

Virginie Harcouët-Menou, EnergyVille/VITO



Virginie Harcouët-Menou graduated in geophysics in 2001 from the University of Strasbourg and the same year obtained an engineering degree from the EOPG (Ecole de Physique du Globe de Strasbourg). In 2005, she obtained a PhD in Sciences - Geophysics at the IPGP (Institut de Physique du globe de Paris, France). After her PhD, Virginie Harcouët-Menou worked as a post-Doc at the Earthquake Research Institute in Tokyo (Japan) assessing the influence of temperature on the initiation of earthquakes along a subduction zone based on numerical models. From 2007 to 2009, she worked as a research associate at the University of Aachen (Germany). Here she was in charge of the coordination of a research project related to the development of a geothermal power plant in Turkey. Since March 2009 she has been working as a senior expert in geothermal energy within the Energy Technology team at VITO, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research. She coordinates and is involved in strategic research and applied projects on exploration on CCS, geothermal energy and underground gas storage; She is also responsible for providing a Technology Watch on the subsurface to the Flemish Government Department of Nature (ALBON). She has built sound expertise in numerical modelling of fluid and heat transfers for geothermal projects. Among others, she is also working on the development of a methodology to accurately simulate heat transport through pipe networks, applicable to Minewater projects.