In February 2003, a group of magnetic surveyors from 20 European countries met for the first time at the Adolf Schmidt-Observatory for Geomagnetism in Niemegk, Germany. The objective of this workshop was to develop plans to coordinate the surveys of the various countries in Europe. So far, geomagnetic measurement campaigns were performed not as a concerted action but differed with respect to the survey time, station density and measurement techniques. For accurate field representations in an area of continental size and for research purposes, survey data are needed which are gathered within a relatively short time window, e.g. one year, and covering all European countries. In addition, the most reliable measurement procedures and technical improvements have to be jointly applied to guarantee high quality data. Moreover, the data quality of repeat station measurements needs to be better quantified. Accurate geomagnetic observatory data are also an indispensable requirement to produce survey data.

All these requirements were extensively discussed by the “Group for European Repeat Station Surveys” in the workshops following the first one in Niemegk, 2003: in Warsaw 2005, Bucharest 2007, Helsinki 2009 and most recently in Rome, 2011. Surveys have been repeatedly performed in most European countries. MagNetE has documented all its survey activities in the MagNetE-Report/Update 2011-1(CD). The MagNetE repeat station data are accessible at the WDC for Geomagnetism, Edinburgh.

The most recent product of MagNetE is the “European Map of Magnetic Declination, 2006.5”. It is based on data from 369 repeat stations and 41 observatories in Europe.