

## New challenges and opportunities for equality, diversity and inclusivity under COVID-19 and beyond

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Diversity, equality and inclusivity are topical issues in science at large. While diversity is unanimously recognised to be an essential ingredient of science, it is still difficult to find a successful strategy to ensure diversity in the widest sense. Meanwhile, the tragedy of coronavirus, with more than 400,000 deaths to date, is going to broadly change our lifestyle, including research targets and avenues. While COVID-19 has been initially seen as an additional obstacle to diversity, it has been later observed that virtual networking may actually offer unexpected opportunities.

In particular, I believe that virtual connections may allow us to remove barriers to inclusivity therefore moving forward to an improved diversity. Furthermore, strategies and actions to support economic recovery of countries during COVID-19 and beyond may also contribute to improve equality in science. In fact, the current crisis has created a window of opportunity to change the way we organise scientific activities. In this talk we will discuss the conditions, strategies and attitude that may help geoscientists to improve equality, diversity and inclusivity under the current health emergency