

Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) was born in September 1999 through a merger of former Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica (ING) of Rome, Osservatorio Vesuviano (OV) of Naples and three institutions formerly belonging to the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche: Istituto Internazionale di Vulcanologia (IIV, Catania), Istituto di Geochimica dei Fluidi (IGF, Palermo), and Istituto di Ricerca sul Rischio Sismico (IRSS, Milano).

INGV carries an important legacy in the investigation of natural phenomena. Former Osservatorio Vesuviano dates back to 1845 and is the oldest volcanological observatory worldwide, while ING was founded by Guglielmo Marconi in 1936.

INGV was meant to gather all scientific and technical institutions operating in Geophysics and Volcanology and to create a permanent scientific forum in the Earth Sciences. INGV cooperates with universities and other national public and private institutions, as well as with many research agencies worldwide in the larger frame of several European and international programs.

The new institution, currently the largest European body dealing with research in Geophysics and Volcanology, has its headquarters in Rome and large representatives in Milano, Bologna, Pisa, L'Aquila, Napoli, Catania and Palermo.

The main mission of INGV is the monitoring of geophysical phenomena in both the solid and fluid components of the Earth. This fundamental task includes the development and maintenance of the necessary instrumentation and infrastructures as well as real-time surveillance, early warning and forecast activities. In addition to being analysed for research purposes, the data and the observations supplied by numerous monitoring networks are regularly distributed to the public institutions concerned and the scientific community. INGV operates in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and of Scientific and Technological Research, its main controlling body, and with Civil Protection authorities, both at national and local level. INGV also cooperates with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Defense in the frame of large research programs of national and supranational relevance.

In cooperation with selected Italian universities INGV develops its own programs of higher education such as doctoral courses and fellowships. Given the nature and social relevance of most of INGV's activities, special attention is given also to public outreach through special publications, participation to scientific exhibitions and the Internet.