

# Newsletter

# S2S-Future

July 2023

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions  
The Innovative Training Networks



## **Editorial**

*Welcome to the fifth issue of the S2S-Future Newsletter. Previous six months have been very dynamic and fruitful for the network, which has organised numerous events and achieved several important milestones.*

*In this issue you will read about the third ITN Summer Institute "Inside Africa" that has been a remarkable success and a series of other training and network events that have been organised, such as S2S signal propagation workshop, a grant writing workshop, a dedicated EGU session, a supervisory board, a landscape evolution workshop, a Career day with partner organisations, "lunch & learn sessions" with Halliburton. We would also like to announce the project final conference that will be scheduled for the beginning of July next year.*

*On behalf of the coordination team, we wish you a relaxing summer break.*

*Enjoy the reading!*

*Milica Pejovic- Project Manager*



## Grant Writing Workshop

11 January 2023, online

The Grant Writing Workshop, led by Sébastien Castelltort and Fritz Schlunegger, was a highly beneficial event that provided early-career researchers with valuable insights into academic funding and successful grant proposal writing.

A major focus of the workshop was the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF or SNF), which was presented as an exemplary funding foundation. Attendees received detailed information about the various funding schemes offered by the SNF, with brief mentions of other European institutions for reference. During the afternoon session, participants engaged in discussions about successful project strategies based on their own group projects. The workshop highlighted key points to increase the chances of securing grants, such as adhering to guidelines, evaluation criteria, and institutional values and goals.

Overall, the Grant Writing Workshop proved to be an invaluable resource for participants, equipping them with the knowledge and strategies necessary to navigate the complex world of grant applications.

## Halliburton “Lunch & Learn” sessions

16 and 23 January, 2023, online

On 16th January, Halliburton initiated its lunch lecture series with a captivating presentation titled «Balancing scientific progress for all Vs protecting your business intellectual property, Selling yourself, your ideas, your achievements, and results.» Graeme Nicoll and Benjamin Gréselle led the session, sharing their invaluable insights with the ESRs.

The lecture’s core message emphasized the importance of understanding one’s audience and their interests when promoting oneself and ideas. Nicoll stressed the significance of embracing failure as a learning opportunity, categorizing ideas based on marketability, and recognizing public and industrial interests associated with them.

Continuing the lunch lecture series, Halliburton hosted a second session on Monday, 23rd January, featuring Thomas Jewell as the main speaker. The lecture centered around the art of sales and various strategies to identify target customers, establish trust, and successfully close deals. Jewell highlighted the subconscious sales efforts made by early-stage researchers throughout their PhD journeys, emphasizing the importance of these skills for post-graduation career success.

## Landscape Evolution Workshop

30 January-4 February 2023, GFZ Potsdam

ESRs Caroline Fenske and Amanda Wild, along with their supervisor Jean Braun, orchestrated a one-week course on the practical application of landscape evolution models, specifically Fastscape, in geoscientific research. The workshop, held from January 30th to February 3rd in Potsdam, aimed to delve into research questions spanning from source to sink, offering a comprehensive exploration of landscape evolution.

Caroline and Amanda commenced the workshop by providing participants with a detailed overview of Xarray and Fastscape within python notebooks. These sessions served as a solid foundation for subsequent discussions and activities, equipping fellow ESRs with invaluable insights into utilizing Fastscape and Xarray for their research endeavors.

Subsequently, Caroline delved into the captivating world of duricrust/regolith modeling, presenting enlightening case studies. Amanda, on the other hand, focused on grain size modeling within Fastscape, demonstrating its potential through engaging case studies. As the workshop progressed, the final phase was dedicated to Jean's expertise in academic paper writing and reviewing.

Moreover, each participating Early Stage Researcher had the opportunity to highlight their research focus and present potential questions that could be addressed using landscape evolution models. This platform fostered stimulating discussions and facilitated collaboration among the ESRs, encouraging the exploration of diverse research avenues.



## Career Day with Partner Organisations

10 February 2023, online

In an effort to prepare PhD students for a successful transition to the job market, a Career day with partner organisations was held on 10 February online. This event not only facilitated insightful discussions with industry partners but also provided hands-on experience in crafting tailored CVs, writing cover letters, and mastering job interview techniques.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of several esteemed industry partners, including TNO, Equinor, Halliburton, TOTAL, and NGI. These industry leaders generously shared their personal experiences, career pathways, and invaluable advice for achieving success in their respective fields. They encouraged engaging discussions and addressed various aspects of career growth, including resume and interview preparation, work ethics, managing careers in the scientific realm, and navigating the transition between academia and industry.

A highlight of the event was the opportunity given to participating PhD students to apply for «fake» job advertisements provided by the industry partners. This exercise allowed students to practice tailoring their CVs and cover letters for specific positions. The training exercise also simulated a real-life job interview process, during which participating students received valuable feedback from recruiters.

