

Evaluation of the geological mapping activities

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The multidisciplinary and specialized work of geological mapping, as in many other scientific and technological activities, is very hard to be measured and evaluated. The outputs delivered are not usual manufactured products, but maps and reports, and the clients are not easily identified.

Governments of developed countries have been undertaking public policies concerning the assessment of research and development. Thus, evaluation programs of research institutions were established in Europe in late 1970's. In the geoscientific world this enterprise has arrived in the 1990's, with the implementation of evaluation processes in some national geological surveys (Canada, Australia, South Africa and Finland).

The specific evaluation of the geological mapping activities is also a recent practice that geological surveys of developed countries have started in the late 1980's and still are in progressing. The evaluation mechanisms used, such as peer review process and the establishment of advisory councils/committees or partnership geological mapping programs with the regional geological surveys, including representatives from mining and oil industry, academia and other governmental agencies, are essentially qualitative.

This recent trend of management (making a bridge to the customers/users/stakeholders) approaches the first primary tenet of the Total Quality Management (the customer is the ultimate determiner of quality).

This *praxis* has been introduced into the Geological Surveys by initiative of the government, or management agencies at high level hierarchy, i. e. from top to bottom, and from outside to inside the corporation.