



HEAR-ECO E-newsletter: July 2018

Introduction

Welcome to the first HEAR-ECO E-newsletter!

HEAR-ECO is an international, multi-site project involving six new PhD students. Patrycja Książek and Bethany Plain are based at VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam; Hidde Pielage and Tirdad Seifi Ala are based at the Eriksholm research center of Oticon, and Defne Alfandari and Sergio Aguirre are based at University of Nottingham, Hearing Sciences (Scottish section). We have each recently started at our host organisations and are settling into our new roles and work-places. During our PhD programmes we will go on an extended secondment to either Eriksholm Research Centre (part of Oticon A/S) in Denmark or to one of the academic partners (Hidde and Tirdad). Defne and Bethany will also receive input from Michael Richter (Effort lab at Liverpool John Moores University), a partner organisation of HEAR-ECO.

Tobii training

Date: 18.06.18

Place: Eriksholm Research Centre, Denmark

Participants:

Hidde Pielage, Patrycja Książek, Tirdad Seifi Ala, Defne Alfandari, Dorothea Wendt, Adriana Zekveld, Hans van Beek, Thomas Lunner, Thomas Gaudy (from Tobii)



From left to right: Dorothea Wendt, Hidde Pielage, Defne alfandari, Thomas Gaudy (from Tobii), Patrycja Książek, Hans van Beek, Tirdad Seifi Ala and Adriana Zekveld

On 18.06.18 we met in Eriksholm for training on the usage and functionality of the new Tobii Eye Tracker, which will be used in the HEAR-ECO studies. Before starting, we had a small tour of the Eriksholm Research Center, for the newcomers to see the building and existing research equipment. The training was divided into two parts covering a theoretical introduction to the physiology of the eye and practical experience with the camera. The aim was to become familiar with the eye-tracking equipment and to perform basic testing. During the training, we simulated ecologically valid research conditions by taking the Tobii glasses outside to the garden. We also recorded a pair of pupils, while presenting speech. We then plotted pupil size over time. Thanks to the training, we have enhanced our knowledge on eye tracking and are ready to integrate the system into the HEAR-ECO study designs.



From left to right: Dorothea Wendt, Defne alfandari, Tirdad Seifi Ala, Patrycja Ksiazek, Hidde Pielage, Hans van Beek, Thomas Lunner and Adriana Zekveld

Introducing Tirdad



Tirdad Seifi Ala
RESEARCH FELLOW (ESR)

“I was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. So, moving to Denmark was my first experience outside Iran which was a bit scary at first. I had to adapt to a new language, new culture, new people and new system. As difficult as I found the Danish language, it was a relief to see how Danish people are capable of speaking English fluently. Of course, I am planning on learning some Danish though. Går at være hård!

But other than difficulties of new languages and new system, I found Danish people (and members of Eriksholm Research Center for that matter) very nice and friendly. That makes things a lot easier for me. For instance, they helped me a lot in finding and affording a house to stay, helping to get Denmark residency, bank account etc. which are usually a nightmare for immigrants, but looked very easy to me, thanks to the help I received.

But more importantly than that, the laugh we share during the breaks at Eriksholm, the friendly atmosphere here and the support I receive from my supervisors have been the best part of my journey to Denmark.

Give me some time. I’m still planning on learning a lot of new things about Denmark! :)”

Upcoming in the HEAR-ECO calendar:

Eriksholm Summer Camp	Dates: 22nd - 26th August
	Location: Eriksholm Research Centre, Denmark
	Information: Bethany (ESR at VUmc) will be attending Eriksholm summer camp
HEAR-ECO kick off meeting and HEAR-TRAIN event	Dates: 28th - 31st August
	Location: VUmc, Amsterdam
	Information: This will be the first time the whole HEAR-ECO team will be together! It will be an opportunity for training and team building
Data Collection	Dates: Starting in Fall 2018
	Location: All sites

Project coordination, supervision and funding

HEAR-ECO is coordinated by Sophia Kramer (VU University medical center). Project manager is Adriana A. Zekveld (VU University medical center). Senior researchers further include Thomas Lunner, Dorothea Wendt, Carina Graversen, Tanveer Bhuiyan, and Gaby Saunders (Eriksholm research center of Oticon), Graham Naylor and William Whitmer (University of Nottingham, Hearing Sciences - Scottish section), Michael Richter (Effort lab at Liverpool John Moores University).

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement No 765329.



We will send regular E-newsletter updates about the progress and results of HEAR-ECO

For more information, visit our website:
hear-eco.eu

