



BRITICE-CHRONO and GLANAM: new exciting developments in the study of circum-North Atlantic ice sheets

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This talk will present two newly funded projects on the reconstruction of former marine-based ice sheets bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and their effects on the surrounding continental margins.

The NERC-funded BRITICE-CHRONO started in October 2012 and its consortium involves scientists from all over the UK with partners in Ireland, Canada and Norway. It aims to carry out a systematic campaign to collect and date material to constrain the timing and rates of change of the collapse of the former British-Irish Ice Sheet. This will be achieved by focussing on eight transects running from the shelf edge to a short distance onshore and acquiring marine and terrestrial samples for geochronometric dating. The sampling will be accomplished by two research cruises and eight fieldwork campaigns around UK and Ireland. The project will result in the world's best empirical reconstruction of a shrinking ice sheet, for use in improving ice sheet models, and to provide the long term context against which contemporary observations can be assessed.

The FP7-funded Marie Curie Initial Training Networks GLANAM (Glaciated North Atlantic Margins) will start in April 2013 and aims at improving the career prospects and development of young researchers in both the public and private sector within the field of earth science, focusing specifically on North Atlantic glaciated margins. The training network comprises ten partner institutions, both academic and industrial, from Norway, UK and Denmark and will train eleven PhD and four postdoctoral researchers. The young scientists will perform multi-disciplinary research and receive training through three interconnected workpackages that collectively address knowledge gaps related to the glacial sedimentary depocentres on the North Atlantic margins. Filling these gaps will not only result in major new insights regarding glacial processes on continental margins in general, but critically will have particular impact on the exploitation of hydrocarbons in glacial sediments, notably the gas hydrate energy potential on the European continental margin, and will also provide paleoclimate information essential for understanding the role of marine-based ice sheets in the climate system.