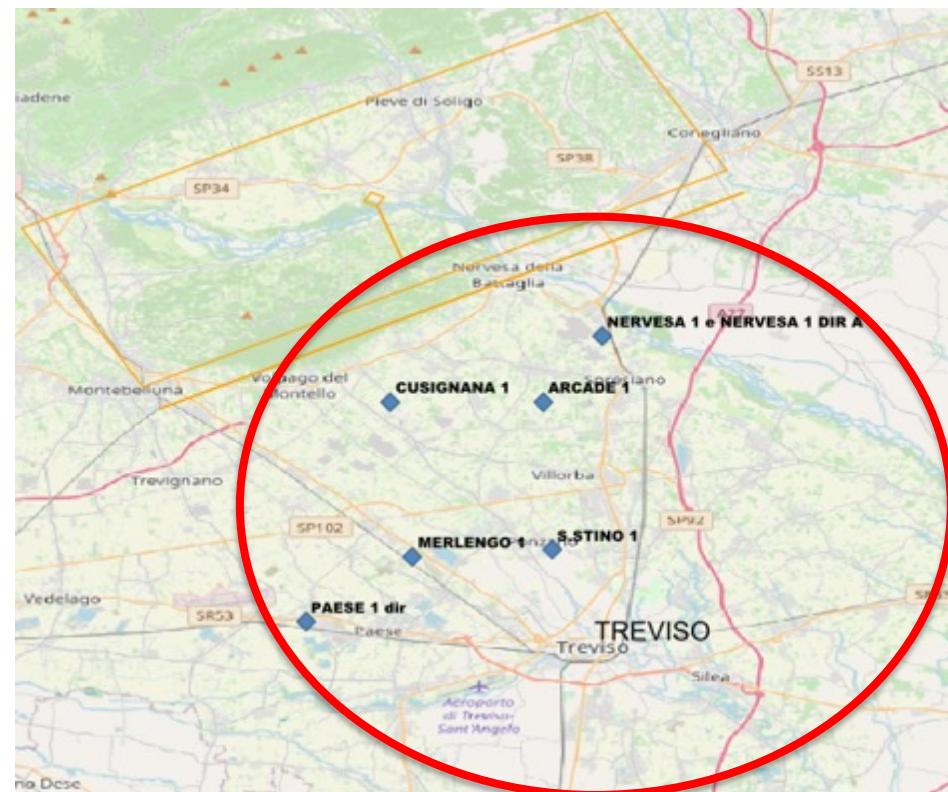
Reservoir: early Miocene sandstones  
(Glauconie di Cavanella)

Thickness: min 115 m, max 290 m

Caprock: Tortonian Marls (Marne di San Donà)

Thickness: min 160 m, max 950 m

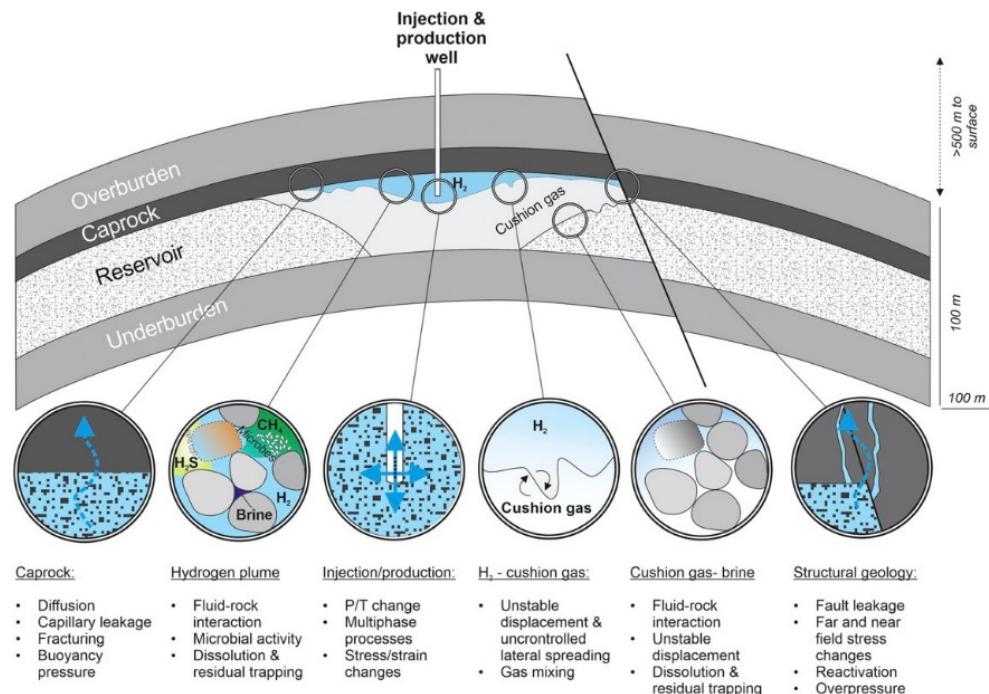
Porosity evaluation from geophysical logs: 10-28%



