

TERRE

...RETHINKING GROUND ENGINEERING FOR A LOW-CARBON FUTURE

My Experience with an EU-H2020-MSCA-ITN Project

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Research Associate



How I got involved...



2014

MSc Environmental Engineering
Strathclyde, UK

TETFund - Federal Government of Nigeria

My MSc Supervisor



2016

Dual-PhD

University of Naples Federico II, Italy

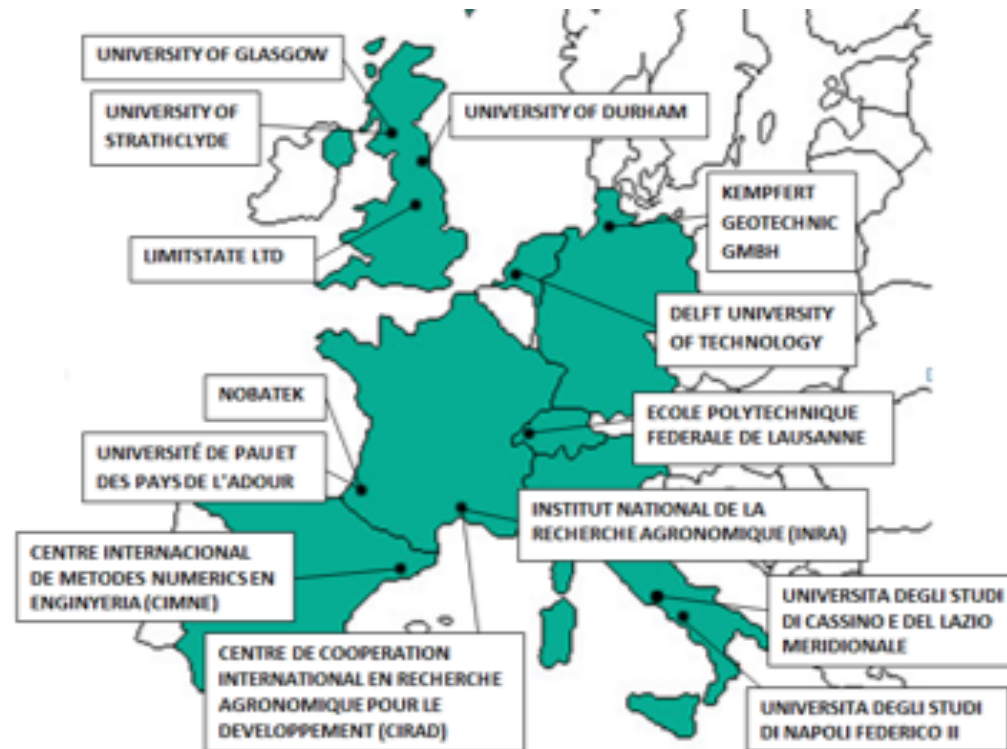
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow UK

