

Marcin

Assistant professor and doctoral student at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering of Warsaw University of Technology. Graduated from WUT in environmental protection and information technology. Apart from teaching classes in hydrology and protection of water resources, as a member of the team at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering of WUT, he specialises in the analysis of water quality, combining a field research approach, computer models and teledetection research (remote sensing).



Kawka

DURATION OF THE SCIEX PROJECT:
1.10.2011–30.09.2012

PROJECT:
**HAWAQIR:
Hyperspectral
Assessment of Water
Quality in Reservoirs**

Warsaw University
of Technology

PL

CH

Swiss Federal
Institute of Aquatic
Science and
Technology

What were the outcomes of the project?

The three highly rated publications that I prepared together with the Swiss team are a concrete outcome of the project. The fellowship allowed me to establish long-term cooperation with the *Eidgenössische Anstalt für Wasserversorgung, Abwasserreinigung und Gewässerschutz* (EAWAG), which made it possible for me to apply equipment lent by EAWAG: we measured the temperature and content of chlorophyll in 41 vertical profiles as well as the features and water flow rate of 20 horizontal sections of the Zegrze Reservoir. I used the measurements obtained for the purposes of my PhD thesis. The contacts I then established and the exchange of experience are also very helpful in the process of submitting further applications – now the procedures seem much more straightforward. My project in Switzerland significantly raised my professional qualifications.

What impact did the fellowship have on your professional and private life?

In the short run, my participation in the project made me realise the difference that exists between the levels of knowledge in water quality research in Poland and in the rest of the world. Switzerland is a paradise for scientists not only because of its brilliantly organised research facilities or access

to the latest global publications, but above all also because of opportunities to experience exchange in an international environment. I was able to observe the organisation of research work abroad and became familiar with new and often superior solutions worth applying at Polish universities. I am sure that a fellowship abroad broadens your horizons and inspires you to carry on. Privately and above all, my Swiss mobility allowed me to become independent, starting from such mundane tasks as dealing with formalities in a foreign country, through breaking language barriers, to establishing foreign contacts.

If not for the fellowship...

...I think I would have continued looking for other mobility opportunities. Studying has always meant travel. For example Copernicus studied at the University of Bologna as he wanted to gain new knowledge. I am very grateful to my thesis supervisor as he was the one to insist that I should apply for this fellowship abroad. He knew what he was doing encouraging me to take this opportunity for mobility. He himself has travelled a lot, starting as early as in the 1970s, to return to his Polish HEI with his newly acquired knowledge that he would never have had a chance to acquire in our country.