



International Association of Geomorphologists

## **The Permafrost Young Research Network (PYRN) Workshop at the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP 2023)**

Puigcerdà, Spain, 18–22 June 2023

### **Report**

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I had a wonderful experience attending the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) workshop and the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP 2023) as one of the IAG grant holders and I would like to thank the IAG for their support.

### **The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) workshop**

The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) organized a pre-conference workshop for all PYRN members. As a member of the PYRN organizing committee, I had a wonderful experience not only attending the workshop, but also being involved in the planning throughout the last year. Organizing such a workshop was a great effort of several PYRN members. We learned a lot about planning such large events, including their challenges such as finding locations and catering (which was partly difficult due to language barriers), organizing experienced speakers for the event and brainstorming about what could be interesting but also fun for early career scientists, such as networking activities.

During the workshop itself, we organized several speakers covering on the one hand scientific topics such as the carbon cycle and rockfalls in mountain permafrost, and on the other hand soft skills such as challenges during fieldwork and advice on how to write a permafrost paper. Especially the discussions with the experienced permafrost researchers after each presentation were interesting and helpful for us as early career scientists. Furthermore, I benefitted greatly from seeing old colleagues again after years of restrictions during the Covid pandemic, but also connecting to early career researchers who I haven't met before. This was possible during a long lunch break together at the lake, a networking activity in the afternoon and a dinner followed by a party in the evening.



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*Photo to the left: Group photo of the PYRN members at the PYRN workshop, which was held before EUCOP 2023.*

*Photo to the right: PYRN organizing committee for the workshop and PYRN ExCom members (from left to right: Adam Kirkwood, Costanza Morino, Saskia Eppinger, Juditha Aga)*

### **The 6th European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP 2023)**

It was the first time that I attended a conference on permafrost and I benefitted greatly from the networking opportunities during the poster sessions, lunches and dinner parties and the insights into the research of other permafrost scientists. Unfortunately, it was not always easy to decide between four parallel sessions but due to locations in the little village Puigcerda, it was possible to change in between sessions if necessary. The choice of the locations (cinema, theatre, library, museum) gave a very special atmosphere, which made it easy to connect to scientists from the same subject. Especially the questions and discussions after my talk in the session “Polar Coastal and subsea environments in Transition: Arctic – Antarctic perspectives” and the conversations about my poster in the session “Recent advances in modelling permafrost dynamics, interactions, and feedbacks across scales” were helpful and provided good feedback for my further studies.

Besides, I had the opportunity to attend a conference dinner organized by PRISM and the IPA Council meeting as one of the PYRN representatives. It was very interesting to learn how an international association runs their meetings and how they make decisions and we were grateful as PYRN that they included us in this meeting.

In the end of the conference, we as PYRN had the pleasure to select the winners for the best presentation and poster award. It was a lot of work to make this happen with finding judges for each contribution. A particular challenge was, that the last posters were presented in the hour before the closing ceremony, where the winners were announced. But as a team, we managed to select outstanding winners.

Both the PYRN workshop and EUCOP 2023 were a valuable experience for me. I learned a lot from the organization of the PYRN workshop, I got to know many new faces of the international permafrost world and I received helpful feedback for my own research. Therefore, I am grateful to IAG for the support of my attendance.