Mattera et al., under review

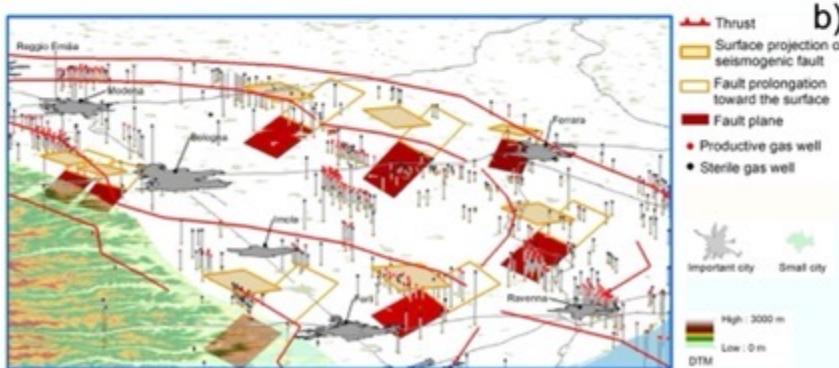
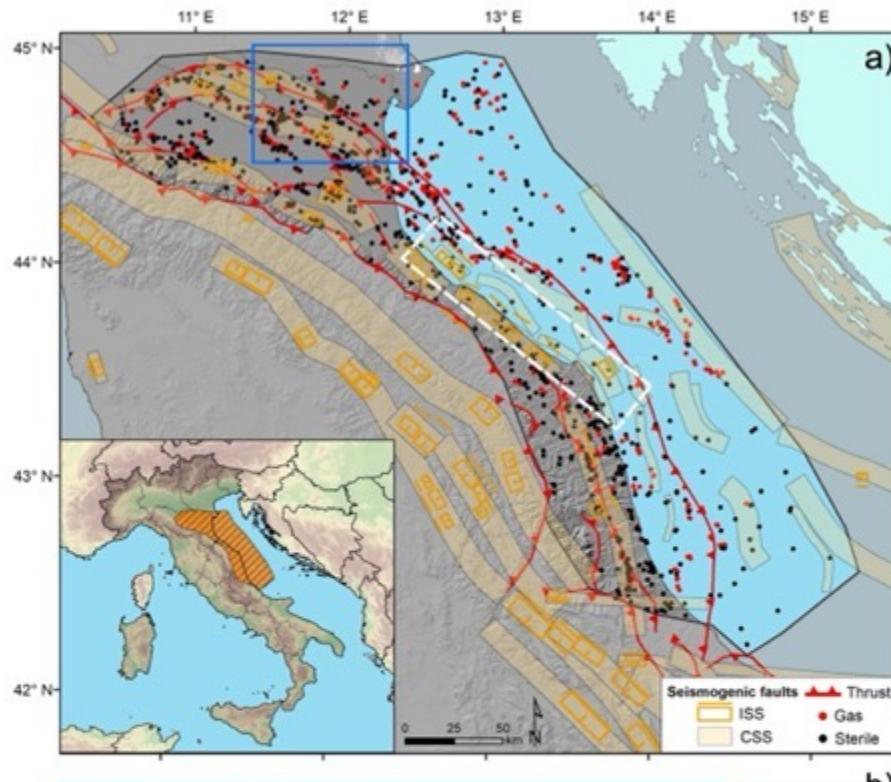
## CRITERI

