

Report Young Scientist Mobility Scholarship

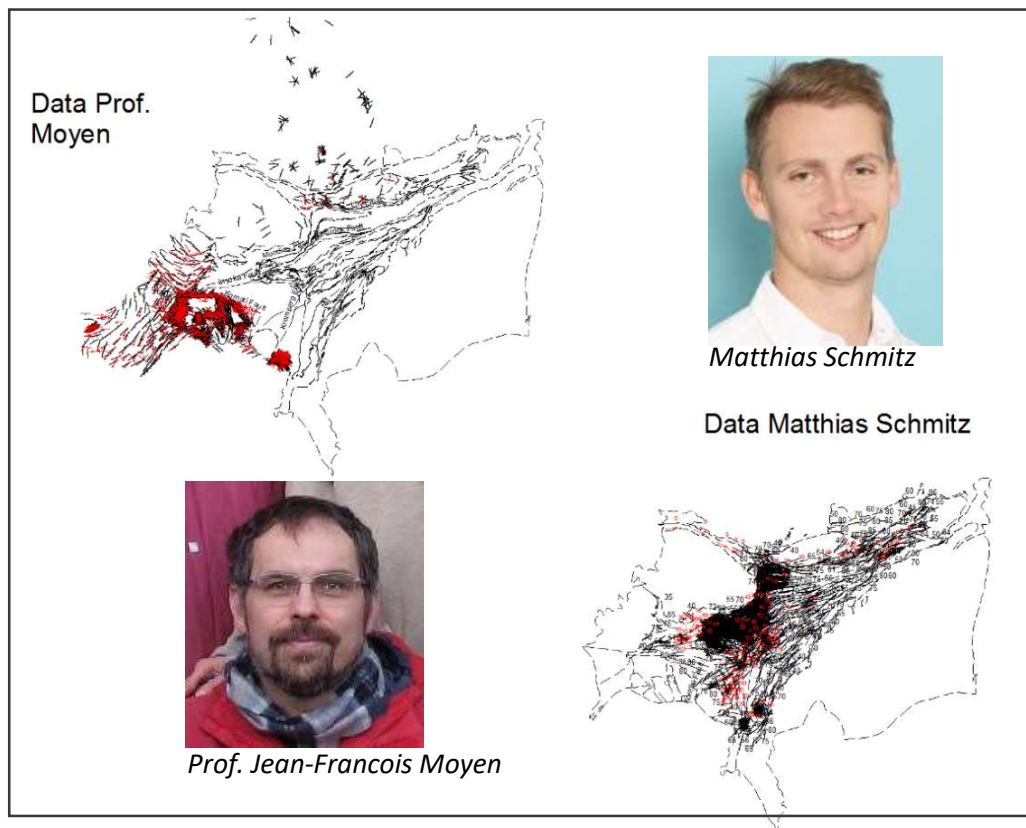
Matthias Schmitz, St. Etienne University / France, 03.11.-10.11.2017

During the first half of my PhD, which focuses on the tectonic evolution of the Barberton Greenstone Belt, I compiled a large quantity of structural field data from literature, unpublished works by former students of our group in Jena and my own mapping. I soon realized that I could not understand the complex tectonic framework of the Barberton Greenstone Belt by only examining the deformation pattern of the volcano-sedimentary strata within the belt. Rather, I also had to pay attention to the large plutonic bodies adjacent to the greenstone belt because their emplacement is related to the deformation of the greenstone belt.

For this reason, I applied to visit Jean-Francois Moyen, professor of petrology at the university of St. Etienne, France. Jeff has spent more than 20 years investigating the TTG plutons around the Barberton Greenstone Belt. He is not only familiar with the petrology and geochemistry of these ancient rocks, but also with the regional tectonics and their deformation history. For this reason, he was the perfect person to help me understanding the framework of the Barberton geology.

Thanks to a Young Scientist Mobility Scholarship, I could visit Jean-Francois in his department in November 2017 and discuss the tectonic evolution of the entire granitoid-greenstone terrane. We had known that he was compiling a significant GIS-based database of geological information from the plutonic bodies surrounding the greenstone belt. When I showed him my data from the interior of the greenstone belt, we saw that they perfectly complemented each other. We agreed to continue this collaboration with the goal to produce a regional digital geologic map and exchanged our data.

This visit in St. Etienne was another major step forward in my PhD, not only because of the great expansion of my database but also because I learned a lot from Jean-Francois during our inspiring discussions. Jean-Francois also introduced me to other visitors and local scientists from this department. I now know many more scientists of different backgrounds and expertise, which will be helpful at a later stage of my PhD or of my career in general. Obviously, the trip also helped greatly in refreshing my French; languages are always useful and never grow outdated.



Comparison between existing data