



Jena, May 24, 2023

The BASE Newsletter, vol. IV, issue 6



Planning for the BASE sampling workshop, Sept. 11 and 12 (plenary), Sept. 13 and 14 (sampling) by the LOC is as follows:

- The draft program mailed in Newsletter IV-3 on January 30, 2023, has not changed yet.
- Please register for the event by writing me an e-mail prior to May 31.
- I will send around soon a short questionnaire intended to confirm our “interest group” organization as we prepare for the workshop. Groups are meant ...
 - to encourage collaboration on related science questions wherever possible, and especially when two investigators work with complementary approaches or techniques;
 - to minimize unnecessary competition, especially for limited samples; and
 - to help this group to anticipate the sampling needs of future projects to preserve especially valuable material.

(Thanks, Mike)

- We can offer travel support along the following rules:
 - only for needy Science Team members (that is, PIs and their PhD students)
 - upon written application to me (letterhead and signed, please); also include a short income / expense budget sketch
 - travel grant awards will be decided by the SMB
 - likely amounts will be non-Europeans 1250 €, Europeans 600 €, Germans 250 €.
 - Those who have in-house funds should please fully or partially pay their own costs and apply for a lower subsidy if necessary. Those who need a higher subsidy may ask for more.
 - Please apply by June 14.
 - Payouts to be made by the ICDP office.
- Space will likely be insufficient to lay out all 500+ core boxes even if we use part of the courtyard. We will therefore first lay out boxes required by overseas attendees (that is, those most inconvenienced by another visit: mostly Japanese, South Africans, and US scientists), so that sampling can begin Wed, Sept. 13. (Of course, everyone else intending to sample this same material can sample as well.) The LOC will therefore need to know approximately by August which core boxes you want to access so that the proper pallets can be pulled from the racks. All the information required to select core is on the web page: Stratigraphic and geophysical logs, core photographs etc. Last-minute changes after core inspection on Sept. 11 and 12 will be possible, though.
- All samples taken must be booked into the system on-site prior to departure.
- You should anticipate the following costs in Berlin: [24-hr public transportation ticket](#) 9,50 €; accommodation in Spandau, e.g. Hotel Spiegelturm Spandau ([here](#)), 300 € (3 nights, double

Science Team members, don't forget to log in frequently for updates:

<https://www.icdp-online.org/projects/by-continent/africa/base-south-africa>

occupancy; that is, ~50 € pN pP). Lunch ~7 €, Dinner ~18 €. I estimate that the average person will spend about 250-300 € while in Berlin.

In other news:



David de Vleeschouwer and BSc-student Simone Küpers scanned the BASE-5A laminated section using a hand-held XRF scanner during a two-day visit to the core store; he wrote: „*Christoph didn't lie: the cores are pure beauty.*“ Remember, nondestructive core sampling is possible and encouraged.

The team around Paul Mason, Stefan Lalonde, Mark van Zuilen, and Amandine Migeon are busy generating the geochemical XRF data set.

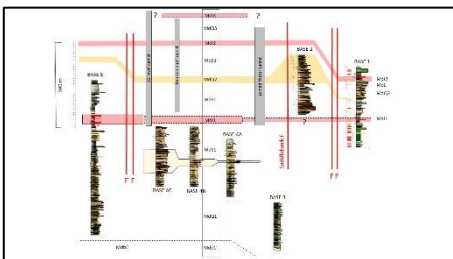
Marcello Gugliotta hired a talented PhD student from Utrecht to start in the fall; Marcello will join Christoph and his students in early August for field work.



I have been discussing organization, sample sharing and research with a „*Friends of Zircons*“ group within the ST and with the cyclostratigraphers around David.

The South Africans met in Barberton to discuss the future layout of the BASE Room. Victor Ndazamo (from the Onsite Geoscience Team) teaches there enthusiastically.

Christoph, attending EGU in Vienna, gave a new version of the BASE talk, available [here](#) (with a new diagram showing a preliminary correlation between BASE boreholes and tunnels). 54 beautiful slides in 10 minutes guaranteed rapt attention ...



Frohes Forschen !

Christoph and the SMB