- Presenza di reservoir (formazioni geologiche porose e permeabili-es. sabbie) e caprock (formazioni geologiche impermeabili-argille)
- Profondità del reservoir > 500 m
- Distanza da sorgenti sismogenetiche (Database of Individual Seismogenic Sources (DISS) M > 5.5 - INGV)



da Heinemann et al., 2021

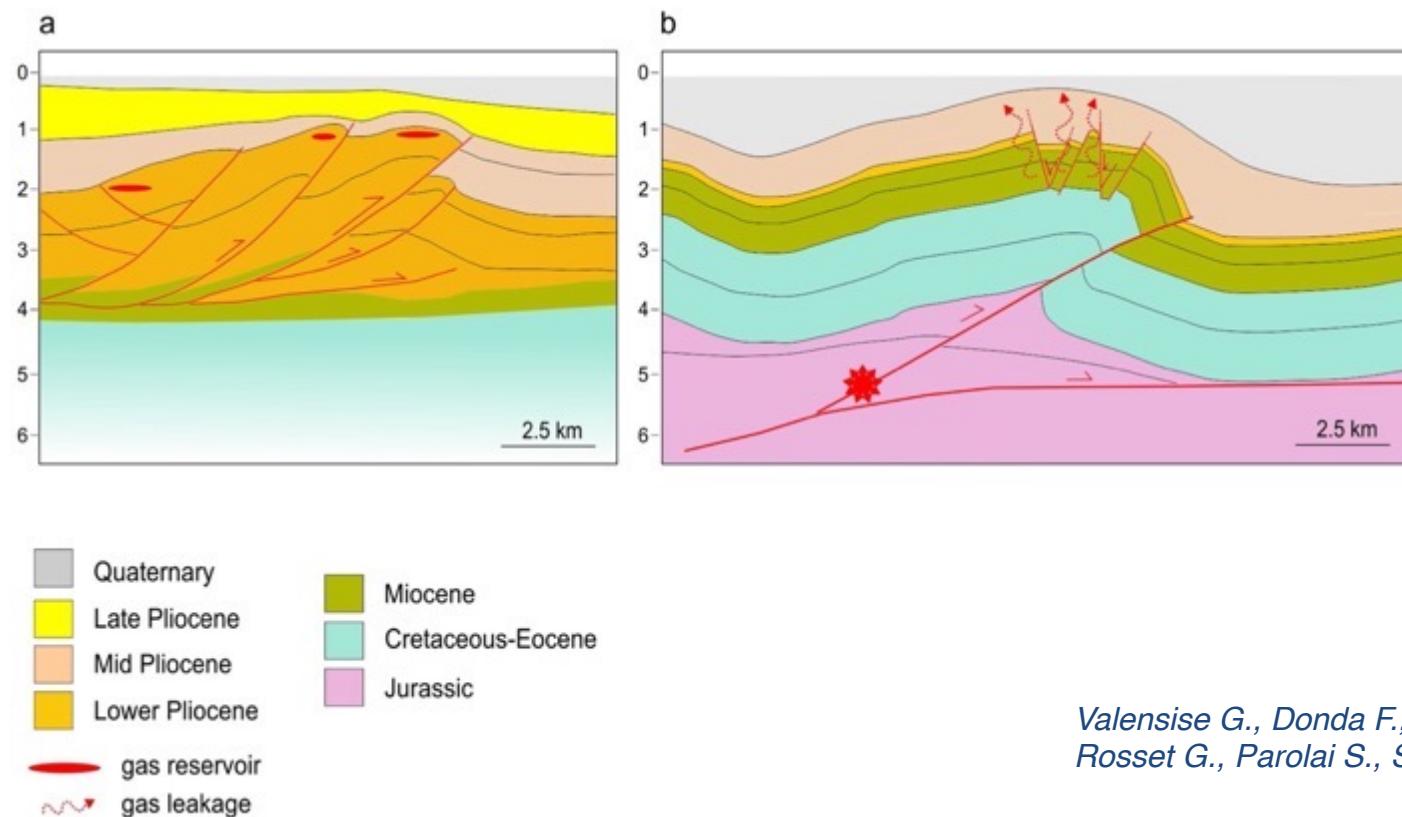
## THE ROLE OF THE GEOLOGICAL-STRUCTURAL SETTING



"Gas fields and large shallow seismogenic reverse faults are anticorrelated"

Valensise G., Donda F., Tamaro A., Rosset G., Parolai S.  
Sci. Rep., 2022

## THE ROLE OF THE GEOLOGICAL-STRUCTURAL SETTING



Valensise G., Donda F., Tamaro A.,  
Rosset G., Parolai S., *Sci. Rep.*, 2022

The most **productive reservoirs** are hosted in **small-scale anticlines** (Figure a-left), generated by faults that are shorter and narrower with respect to the **deep and large faults** driving long-wavelength folds that may generate significant **earthquakes** and where **gas is generally not found** (Figure b-right)

