Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 17, EGU2015-10315, 2015 EGU General Assembly 2015 © Author(s) 2015. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



What research project management in Earth sciences really means

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Since much earlier than at the start of a research project, principal investigators and project coordinators have responsibilities that go far beyond their scientific interests. Management and communication skills are essential to build those working relationships that will result in a successful proposal as well as to disseminate project outputs to the funding agencies and the public sector.

Starting from the cases of the FixO₃ project and the previous EuroSITES, two EU-funded collaborative projects in observational oceanography, we show practical examples of typical management issues in research projects from the initial phase of outlining and submitting a proposal to the project implementation and reporting of the results.