



European Research Council

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Highlight:

ERC project exploring the secrets of the Greenland ice on Euronews

28 June 2012

Euronews *Futuris* programme today highlights a project financed by the European Research Council (ERC) (see the broadcasting schedule below). Danish ERC grantee Dorthe Dahl-Jensen and her team are drilling for ice in Greenland to discover what happened the last time the planet experienced global warming, around 120,000 years ago.

The ambition of Prof. Jensen's current drilling programme is to reach pure rock in order to gain an insight into the composition of the ice sheet, without the impurities and cavities that have been present in previous years' samples.

Prof. Jensen's project studies the ice flow over the bedrock beneath the Greenland ice sheet. A wet bedrock means that the ice reacts more rapidly to changes in climate and flows faster, which makes a greater contribution to the fresh water supply to the ocean.

The team uses radio echo sounding information, ice core data and ice sheet models to search for lakes under the ice. Scientists in this field are uncertain why no sub-glacial lakes have been found in Greenland, when many have been found in Antarctica. An accurate picture of the hydrological stability of the Greenland ice sheet is fundamental to scientists' ability to predict how the ice sheets have evolved, and future sea levels worldwide.

More than giving information on our climate, the ice could also reveal some secrets about the evolution of life on earth. Some interesting biology material could indeed be found in the ice samples.

The ERC funding has made Prof. Jensen's project possible and has enabled her to build up an interdisciplinary team of young researchers, whose expertise covers everything from ice sheet modelling to DNA sampling.

The *Futuris* programme on the WATERUNDERTHEICE project will be on air from today with the following broadcasting schedule:

Days	Schedule (*)
Thursday 28/06	18:45
Friday 29/06	01:45 – 09:45 – 13:45
Saturday 30/06	06:45 – 12:15 – 17:45 – 22:45
Sunday 01/07	10:45 – 14:45 – 20:45
Monday 02/07	09:15 – 18:45
Tuesday 03/07	01:45 – 13:15 – 18:15
Wednesday 04/07	01:45 – 10:15 – 16:45



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(*) All times are CET. The scheduled broadcasting can change or can be delayed in case of LIVE events.

The report will be accessible from 28 June 2012 on www.euronews.net/futuris.

Project's details

Grantee: Prof. Dorthe Dahl-Jensen

Host Institution: Centre for Ice and Climate, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen (DK)

ERC Project: Where is the water under the Greenland ice sheet? (WATERUNDERTHEICE)

ERC Call: Advanced Grant 2009

ERC Funding: € 2.5 million for five years

For more information on this project:

[Research project of Prof. Dorthe Dahl-Jensen](#)

[Centre for Ice and Climate - Niels Bohr Institute - University of Copenhagen](#)

[Report of Da Ai Headlines on the WATERUNDERTHEICE project](#)

For more information on the ERC:

[ERC website](#)