## *THE ROLE OF THE GEOLOGICAL-STRUCTURAL SETTING*

- In a fold and thrust hydrocarbon province the lack of productive gas reservoirs is likely to be controlled by seismogenic faulting
- Conversely, the presence of significant reservoirs is in itself an indication of a predominantly aseismic behavior of the underlying faults



Our findings indicate that the best option for planning such facilities is to **stay away from large seismogenic faults** and opt for a depleted gas reservoir

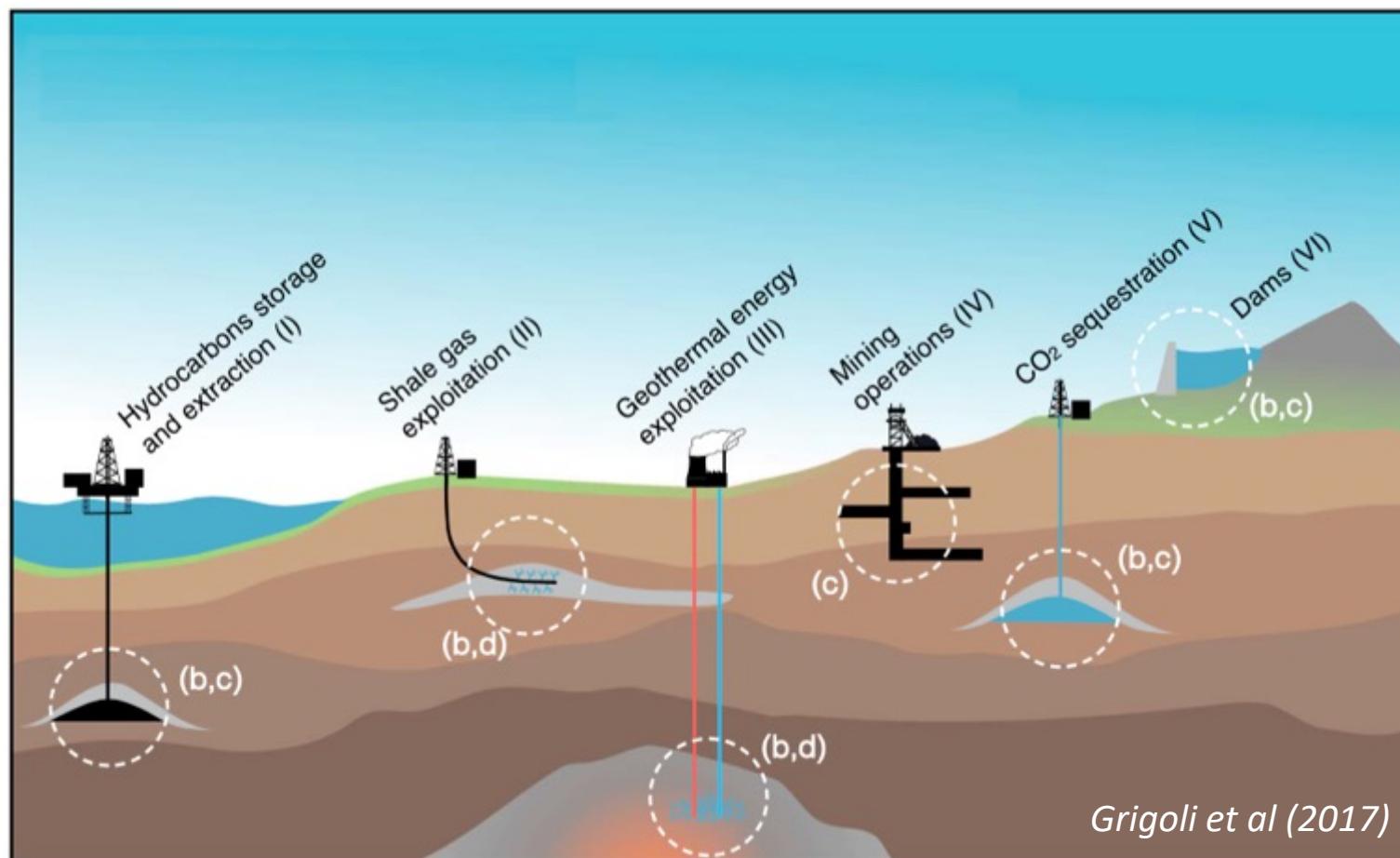
## *INDUCED AND TRIGGERED SEISMICITY*

In the case of **induced earthquakes**, the nucleation, growth, and rupture process are determined by human-related stress perturbations.

