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## Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Laser Ablation in Elemental Analysis

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I went to the workshop in July to give a presentation on my ongoing research entitled: "Calibration of LA-ICP-MS for trace element analysis in geological materials". This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> conference, but the first happening outside England. It was also focused on my area of research, with 150 or so researchers interested in the field of laser ablation. The programme was highly exciting with talks on geological applications and geological dating, biological applications, instrument performances and modelling, and physical processes involved in the ablation process. The format of the conference was very satisfactory, with 3 talks given and then half an hour open discussion for questions and comments. Almost all presentations were given by lead researchers in their topics of interest, which raised the level of the conference to a very high standard. There were also around 50 posters displayed, with numerous occasions to have a look at them and interact with the researchers about methods and results. Half a dozen companies were present with the latest technology available and many were performing demonstration with instruments.

The workshop was hosted by one of the most successful research group in the world in that field, conducted by Dr. Detlef Günther, attracting many people from outside Europe, which raised the matter of enlarging the forthcoming workshop to worldwide interests because of its success. There was also time at the end of the conference to get around the different laboratories and get an overview of the outstanding working conditions and variety of instruments used at ETH Zurich.

In conclusion, I am very grateful to the Geochemistry group for their substantial contribution towards the travelling costs to enable me to attend and present my work at the workshop. It was an excellent experience, and gave me the possibility to learn about all fields of laser ablation, with high display of scientific work.