

SPACES II Virtual Midterm Meeting, 21.10.2020

***** Agenda *****

The SPACES II (*Science Partnerships for the Adaptation to Complex Earth System Processes in Southern Africa*) Research Programme invites project members and stakeholders to a Midterm Meeting, which – due to travel and meeting bans to prevent the spreading of Covid-19 – was postponed from May 2020 to October 2020 and will be held on a virtual platform.

The objectives of the Midterm Meeting are to update each other on progress to date; further develop synergies and collaborations between the projects; discuss shared issues and develop best practices; and collect feedback and ideas of future directions and collaborations from a team of external reviewers.

The meeting will combine talks and posters that are available online prior and after the meeting, and live discussions on joint topics that will form the main meeting day.

Session 1: Welcome words, Covid-19 & project progress Chair: Arne Biastoch, Hosts: Elisabeth Schulz, Jon Sheppard, Mari Bieri

9:00 – 9:10	Opening of meeting, introduction of programme, people & procedures
9:10 – 9:50	Welcome words Svenja Kruse, Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany Leluma Matooane, Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), South Africa Lisho Mundia, Ministry of Higher Education, Technology, and Innovation (MHETI), Namibia
9:50 – 10:00	Short break
10:00 – 10:20	Status update on Covid-19 and SPACES II continued with a short Q&A session (Elisabeth Schulz, Olaf Pollmann)
10:20 – 11:30	Project presentations (Vimeo platform): Q&A session with project PIs (hosts Jon Sheppard, Elisabeth Schulz, Mari Bieri)
11:30 – 11:40	Short break
11:40 – 12:00	Science informing climate change policy (Guy Midgley)
12:00 – 12:30	Joint initiatives; future collaborations (Steve Higgins, Finn Viehberg, project PIs)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break

Session 2: Science informing policy & young researchers initiatives Chair: Christiane Schmullius, Hosts: Martin Komainda, Marcel Urban

13:30 – 13:50	Future of ACCESS and links to SPACES II (Neville Swejd)
13:50 – 14:50	Flash presentations session (SPACES II Early-Career Researchers)
14:50 – 15:00	Short break

Session 3: Joint initiatives & feedback, wrap-up Chair: Guy Midgley, Hosts: Carola Martens, Marcel Urban

15:00 – 15:30	Preliminary feedback from SPACES II review panel & discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Finishing words, wrap-up discussion (Guy Midgley & all)

Follow-up sessions: Parallel Breakout/Discussion groups

Timing & session titles TBA (organized by SPACES II Early-Career Researchers)

Further information:

Contact details of the SPACES II/Thünen-AK Organising team for all questions regarding the event organization and submissions: ak-spaces@thuenen.de, or mari.bieri@thuenen.de

Meeting website: The updated agenda, links and other meeting information are available at <https://www.spaces-training.org/mtm/>. Please check this site regularly for updates and suggest additional content.

Meeting access: Link to registration is circulated to all members and stakeholders prior to the event. Registration will remain open until the meeting, and is only required to grant permission to record the sessions. The organisers want to emphasise that all researchers, students, stakeholders and associates of SPACES II projects are warmly welcome to attend the meeting, and that the meeting can be attended for only part of the time.

How to participate: For the virtual meeting on the 21st October, we will use the WebEx platform. You need speakers/headset to listen to the presentations. Each participant (non-speakers) will join with a muted microphone, and without a two-way video connection. You can write your comments on a Q&A/chat box. To allow discussion, participants can be unmuted by hosts during sessions where needed, or invited to share their video connection.

Presentations: Each project has prepared a progress presentation, which is shared via the Vimeo portal <https://vimeo.com/showcase/spacesii> – password: ?EGP7t-6F%Wb

Posters: Project posters and additional material are available at the meeting website <https://www.spaces-training.org/mtm/>

Ice-breaker: There will be a social event on the evening of the 20th October. Everyone is welcome – the event is organized by SPACES II Early-Career Researchers community, and meeting link will be distributed by email along with the other links. The networking “playing cards” will be displayed at this social event!

We ask all participants to watch the Video presentations and posters before attending the virtual meeting!