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Personal report about the: ESA EO Summer School on Earth System Monitoring & Modelling

In August 2012 I attended the ESA-EO Summer School on Earth System Monitoring and Modelling in Frascati, Italy. Due to a very tight time schedule, the two weeks of summer school were very intensive, but nonetheless very interesting. The first week was devoted to data assimilation techniques, and the second week focused on remote sensing of the environment. Each morning we attended/participated in four one-hour lectures followed by exercises in the afternoon, all provided from internationally recognized researchers.

Transportation was easy, as a bus service was provided morning and evening to take the students and teachers to and from the hotel to ESA. In the evenings, we usually arrived at the hotel around 18.30 and relaxed until 20.00 when the dinner was served at our wonderful Hotel Villa Tuscolana. Our stay in the hotel was very pleasant, because it was a great historical building situated on the top of a hill with great view onto the planes of Rome. In addition to that it was a great place for informal networking and getting to know each other.

I applied myself for ESA-EO Summer School on Earth System Monitoring and Modelling because I find earth observation a very fascinating subject and I wanted to see what possibilities exist beyond my PhD. It was great to meet people from all over the world and to see in how many fields of applications they are working on. Personally, I am specialized in the remote sensing of glaciers and snow. The chance to meet people from other remote sensing fields like oceanography, soil moisture, gravity and in situ sea observing systems prior to the Summer School had been limited. For this reason, I benefited from a lot of new and valuable information, not directly related to my field of research. In particular, I liked the practical's that dealt with radar data and the "scientific-pool-talks" in the evening.

In conclusion, the ESA-EO Summer School on Earth System Monitoring and Modelling was the best summer school I have attended. In addition to learning a lot I established many new friendships and networks with peers in the international remote sensing community. I can recommend to students considering applying for this summer school, not to hesitate, as it will be not only a positive experience for you personally but a very good experience for your academic career.

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