

MEDGATE TRAINING ACTIVITIES - SUMMARY

- MEDGATE comprises a broad programme of high quality technical and complementary skills training designed to support both the research goals of the MEDGATE project and to prepare researchers for careers in academia and the hydrocarbon industry;
- The technical training programme has been designed in collaboration with our industrial partners to ensure that MEDGATE produces geoscientists with industry-relevant skills.
- Training is distributed right across the network so that all 11 partner institutions will contribute to multiple network-wide training events;
- All MEDGATE's researchers will gain exposure to both academic and industrial sectors of geoscience through the network-wide training events. In addition, all the researchers will undertake at least one secondment ensuring that they gain experience of working in other academic and industrial settings;
- The secondment programme complements the network-wide training by ensuring that researchers gain access to appropriate specialist expertise and facilities provided by the different partner institutions.

B.3.1. Content and Quality of Training

MEDGATE's training philosophy is based on two main precepts:

1. that effective cross-disciplinary research requires all participants to understand the scope and principles of the different methods being used and to develop a common language;
2. that successful skill acquisition involves both undertaking training and having opportunities to practice those skills.

MEDGATE's training programme therefore integrates local specialist instruction with network-wide activities that incorporate all the main technical disciplines required for the research projects (Table 1). The programme has been carefully scheduled to ensure that researchers receive early exposure to the skills training they require (Table 4) and are then provided with structured opportunities to apply and practice those skills. The network-wide events therefore have three main functions: to deliver training; to monitor and provide feedback on progress; and to support and enhance interdisciplinary exchange.

Each ESR is hosted by the institution best able to provide the high level skills training in their main research field. This **local training** will take advantage of the expertise and facilities each institution provides. In addition all researchers will participate in at least one **secondment** at another partner institution; eight of the ten will undertake two secondments (**Error! Reference source not found.**). This structured mobility is designed to ensure that the researchers benefit from a wide range of relevant specialist training and experience different research environments (e.g. academic institutions in another country and/or in industry). In addition, the secondments are arranged to support the sharing and transfer of skills between researchers. To enhance this interdisciplinary collaboration still further, **the MEDGATE programme will provide a series of ten network training events (NT-1 to NT-10) focussed on the range of technical (TT-1 to TT-6) and complementary transferable (CT-1 to CT-5) skills** that this multi-disciplinary project requires (Table 1). Researchers will be expected to contribute to the training of other members of the MEDGATE team in the disciplines in which they specialise. This is designed to support their own learning, the development of their communication skills and support network-wide acquisition of a common language. Finally, the training framework is provided through a series of **five Group Meetings (GM-1 to GM-5)**. Each

meeting has a different focus, but serves to integrate results across the entire project. The fifth and final group meeting (GM-5) will comprise both a field trip and a programme of presentations that will be designed and delivered by the ESRs themselves.

Table 1. MEDGATE training schedule indicating the nature and timing of the Network Training Short Courses (NT-), the Technical Training (TT-), Complementary Skills Training (CT-) and the Group Meetings (GM-). The contributing partners and venues are also shown.

Code		Training	(month) Date	Co-ordinator and contributors	Venue
NT-1	GM-1	Introduction to the Mediterranean-Atlantic gateways	(8) Sept 2012	Bristol, Utrecht, Salamanca, Repsol, Casablanca, ONHYM, Montpellier, Leuven	Bristol
	CT-1	Training the trainers: design and delivery of short courses			
NT-2	TT-1	Field geology and sedimentology in the Spanish corridor	(8) Sept 2012	Utrecht, Salamanca, CASP	Fieldwork
NT-3	TT-2	Micropalaeontological techniques: biostratigraphy and palaeoecology	(11) Dec 2012	Salamanca, PetroStrat, Leuven, Casablanca, Utrecht	Salamanca
	CT-2	Communicating Science to the public			
NT-4	TT-3	Geochemical tools for tracing water masses	(13) Feb 2013	Glasgow, Bristol, Utrecht, PetroStrat, CASP, Repsol	Glasgow
	CT-3	Writing science for scientists: academic papers and industry reports			
NT-5	GM-2	Mini-conference: ESR presentations and discussion	(16) May 2013	Casablanca, ONHYM, Utrecht	Fieldwork
	TT-4	The Moroccan Gateway			
NT-6	TT-5	Subsurface data analysis: wireline logging in the field, seismic interpretation and well log analysis	(23) Dec 2013	Montpellier, ONHYM, Repsol, PetroStrat	Montpellier
	CT-4	Life after a PhD: careers in academia and industry			
NT-7	GM-3	Congress of the Regional Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy (RCMNS)	(20) Sept 2013	ESRs	Turkey
NT-8	TT-6	Mathematical modelling: the philosophy and tool kit	(25) Feb 2014	Utrecht, Bristol, CASP, Repsol	Utrecht
	CT-5	Research funding: grant writing and commercial exploitation			
NT-9	GM-4	Planning meeting for GM-5	(35) Dec 2014	ESRs, Bristol	Bristol
NT-10	GM-5	An integrated evolutionary model of the pre-Gibraltar gateways	(39) April 2015	ESRs	Morocco