

## SPACES II Virtual Midterm Meeting, 21.10.2020

### \*\*\*\*\* *Draft 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 evaluators.

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

9:00 – 9:10	Opening of meeting, introduction of programme, people & procedures
9:10 – 9:50	<b>Welcome words</b> Rene Haak/TBC, 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 – 10:30	Status update on Covid-19 and SPACES II continued with a short Q&A session (Elisabeth Schulz, Olaf Pollmann)
10:30 – 11:15	Project presentations (Vimeo platform): Q&A session with project PIs (hosts Jon Sheppard, Elisabeth Schulz, Mari Bieri)
11:15 – 11:30	Short break

### Session 2: Science informing policy & young researchers initiatives

11:30 – 11:50	Science informing climate change policy (Guy Midgley)
11:50 – 12:10	Future of ACCESS and links to SPACES II (Neville Swejd)
12:10 – 13:00	“Flash” presentations session (SPACES II Early-Career Researchers)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break

### Session 3: Joint initiatives & feedback, wrap-up

14:00 – 15:00	TBA (Joint initiatives under planning)
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15:00 – 15:30	Short initial feedback from reviewers
15:30 – 16:00	Finishing words, wrap-up

## 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](mailto:ak-spaces@thuenen.de), or [mari.bieri@thuenen.de](mailto:mari.bieri@thuenen.de)

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

**Meeting access:** For the virtual meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, we will use the WebEx platform. Instructions to join the meeting will be circulated to all members and stakeholders prior to the event. Link will be updated to this agenda as soon as it is available.

**Presentations:** Each project is asked to prepare a short progress update as a recorded presentation (deadline for submissions: **5<sup>th</sup> of October**). Use for example a screen capturing program for slides, including transitions, and add audio to the presentation. Submit your presentation in the format of a video file (MP4, MOV, WMV, AVI, or FLV). Link for uploading presentation will be provided shortly (name your presentation according to project).

Presentations should:

- 1) briefly introduce project background and structure (~2 slides – *note that project poster is available for participants as supporting material*),
- 2) cover the impacts of Covid-19 (i.e. *where you wanted to be vs. where you are*, ~2 slides),
- 3) introduce your main focus areas for the remaining project period (~1-2 slides), and
- 4) discuss specific areas where you seek input/collaboration from other projects/stakeholders (1-2 slides).

**Posters:** Every project is asked to submit an introductory poster as a pdf. Please remember that both the posters and presentation are aimed at stakeholders and representatives of all disciplines – avoid specialist terminology!

Deadline for project posters is the **9<sup>th</sup> of October**. Please use the same upload link as with presentations (provided shortly).

Other posters are welcome as additional material – such as posters from student projects etc. Materials with audio can be additionally submitted.

**Ice-breaker:** There will be a social event on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> October. Everyone is welcome – the event is organized by SPACES II Early-Career Researchers community, and meeting link will be distributed as soon as available.