The Project: **'TERRE'**

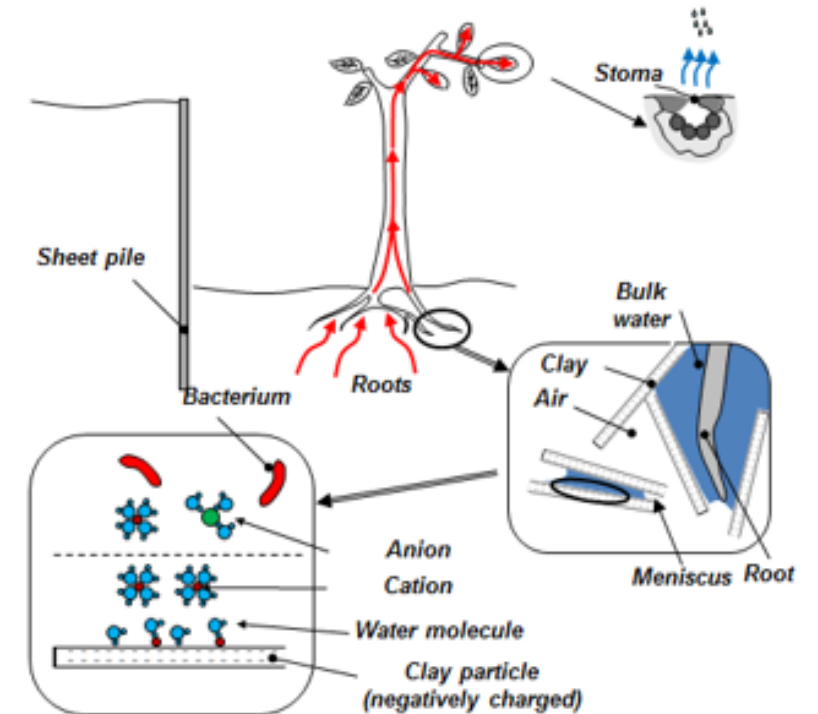
terre-etn.com

Training Engineers and Researchers to Rethink geotechnical Engineering for a low carbon future

€ 3.9m. H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015. Coordinator: Professor Alessandro Tarantino



Cross-sectoral team of 14 European project partners



...towards a *nature-centric* scientific approach to ground engineering

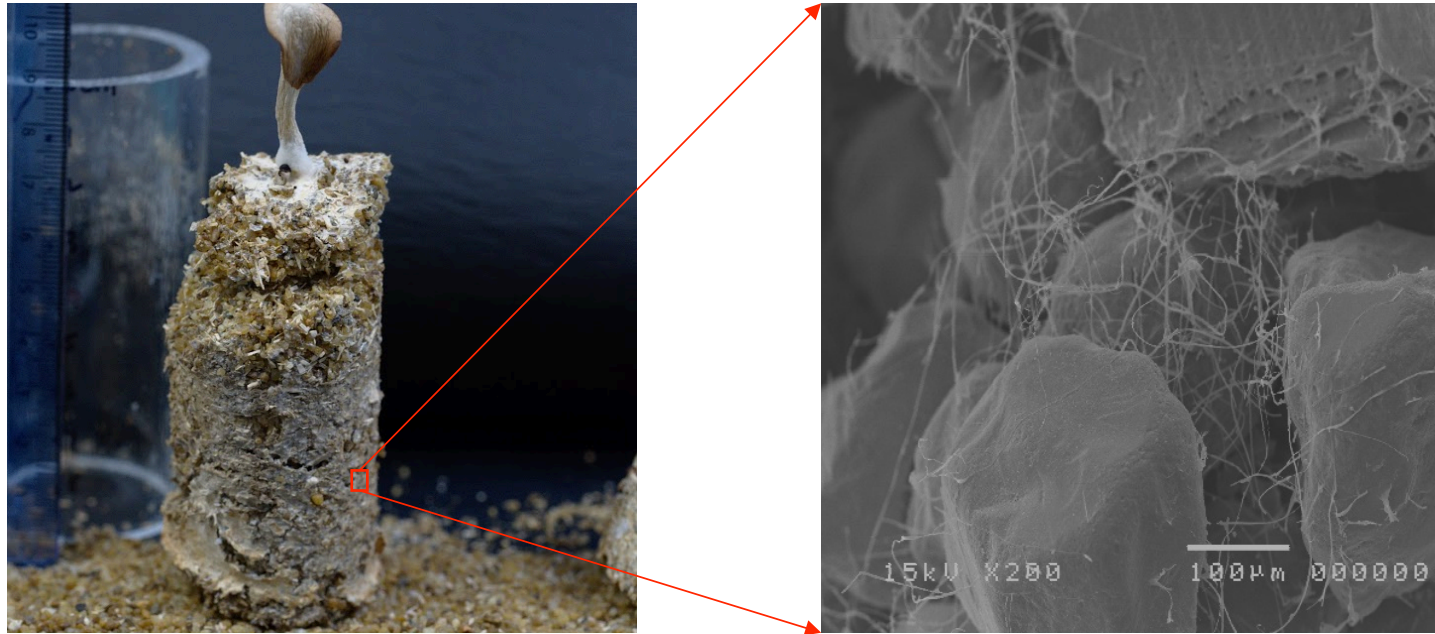
15 Early-Stage Researchers



With Senior Academics & Industry Partners



My research topic:
Engineering Fungal-mycelia for Soil Improvement



Novel nature-based engineering technique with potential applications in:

- **Soil erosion** mitigation
- Minimising risks of shallow **landslides**
- Reversing **desertification**
- **Bioremediation** of contaminated lands

Challenges/Difficulties & Lessons Learnt



Managing a novel, interdisciplinary & ambitious research + outreach

**Resilience!
Soft skills**



Institutional Bureaucracies in Cotutelle Agreement & lots of Admin tasks.