In the case of **triggered seismicity**, the background stress field plays a more important role, and human activities are only responsible for the earthquake nucleation, while the rupture evolution is controlled by the background stresses (Dahm et al., 2013)

***Strictly speaking, human activities CANNOT “induce” huge and devastating events, whereas they can trigger them.***

# INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES INDUCING EARTHQUAKES



# HUMAN-INDUCED EARTHQUAKES IN THE WORLD

## THE HUMAN-INDUCED EARTHQUAKE DATABASE



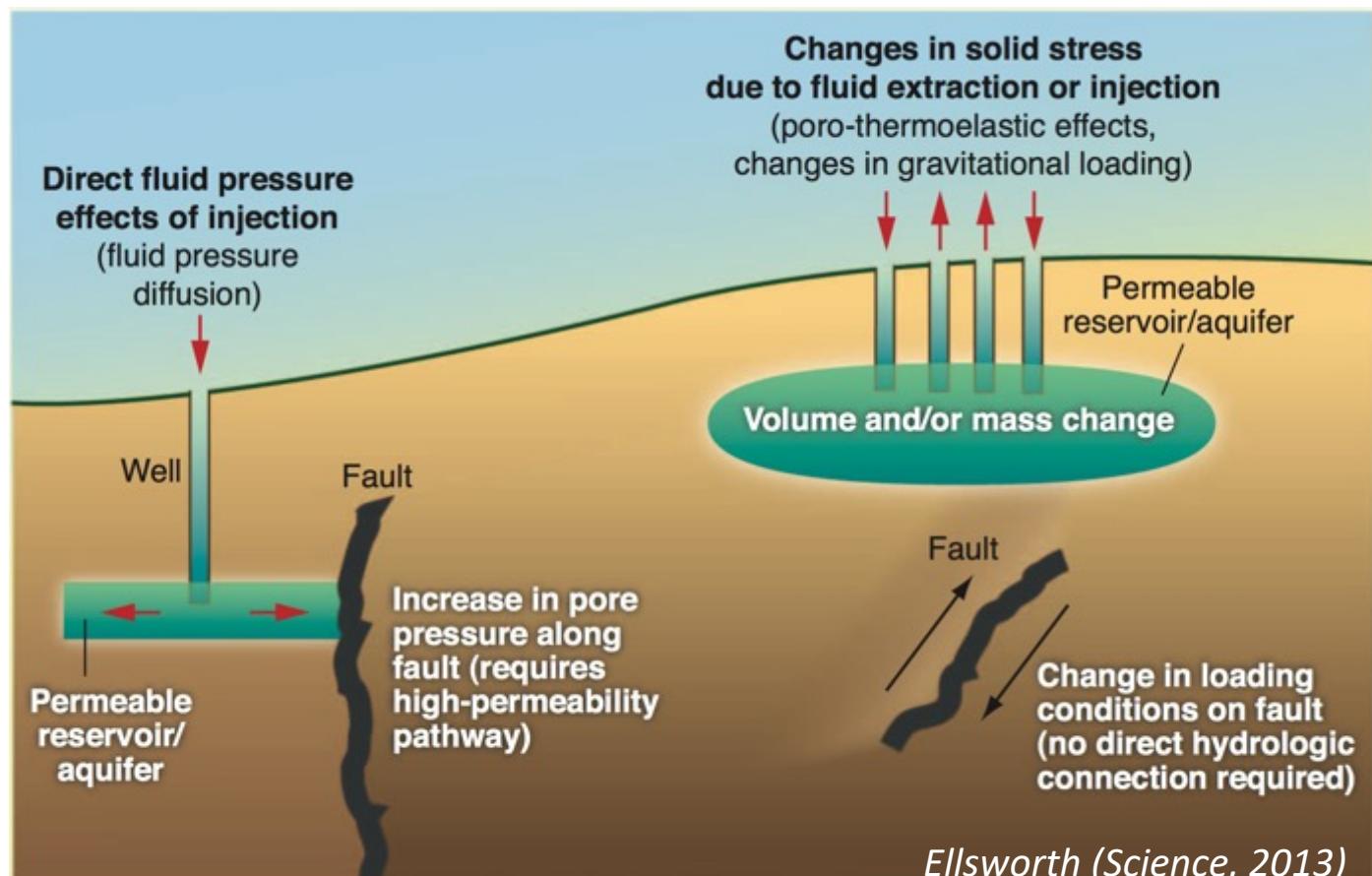
To date, about 1200 entries of induced seismicity

