Why do we need the IGSN Implementation Organization?

The application and long-term utility of sample¬ based data is critically dependent on

• availability of information (metadata) about the samples such as geographical location and time of sampling,
• links to other data sets derived from individual samples that are dispersed in the literature and in digital data repositories, and
• access to the samples themselves

Using persistent identifiers for physical samples, such as the International GeoSample Number (IGSN), provides solutions. The IGSN Implementation Organisation (IGSN e.V.) offers a system of unique persistent identifiers for samples. Use of persistent identifiers in digital data systems allows building linkages between the digital representation of samples (sample profiles) in community governed portals and their related data in the literature and in web¬ accessible digital data repositories.

This system is open to scientific communities outside of the geology.

IGSN Implementation Organization

locating, identifying, and citing physical samples collected from our natural environment

Aim and Scope

Each scientific community has different needs how to reference physical sample materials, yet all communities benefit from the ability to identify samples in a globally unique and persistent way. The IGSN Implementation Organisation (IGSN e.V.) provides the organisational and technical backbone for scientific communities to apply globally unique and resolvable, actionable, and persistent identifiers for physical sample materials.

Physical sample materials encompass any materials referenced for scientific purposes, e.g. minerals, rocks, water samples, holotypes, collection specimens, reference materials, and other types of physical sample materials.

IGSN e.V. **is not a database** for samples. Discipline specific databases are operated by the respective scientific communities.

IGSN e.V. **does not prescribe a naming scheme** for samples. Communities are free to govern their IGSN namespaces according to their needs.

IGSN e.V. **is not a standard metadata scheme**. Metadata schemes in community databases are defined by the respective scientific communities.

Metadata

Due to the diversity of samples that IGSN tries to accommodate, including historic samples with a very limited set of available metadata.

The URL of the landing page of the collection item (resourceURI) is not part of the IGSN metadata kernel, but is transmitted to the IGSN web service as part of the registration process and stored in the handle system. In this way, mismatches between URI stored in the metadata and URI stored in the handle system can be avoided.

The XML schema and documentation of the metadata and schema has moved can be accessed from the IGSN Wiki on the IGSN website:
http://www.igsn.org/resources

Membership Info

Membership in the IGSN Implementation Organisation is open to all not for profit organisations who wish to allocate IGSN names and use the Registration Agency of IGSN in their capacity as allocating agents. Organisations interested in becoming members of the Association apply in writing to the Executive Board of the IGSN Implementation organisation.

Organisations who do not use the Registration Agency of IGSN in their capacity as allocating agents but have an interest in the purpose and objectives of the IGSN Implementation Organisation may apply for an Affiliate Membership with an advisory function and the right to attend the General Assembly.

Members will be charged an annual membership fee. The amount and due date of annual membership fees will be determined by the General Assembly. The membership fee is currently € 500 per year.

How to Become a Member

Membership is open to organisations only, not to individuals. To become a member in the IGSN Implementation Organisation, your home institution needs to become a member of the association. Applications for membership in the IGSN Implementation Organisation must be sent in writing to the IGSN e.V. management office (§5 Membership Application).