After forty years, the Czech Geological Survey publishes a new geological map of the Czech Republic at a scale of 1 : 500 000. The map is a result of long-time efforts of our leading geologists to provide the most reliable image of the geological structure of the country’s territory. At the same time the map expresses the authors’ own interpretation of the depicted geological settings. The new quality of the present uncovered map consists in the fact that it generalizes geological data acquired during the geological survey of the territory of the Czech Republic at a scale of 1 : 50 000 performed by a few generations of field geologists of the Czech Geological Survey together with other geological institutions. The new map is also completely digital and will be incorporated into the regional geographic information system. The map is intended to serve not only professional geologists but should also be useful in the teaching geology, and I believe it could even reach appreciation by the broader informed public.

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Old geological maps of the lands of the present Czech Republic

The illustrated summary provides a selection of the most important geological maps covering the territory of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia at a scale close to 1 : 500 000 beginning with the very first printed map of Bohemia compiled by Franz Riepl in the year 1819 up to the last edition of the Geological map of ČSSR at a scale of 1 : 500 000 compiled by a team of geologists under the supervision of Odolen Kodym, Otto Fusan and Alois Matějka published in 1967. Old geological maps are an integral part of a large collection of maps of the Czech Geological Survey archive in Prague, which is accessible to all users on CGS www.geology.cz. Recently issued DVD-ROM “Geological maps of Europe (1780–1918) related to the territory of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic” also contains a collection of old geological maps.

Czech Geological Survey

The role of the Czech Geological Survey, the activities of which go back to the year 1919 when it was founded, is in pursuance of public service in the field of earth sciences in the territory of the Czech Republic. The Czech Geological Survey acquires and processes data on the geological structure of the country for the state administrative bodies for political, economic and ecological decision making.

It provides regional geological information to all interested persons or parties, ensures education in earth sciences and environmental protection and also participates in projects of foreign development programs and technical assistance provided by the Czech Republic to developing countries.

The major fields of activity of the Czech Geological Survey include:
• geological research and field mapping
• environment and its contamination
• mineral resources and impacts of their exploitation and processing
• prevention of natural dangers
• administration of geological data and providing of information

The Czech Geological Survey is the state subsidized organization, departmental research institute of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. It is a member of international bodies incorporating Geological Surveys such as EuroGeoSurveys, FOREGS (Forum of European Geological Surveys) and ICOGS (International Consortium of Geological Surveys).

www.geology.cz