<http://inducedearthquakes.org/>  
(Wilson et al, 2017; Foulger et al, 2018)

Slide kindly provided by E. Priolo-OGS

# MAIN MECHANISMS FOR INDUCING EARTHQUAKES

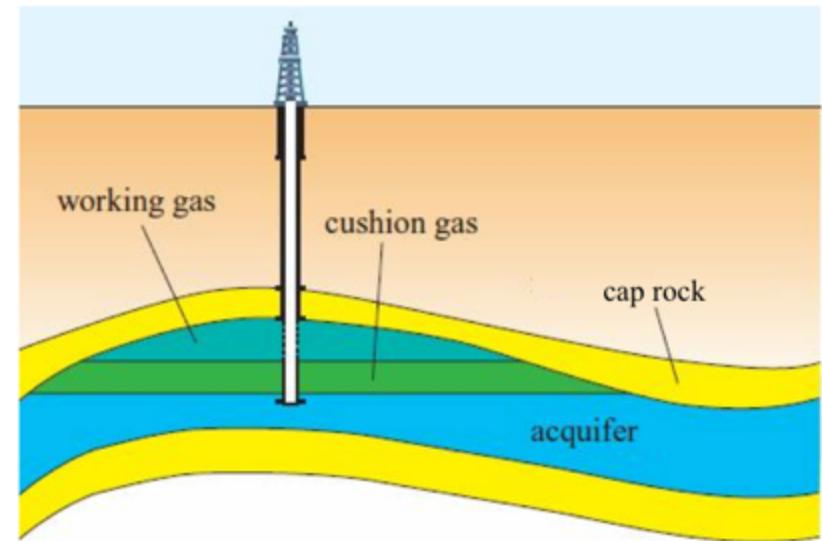
- increasing the pore pressure acting on a fault
- changing the shear and normal stress acting on the fault



# UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE

**Depleted gas-reservoirs** are one of the safest types of underground gas storage. As gas has been trapped inside at the confining pressure for millions of years.

The reservoir is a geological trap with porous and permeable rock layers, tens to hundreds of meters thick, sealed by impermeable formations.



## EXAMPLES

Italy has 15 active underground gas storage, all in depleted gas reservoirs. No evidence of induced seismicity, ever.

Hutubi (China) is one of the biggest underground gas storage ( $\text{WGV} \approx 10 \text{ billion Sm}^3$ ). First case of weak earthquake ( $M \approx 2.8\text{-}3$ ) hypothesized to have been induced by UGS, by poro-elastic stress diffusion (*Qiao et al, 2018; Zhou et al, 2019*).

Underground gas storage in **depleted oil-reservoirs** is much **less safe**; e.g., the Castor Project (Spain)

# UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE

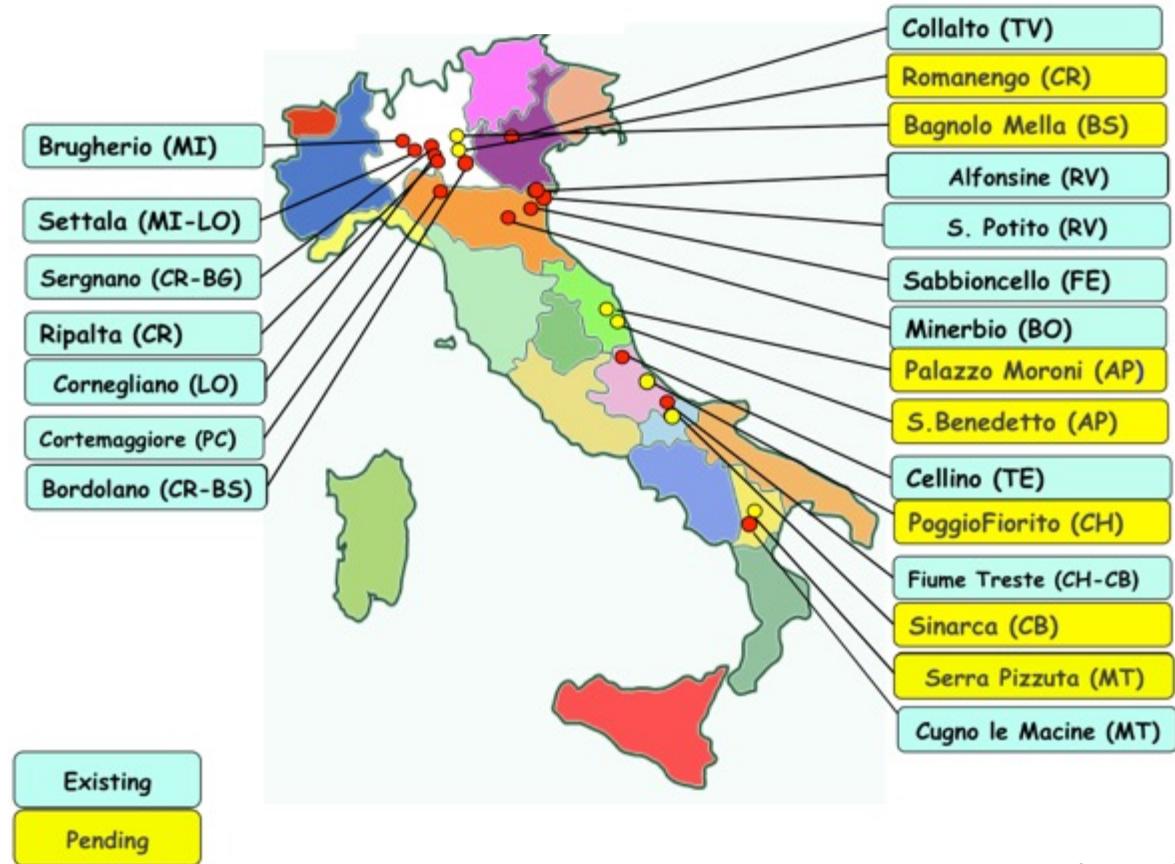
- 15 campi attivi
- 7 richieste pendenti

Capacità totale di stoccaggio:  
16.5 Miliardi Sm<sup>3</sup>, di cui  
4.6 di riserva strategica

Pressione max di esercizio:  
130-230 bar

(Sm<sup>3</sup> = metro cubo standard)