## Supervisory Board

25 April 2023, Vienna

The Supervisory Board Meeting of the ITN S2S-Future took place on April 25th at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) week in Vienna. The event brought together the promising Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in their 3rd year of their PhD journey, who had the opportunity to showcase their project progress and future plans before an esteemed audience comprising Principal Investigators (PIs) and external committee members.

Under the watchful guidance of the PIs and external committee members, the ESRs delivered insightful presentations that showcased their research findings, methodologies, and potential implications. The Supervisory Board Meeting served as a valuable opportunity for the ESRs to receive constructive feedback and guidance from their mentors and external committee members, who are distinguished experts in their fields. As the ESRs continue their PhD journey, the Supervisory Board Meeting served as a significant moment for them to reflect on their progress, refine their research goals, and chart a path forward.



## EGU 2023: ESRs' session

27 and 28 April 2023, Vienna

The EGU 2023 conference witnessed an exceptional session organized by the Early Stage Researchers (ESRs), leaving attendees astounded by their expertise and contributions. The session, titled GM4.3 Source-to-Sink: A Multi-Proxy Approach to Disentangle Forcings throughout the Sedimentary Record, received an impressive turnout with 27 high-quality submissions.

Led by Rocio Jaimes-Gutierrez, the session's convenor, along with co-conveners Iwan Setiawan, Marine Prieur, Camilo Esteban Gaitan, and Philémon Juvany, the event showcased the ESRs' cutting-edge research and innovative methodologies, along with the participation of other researchers.

The session featured both oral presentations and poster sessions, providing an ideal platform for the ESRs to present their findings and engage in fruitful discussions with fellow attendees. The oral presentations, held on Thursday, April 27, captivated the audience with insightful talks that shed light on various aspects of source-to-sink processes and the complexities of sedimentary records. On Friday, April 28, the poster sessions took place, offering attendees the opportunity to directly interact with the ESRs and delve into their research in detail.

For more details on the session, please visit this [website](#).



## Inside Africa: Third ITN Summer Institute

5 May-20 May 2023, Namibia

From May 5th to May 20th, 2023, a group of fifteen doctoral students from the ITN S2S-Future project, along with fifteen European academic and industrial partners, embarked on a training program in Namibia. Namibia proved to be an ideal location for this training due to its exceptional geological features, ranging from desert landscapes to diverse geological formations. The participants concentrated on three key aspects during their stay.

Firstly, they explored alluvial S2S systems of the Orange River and diamondiferous S2S systems in the Sperrgebiet, with the support and collaboration of Namdeb and Sperrgebiet Diamond Mining. This allowed the students to gain valuable insights into the practical applications of their research in the industrial sector.

Secondly, they delved into aeolian S2S systems, comparing modern systems in the Namib Desert to two fossil systems from the Miocene (Namib) and the Lower Cretaceous (Twyfelfontein), with guidance from Laurie Barrier (IPGP/Paris Cité). This exploration enhanced their understanding of the evolution of landscapes over time.

Lastly, the students examined the growth of anorogenic relief, which included the formation of escarpments, plains, and plateaus resulting from glaciation during the Upper Paleozoic glacial period, oceanic opening in the Great Parana-Etendeka igneous province, and mantle-controlled uplift in the Southern African Plateau.

This immersive training experience enabled the doctoral students to gain a deep understanding of Namibia's unique geological and geomorphological environments. They acquired invaluable field experience and enhanced their knowledge of S2S processes. Furthermore, the presence of European partners facilitated the exchange of expertise and fostered stimulating discussions and debates.



# S2S Signal Propagation Workshop

15 and 16 June 2023, Geneva

The workshop on signal propagation in source-to-sink sedimentary systems held on June 15th and 16th at the University of Geneva was a successful gathering of S2S experts, fostering collaboration and advancing future research. Organized by Sébastien Castelltort, the workshop brought together renowned researchers, principal investigators (PIs), and PhD candidates.

Firstly, participants discussed the WP Legacy of the ITN, setting the stage for the subsequent brainstorming session led by Brian Romans and Sébastien Castelltort, focusing on signal «magnitude.» Subsequently, Miguel Garces shared his expertise on cyclostratigraphy, while the Grain Size Team, comprising Amanda Wild, Ariel Do Prado, and Marine Prieur, delivered insightful presentations. On the second day, the workshop gained momentum with captivating talks by Rocio Jaimes and Esteban Gaitan during the morning session. Later, Alex Whittaker delivered a talk on signal propagation in sedimentary systems, encompassing alluvial fans to rivers.

During the workshop, participants engaged in open discussions, focusing on actionable ideas for new projects and collected a set of relevant questions that could be addressed.



WRITE DOWN IN YOUR AGENDA!

S2S-Future Supervisory Board  
October 2023, Online

S2S-Future Final Conference  
July 2024, Rennes



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