Time/people management



Travel VISA requirements/ applications

I applied for 7 different visas!

Life/Career Benefits

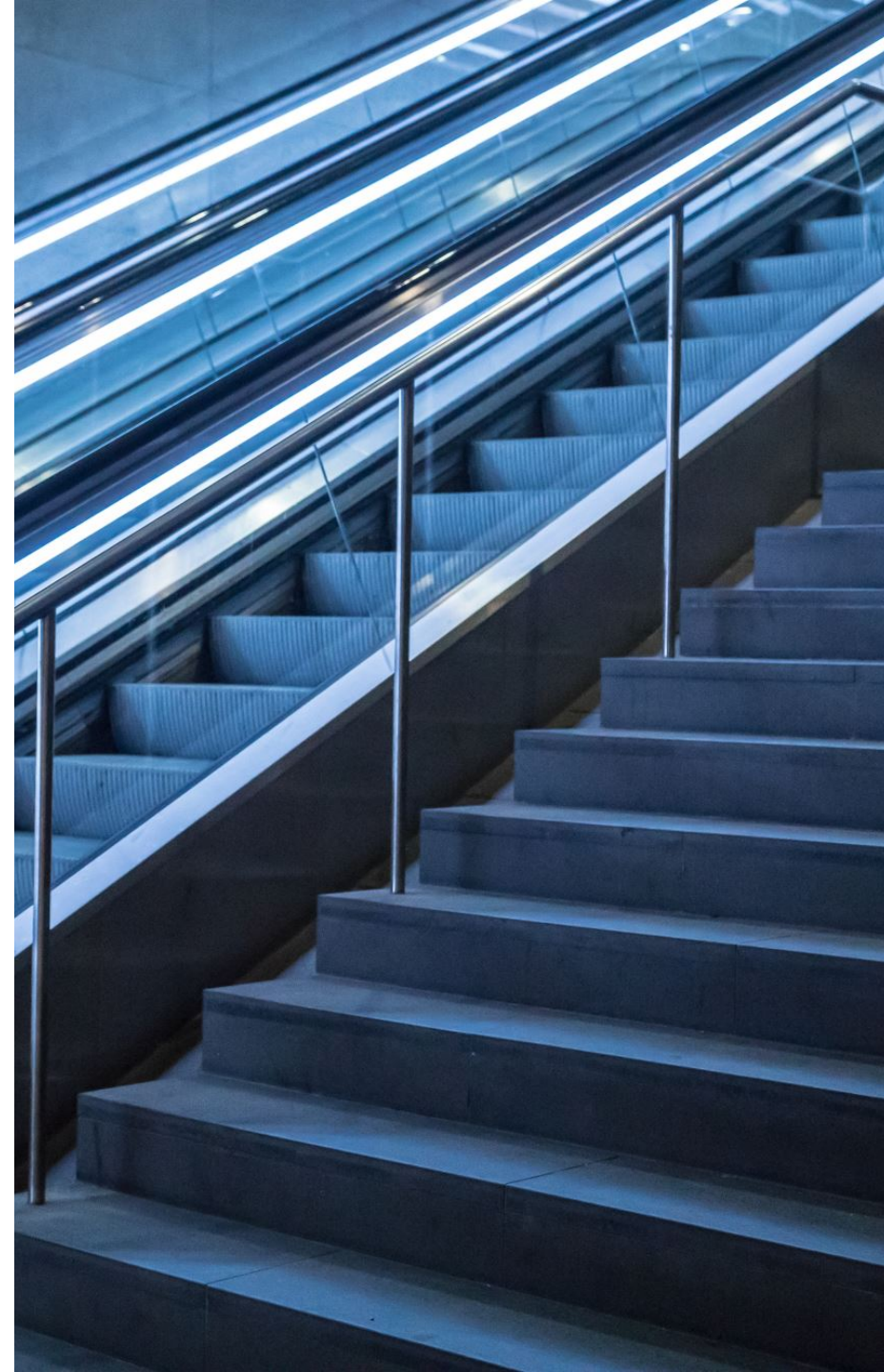


Training



Networking

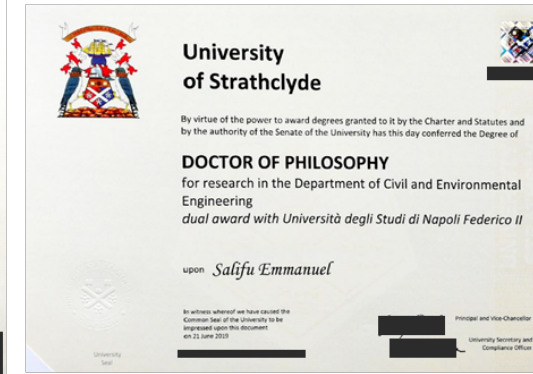
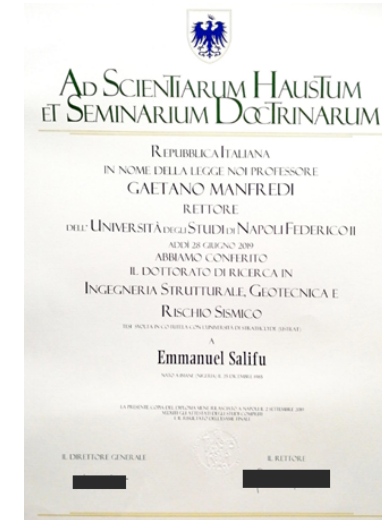
Innovation & Creativity | Employability & Leadership.



Life/Career Benefits

Well-structured Academic Training Programme:

- Career development planning
- Research project management skills
- Doctoral Training Schools & Workshops
- Cutting-edge research + publications/outputs
- Award of a Dual-PhD



Life/Career Benefits

Direct connection to a closely-knit, diverse, multicultural, and multidisciplinary team

- Collaborations, access to wider network of networks
- Job opportunities and offers
- Continuous peer support and mentorship
- Global recognition, visibility, reputation



Life/Career Benefits

