Portuguese Ornamental Stones

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The inventory and characterization of the Portuguese ornamental stones is one of the goals pursued by the Portuguese Geological Survey (LNEG – Portuguese Energy and Geology Laboratory). This systematic work resulted in the production of the Portuguese Catalogue of Ornamental Stones, which is continuously updated and is available for online consultation through the Geological Survey Geopark (http://geopark.lneeg.pt).

Conclusions

As a result of the geological diversity that characterizes its territory, Portugal produces a large chromatic and textural variety of granites and marbles for ornamental purposes. However, with regard to granites, the most abundant varieties are the greys, coloured whose present-day economic value is relatively low due to the strong competition existing for this kind of stones in the global market. The most common varieties of marble are the light cream coloured with more or less abundant dark stripes. Regarding limestone, does not exist such a great diversity of ornamental varieties, being the market dominated by the cream coloured rocks from NICE. Finally, with respect to dolomites, the Portuguese production is very low. From the physical-mechanical point of view, Portuguese ornamental stones can be used in a wide range of applications. Stone suitability should be evaluated both on the stone properties and on the technical specifications for each application.

References