Provisional report for IASC-Cryosphere Working Group on the 2nd Snow Science Winter School in Preda and Davos, Switzerland

The winter school took place from 14-20 February 2015 in Preda and Davos, Switzerland. Final reports from the participating student groups are expected until 30 March 2015.

The lecturers came from five different member states of IASC (*Early career scientists*):
Martin Schneebeli, WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, Switzerland, schneebeli@slf.ch (lead)
Anna Kontu, Finnish Meteorological Institute FMI, Finland, anna.kontu@fmi.fi
Alex Langlois Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, Alexandre.Langlois2@USherbrooke.ca
Neige Calonne, WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, neige.calonne@slf.ch
Marie Dumont, Centre d'Etudes de la Neige, Météo France,France, marie.dumont@meteo.fr
Rebecca Mott, WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, mott@slf.ch
Martin Proksch, University of Innsbruck, Austria and WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, proksch@slf.ch
Maurine Montagnat, Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de l'Environemment, France, montagnat@lgge.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr
Nick Rutter, Northumbria University, GB, nick.rutter@northumbria.ac.uk

The scientific committee judged the 65 applications, and selected the maximal possible number of 26 participants. Criteria were scientific qualification, equal distribution of gender, broad distribution of countries. The distribution among countries is as follows: Canada 4, Finland 2, Germany 2, India 1, Norway 1, Poland 1, Russia 2, Switzerland 4, Turkey 2, UK 3, USA 4. Concerning the educational level 4 students were post-docs, 19 PhD-students, 2 Master-students.

The organization of the students was into groups of 3-4, with a dedicated mentoring lecturer. The scientific program was built up by an introductory day into modern field methods, followed by 4 field days in groups of 3-4 students, on 3 field sites with different snowpack (open field, forest, alpine) and 1 lab-site (Davos). The field days started with a 1.5 hour lecture on fundamentals of snow science, and were concluded by a 45 minute evening lecture.

The course is now accredited officially 3 ETCS points from École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).

The final reports of each student group are expected until March 15, 2016, and will be discussed with the mentoring lecturer. Each group also made a short evaluation of the course, which were all very favorable, but a course can always be improved.

Students and lecturer would highly estimate a continuation of this Snow Science Winter School in 2017, and it is planned to be again in Sodankylä, Finland, with the Finnish Meteorological Institute as the organizing institute.

I would like to conclude this provisional report by a statement of one of the students, Kevin Hammonds:

" To the Sponsors of the 2nd Annual Snow School:

I am writing in regards to my recent trip to Preda, Switzerland, to attend the 2nd Annual Snow School, and I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for your financial support in covering my tuition, room, and board. Without this support I most likely would not have been able to attend the school, which in hindsight, would have been a very great misfortune. My time at the snow school was not only greatly beneficial in further developing my own academic understanding of the fundamentals of snow science, but also for

- networking with a varied and diverse group of snow scientists from all around the world
- learning from the pioneers in the field how they may approach similar problems as to mine when dealing with snow as a material
- how different countries and organizations (such as Switzerland and the SLF) address the needs of snow research and how it relates to the Swiss lifestyle and culture
- seeing first hand how beautiful the Alps really are!

In closing, I thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the snow school and I hope that you will continue to sponsor this event and other students like me in the future.

Best wishes,

Kevin Hammonds
Ph.D. Candidate
Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH, USA "

Davos, 8 March 2016 / Martin Schneebeli