Towards the next generation of the Geological Time Scale for the last 100 million years – the European contribution to EARTHTIME

Fact Sheet

Project Information

GTSNEXT
Grant agreement ID: 215458

Status
Closed project

Start date
1 September 2008

End date
31 August 2012

Funded under
FP7-PEOPLE

Overall budget
€ 2 597 791

EU contribution
€ 2 597 791

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT
Netherlands

Objective

Geological time is inextricably linked with Earth Sciences and the Geological Time Scale (GTS) is the yardstick to measure it. As such the GTS is the key to reconstruct Earth history. Recent developments in numerical dating now permit to build a much improved next generation GTS for the last 100 million years by integrating independent state-of-the-art techniques; this time scale will have an unprecedented accuracy, precision, resolution and stability. Within GTSnext a consortium of world leading European experts will be brought together for the first time to integrate their expertise and provide young scientists with a top training in all these methods. This training is the prime objective of GTSnext, and crucial to its success. Together this team of newly trained scientists is well equipped to construct the new GTS. GTSnext
is part of a broader international initiative - EARTHTIME - a community-based scientific effort aimed at sequencing Earth history through an integrated geochronologic and stratigraphic approach. It is our ambition to broaden the Earthtime platform in Europe with GTSnext, which combined with an ESF funded Research Network run in parallel, will also serve as the basis for wider outreach towards the Earth Science community. The expected scientific contributions and breakthroughs are 1) a full integration and intercalibration of different numerical dating techniques, leading to 2) a significant improvement in the consistency of these same techniques; 3) progress towards a fully integrated and astronomical-tuned GTS over the last 100 million years; 4) an essentially stable time scale that is highly beneficial for both academia and industry, and 5) new insights in key geological processes including climate change, catastrophic impacts, and volcanic hazards. Finally, a more fundamental comprehension of geological time and the time scales at which key processes occur in Earth history is highly relevant in view of the impact we have on System Earth.

Field of science
/natural sciences/earth and related environmental sciences
/humanities/history and archaeology/history

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal
FP7-PEOPLE-2007-1-1-ITN

Funding Scheme
MC-ITN - Networks for Initial Training (ITN)

Coordinator

UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT

Address
Heidelberglaan 8
3584 CS Utrecht

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 400 806
Participants (11)

STICHTING VU
Netherlands
EU contribution
€ 359 875
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Administrative Contact
Frits Hilgen (Dr.)

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL
United Kingdom
EU contribution
€ 389 473
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Administrative Contact
Alessia D Artibale (Ms.)

UNIVERSITE DE GENEVE
Switzerland
EU contribution
€ 215 976
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Contact the organisation
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

United Kingdom

EU contribution

€ 202,106

Address

Highfield
SO17 1BJ Southampton

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website

Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact

Urs Schaltegger (Prof.)

OBSERVATOIRE DE PARIS

France

EU contribution

€ 179,213

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75014 Paris

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website

Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact

Heiko Pälike (Dr.)

ROSKILDE UNIVERSITET

Denmark

EU contribution

€ 241,240

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4000 Roskilde

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website

Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact

Michael Storey (Dr.)

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster

4 of 6
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**Record number:** 88286

**Permalink:** [https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/215458](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/215458)