



Engaging early career scientists in geoscience projects: The example of ice2sea

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Ice2sea is a collaborative research programme funded by the European Commission FP7 scheme. The programme involves 24 institutional partners from more than 10 different countries, and it will run for four years (2009-2013). The aim of ice2sea is to estimate the future contribution of continental ice to sea level rise, and will provide input to the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment of climate change and its impact. The programme is training a new generation of early-career researchers, who will be capable of taking the work forward in future, and further reduce the uncertainties surrounding sea-level rise.

Ice2sea is a large project, and the research is organized into six different work packages, which are strongly connected to each other. The steering committee in ice2sea consists of 10 leading cryospheric scientists, and has also been made room for two early career members. The early career members are participating in the steering committee meetings, and get unique experience on how large projects are run, which problems can be encountered and how these are being handled. One role of the early career scientists is also to disseminate the information to other young scientists.

Such early career experiences are very beneficial - not only for improving knowledge of the key challenges the Earth system is experiencing, but also of projects management. We believe that including early career members in the steering committees of various projects is an excellent way to ease the student-to-professional transition, which the entire community will benefit from in the future. We highly recommend this strategy to other project leaders and managers.