

# The 3rd National Mars Science Seminar

22.10.2021, [www.mars.uj.edu.pl](http://www.mars.uj.edu.pl)

*Teaching planetary geology to engineers  
during European Rover Challenge competition*

**Dr Anna Łosiak**

**Instytut Nauk Geologicznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk**

European Rover Challenge (ERC) is an international robotics competition that aims at stimulating and supporting a new generation of engineers by developing competencies, skills, and networks within the space sector. It takes place in Poland since 2014. Most of the competition takes place at a Mars Yard: an artificially build, geologically realistic 40x30 m area re-designed every year to represent a selected region on Mars (Jezero Crater in 2020, Elysium in 2021). The science task was designed to mirror scientific activities performed before and during planetary missions: its aim was to prepare and execute a simple science-driven exploration plan of the Mars Yard. We demonstrated that robotics competition, that includes a properly constructed scientific task, develops new skills related to mapping, understanding the morphology and geology – also within people of purely engineering backgrounds.



JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY  
IN KRAKÓW

Faculty of Physics, Astronomy  
and Applied Computer Science  
Faculty of Geography and Geology