Acquired lots of soft/transferable skills, competencies, exposure!

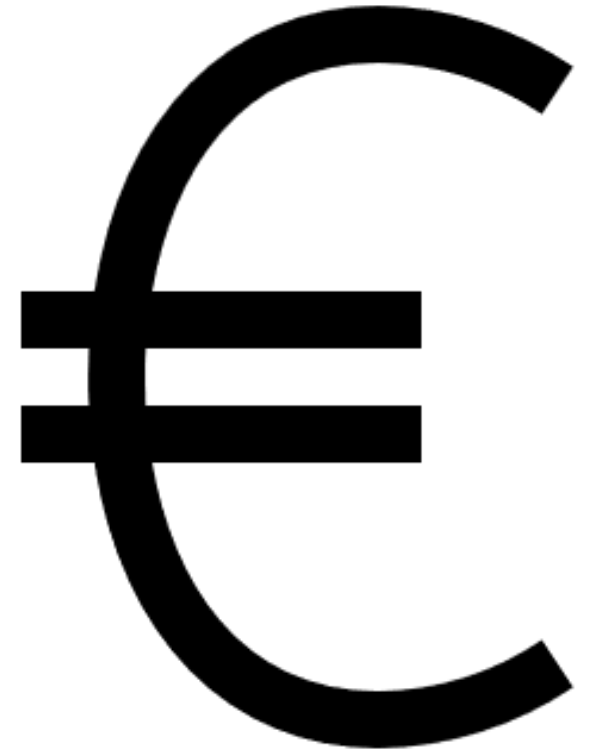
- Communication: technical/non-technical; oral/written
- Teamwork & Leadership: outreach programmes
- Organisational/administrative skills
- Supervision of younger researchers
- Professional and global competencies: e.g., Award of Chartered Engineer CEng, UK.



Life/Career Benefits

Excellent funding!

- Salary was great, plus mobility & family allowances
- Fund for research, training, networking, travels/subsistence, lab consumables, equipment...
- Visa fee refunds



Life/Career Benefits

Membership of the Marie Curie Alumni Association, MCAA

- Huge professional network: **>19000** global researchers from **150** nationalities
- Opportunity to gain leadership skills, service to community, contribute to policy
- Access to micro-grants



AFRICAN CHAPTER



Get **IN**volved!



Horizon Europe

