

## Ben Laenen, EnergyVille/VITO



Ben Laenen graduated as a geologist in 1992 and obtained a PhD in Sciences - Geology in 1997 at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium). His PhD thesis dealt with the geochemical signature and origin of sequence stratigraphic cycles recognized in the Boom Clay, a Rupelian clay deposit that outcrops in North Belgium. During his PhD, he specialized himself in the sedimentology, the chemical and petrographical characteristics of unconsolidated sediments and organic geochemistry. After his PhD, Ben Laenen worked 2 years as a post-Doc at the University of Köln (Germany). During that time he studied secondary oil migration in the Bashaw Reef complex (Alberta, Canada).

After his stay in Germany, he worked for Merlin Entertainments to help in the design and building of the scientific leisure park Earth Explorer in Oostende. Earth Explorer wants to inform the broad public on the way the four elements water, wind, stone and fire influence life on Earth. Ben's main tasks were to guaranty the scientific correctness of the attractions and to develop educational information packages. Since 2000, Ben Laenen is employed as a researcher at VITO. He started as junior researcher in the Raw Materials group of the Energy department. At that time he mainly worked on GIS related project, data management and 3D modeling of the subsurface. From 2006 till 2010, Ben Laenen worked as project leader in the Resources group. He planed and coordinates projects in the fields of geological exploration, gas- and CO<sub>2</sub>-storage, waste conversion using CO<sub>2</sub> and geothermal energy. In September 2010, Ben Laenen was promoted to position of research coordinator. He is now responsible to define and elaborate the strategic research programs of VITO in the fields of deep geology and geothermal energy.