

To Valery Detemmerman  
Acting Director of WCRP  
WCRP Joint Planning Staff  
c/o World Meteorological Organization  
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix  
Case Postale 2300 Geneva 2



Dear Valery and members of the WCRP JSC,

We write to you to ask the WCRP to support a new, unified early career network for Young Earth System Scientists, called YESS community. Based on the CLIVAR ECS early career network (founded 2013) and YESS, the Young Earth System Scientists community (founded in 2010), we are currently establishing one unified early career network that reaches out to all young scientists in the climate related natural sciences, with additional focus on the socio-economic fields that deal with climate change questions. Our community will employ communication tools developed within YESS and combine these functionalities with content and resources from the CLIVAR ECS. We strive to organize meetings at relevant conferences for Young Earth System Scientists of all fields, especially at the WCRP related meetings in 2014. The global online community aspect, coupled with regular meetings and local initiatives comprises the core of the YESS community.

The merged YESS community will continue to be organized bottom-up, from young scientists, for young scientists. At the same time, some institutional support is needed to make YESS truly sustainable and long-term oriented. We have outlined a few of the core ideas of such support in the attachment to specify our understanding of what support is essential to make YESS truly sustainable. YESS has been institutionally independent up to now to stay true to its bottom-up community approach, but we believe a central partner is essential for further growth. We strongly believe that WCRP is the right partner. We would very much like to convince you that WCRP in return gains an active community and helps young Earth system scientists to thrive by acknowledging the YESS community.

We have attached two recommendation letters from Bjorn Stevens and Christian Jakob and a short list of what YESS and the CLIVAR ECS have done in the last years. We have also attached a preliminary document sketching potential Terms of Reference of a WCRP endorsed YESS community. We are looking forward to your response. If you have any clarifying questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Sarah Perkins, Mareike Burba (CLIVAR ECS)  
Florian Rauser, Vera Schemann, Sebastian Sonntag  
(YESS community steering committee)

## What we do already



We list here a few things that YESS / CLIVAR ECS have been doing in the last three years to give you a feeling of what we think is important in an early career network.

- Seminar series “Career opportunities”  
In Hamburg, we have been inviting speakers from different fields to give career related talks on job opportunities in diverse fields from academia, business, public service (weather services), international agencies, NGOs.
- Seminar series “Is our science still self-correcting?”  
In this discussion group we have discussed if the peer-review system of today still fulfills all requirements to make our science truly self-correcting.
- Model United Nation COP  
In 2009 we organized a parallel conference to the COP15 in Copenhagen to enable a better understanding of the climate / policy process
- Seminar series “How climate models work”
- Meet-ups at AGU Fall Meeting, EGU General Assemblies, Ocean Sciences Meeting, AMS 2014
- Creation and design of <http://yess-community.org> website with social network capabilities, allowing content groups, local groups, file sharing, searchable by interests, locations, messaging, profiles
- Website content job opportunities <http://www.clivar.org/ecs/what-clivar-ecs-network>
- Retreat/Workshop 2012 on the “Role and importance of communication of Earth System Science” (Retreat 2014 tbd)
- Climate Skeptics Workshop and Mock Debate in Potsdam 2012
- International and interdisciplinary conference ICYESS 2013 (<http://icyess.eu>)  
A description of our work there can be found at the BAMS meeting summary that has just appeared (<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/BAMS-D-13-00271.1>)
- Local informal meetings to foster networking of early career scientists and incorporate new members
- Presenting YESS at summer schools to inform about the network possibilities

## What we are still missing



Throughout the three years of developing YESS, we have identified a few major areas where lack of organizational support leads to less activities from the involved community members than desired. We have added an estimate of how much time it would probably use up to support YESS if done from a central point.

- **Communication infrastructure** (3-5 hours a week)

This working package starts from technical demands to website hosting and updating (we are running an open source based website that requires some ongoing maintenance) and includes also the time-consuming website activities such as calendar, content creation, updating job offers. As we see it the YESS and CLIVAR ECS websites have strengths in complementary areas, so the first step will be to merge the two webpages to make most of both. This merge will probably require technical support.

- **Outreach** (3-10 hours a week)

Meetings are the most efficient way to reach out to new members, followed by continued communication with graduate schools, institutions and local contact persons around the world. To do so would incorporate the creation and maintenance of outreach products (flyers, a presentation), and the continued effort to regularly contact relevant persons in the education system for the Earth system sciences.

- **Conference and meeting organization** (4-10 hours a week)

It is of utmost importance to maintain a regular series of meetings for local meet-ups, both regularly at YESS hotspots and at relevant conferences. Such meetings are an important way to provide a networking platform for early career scientists and get the community involved. To do so, it would be massively helpful if a central place could be maintained, where interested YESS members can ask for guidance how to organise

- a. local meetings / seminar series / local retreats
- b. meet-ups at international conferences
- c. independent YESS conferences (see [icyess.eu](http://icyess.eu))

# YESS Terms of Reference



The underlying idea of the YESS community is to develop and maintain an interactive community of early career scientists within the Earth system sciences. In our understanding this encompasses natural and social / economic sciences that address the question of Earth system components and their interaction with one another. The aim of YESS is to ultimately enhance collaborations, dissemination of scientific results, and individual career development.

1. Membership of the YESS network is open to students, educators, early career researchers and any others with an interest in the Earth system sciences.
2. YESS is part of a strategy to help early career scientists integrate and collaborate more widely within the scientific community. Such collaboration should aim to aid:
  - a. Enhance the sharing and circulation of scientific findings.
  - b. Stimulate future generations of climate researchers.
  - c. Career development and management.
3. The YESS community wants to serve as a forum for the discussion and communication of all science and career development issues related specifically to early career scientists.
4. Enhance interactions between early career scientists in order to facilitate exchange of scientific ideas and findings. This should be facilitated through:
  - a. Early career specific science workshops or conferences
  - b. Collaboration with other networks.
  - c. Operation and maintenance of a searchable YESS database.
  - d. Informal events organized in parallel with large scientific meetings.
5. Work in concert with other global early career networks to promote career and science development opportunities. Where other networks are already in place:
  - a. Memorandums of understanding should be drawn up to facilitate interactions.
  - b. Pre-existing resources should be shared and utilized.

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6. Engage and interact with the wider WCRP community at meetings and workshops to promote scientific collaboration and scientific exchange. Such interactions should occur through:

- a. Inclusion of YESS members on panels and working groups.
- b. Specific feedback of information from WCRP meetings to the early career community through use of YESS resources / newsletters.
- c. Development of a formal process whereby the YESS community can propose science and workshop ideas to the wider WCRP community for endorsement.