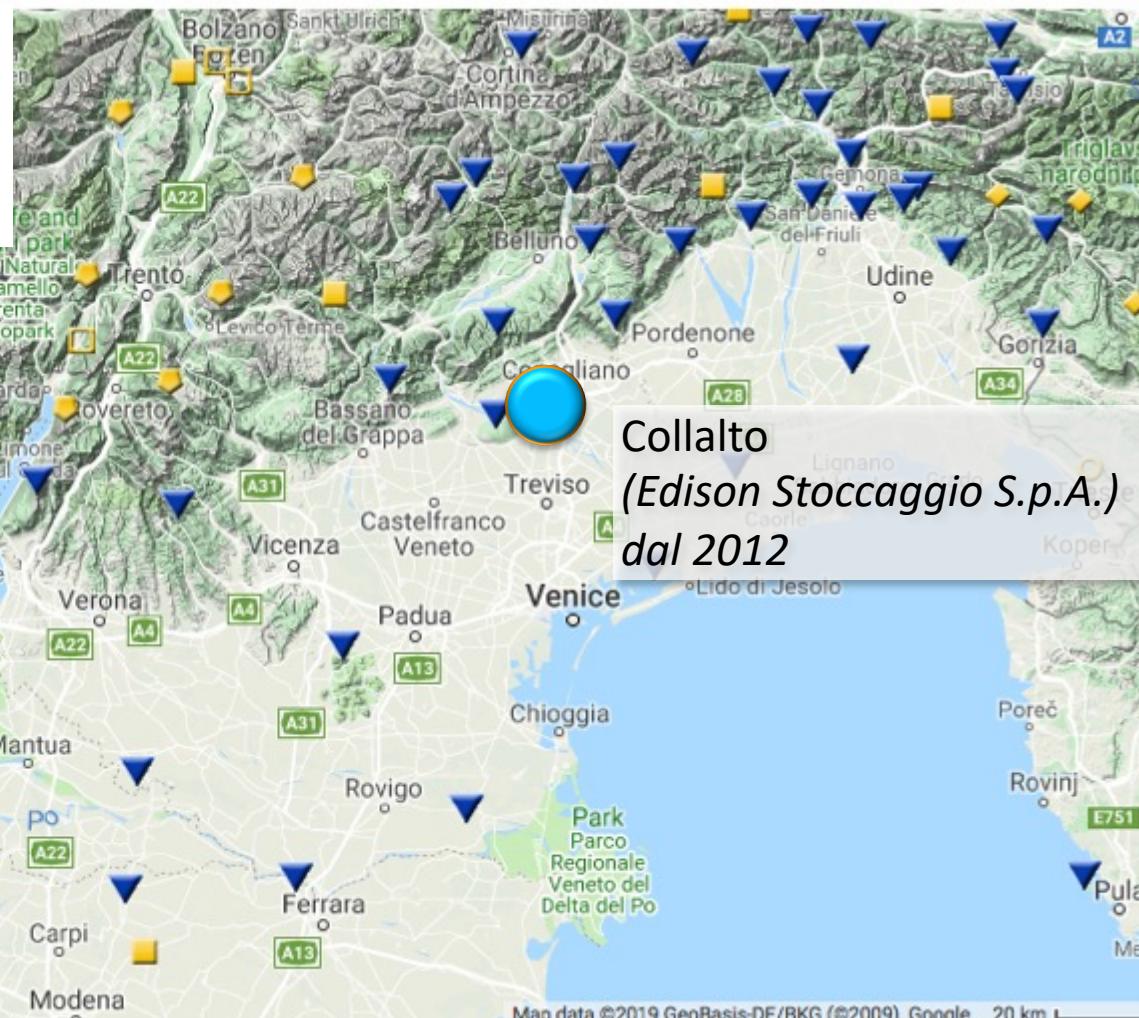
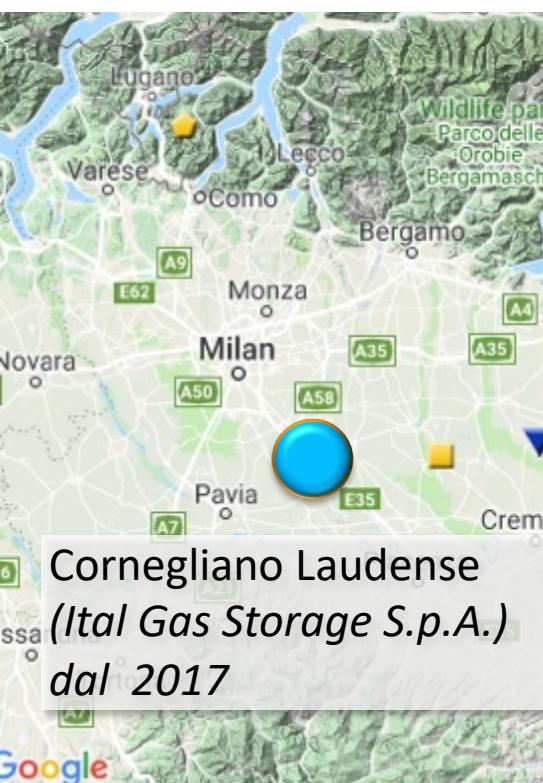
In Italia sono utilizzati  
esclusivamente depositi  
depleti; per nessun caso si  
ha notizia di sismicità indotta  
o innescata.



Dati del Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico (MiSE)  
Ultimo aggiornamento: febbraio 2021

## OGS GAS STORAGE MONITORING

OGS carries out the monitoring of two storage sites in depleted gas fields



## OGS GAS STORAGE MONITORING

Stazione sismica + GPS



Strumentazione

Guralp:

- Minimus
- Radian
- Fortis



Bocca pozzo +  
accelerometro  
(Fortis)

Sismometro da pozzo (Radian)



# Italian monitoring guidelines

Nel 2014 il MiSE-DGRME istituisce il Gruppo di Lavoro per la redazione di **Indirizzi e Linee Guida** (ILG) per i monitoraggi delle attività di coltivazione di idrocarburi, stoccaggio sotterraneo di gas naturale e reiniezione di fluidi nel sottosuolo svolte on-shore.

## Composizione del gruppo:

Ing. Gilberto Dialuce (MiSE - coordinatore)

Dott. Claudio Chiarabba (INGV, Roma)

Dott.ssa Daniela Di Bucci (DPC, Roma)

Prof. Carlo Doglioni (Univ. La Sapienza, Roma)

Prof. Paolo Gasparini (Univ. “Federico II”, Napoli)

Ing. Riccardo Lanari (CNR–IREA, Napoli)

Dott. Enrico Priolo (OGS, Trieste)

Prof. Aldo Zollo (Univ. “Federico II”, Napoli)

*MiSE = Ministero per lo Sviluppo Economico*

*DGRME= Direzione Generale per le Risorse Minerarie ed Energetiche*

*Slide kindly provided by E. Priolo-OGS*

