

Geoscience in former Soviet Enclaves: Austria, Albania, Romania & Ukraine

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Summary

As geoscience team lead in Vienna, Albania and Romania, evaluating potential in Ukraine (2018-2020) culminated 11 years residency in former Soviet enclaves. Despite accredited geoscience programs, the legacy of Soviet top-down management, initially successful in exploration, needed employee input, motivation and log cross-sections to develop leads into successful discoveries.

Prospect evaluation required an understanding of overpressure, diagenesis, tight reservoirs, overbalance-induced formation damage, and in Romania, “black box” seismic processing used to produce structural depth maps. Russian style logs, variable record-keeping (boxloads of bureaucratic cookie-cutter files) and inconsistent sample collection/preservation increased the uncertainty in assessing drilled wells, abandoned reservoirs and DST or production tests.

Examples are illustrated of issues to risk assessments encountered in evaluating Mesozoic rift basins, over thrustured carbonate terrains, and Miocene stratigraphic traps in Eastern Europe.

