



EUFAR training opportunities to advance European airborne research

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EUFAR, European Facilities for Airborne Research, is an FP7 project (<http://www.eufar.net>) funded by the European Commission with 33 partners that aims at providing and improving the access to European airborne facilities (i.e. aircraft, airborne instruments, data processing centres) for researchers in environmental and geo-sciences through Networking Activities, Transnational Access and Joint Research Activities.

This paper reports on the training opportunities within EUFAR for European researchers.

In EUFAR three types of training opportunities are offered:

- 1) Participate in training courses (ET-TC)
- 2) Join an existing field campaign (ET-EC)
- 3) Participate in the design of a new field campaign (ET-TA), in the frame of EUFAR Transnational Access and tutored by more experienced researchers.

During the 4-year EUFAR project (2008-2012), 4 training courses covering the complete chain from acquisition to interpretation of airborne data and images will be organised during spring/summer for early-stage researchers as well as university lecturers (new in FP7 EUFAR) in airborne research. The training courses will have an equal focus on theory and practical training/demonstration and each training course will be accompanied by a "student" airborne field campaign. Participants will be trained by top-class scientists, aircraft and/or instrument operators and each participant will get the opportunity to design his/her own experiment and to participate to that flight experiment.

Furthermore, researchers have the opportunity to join an existing field campaign and work with more experienced researchers, aircraft and/or instrument operators. The list of airborne field campaigns open to join and the eligibility criteria, can be consulted at the EUFAR website.

Finally, researchers have the opportunity to participate in the design of a new field campaign in the frame of EUFAR Transnational Access (TA). TA provides access to either aircraft or instrumentation that are not otherwise available to applicants within their own national research funding regime. Researchers can join a host research group and participate in the design of an airborne field campaign, the flight and the analysis of the acquired data. TA is open to both experienced and inexperienced researchers. If the latter, applicants will be offered feedback from within the EUFAR community of expert scientists in order to develop and improve their proposals prior to formal review. In addition, applicants to the TA process may be offered opportunities to cluster their field campaigns with others making use of the same facility, hence providing further opportunities for interaction with more experienced users of research aircraft and instrumentation.