



# Minutes

## INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

8 October 2016  
Reykjavik, Iceland

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Participants: Luisella Bianco, Terry Callaghan, Margareta Johansson, Kirsi Latola, Morten Rasch, Hannele Savela and Elmer Topp Jørgensen

### **Final reporting for the first phase of INTERACT**

Margareta informed the group that we received different requests related to the final reporting from Brussels as late as in August. In September we delivered everything to Brussels and we are waiting for their confirmation. The remaining actions after this to finish the first phase of INTERACT is for KVA to distribute the final payment when we receive it from Brussels and then to send in a final short report on the payments. All remaining tasks are the responsibility of the Coordinator for the first phase of INTERACT.

### **The second phase of INTERACT**

#### *Evaluation of the proposal*

Even if the evaluation of the proposal is available for all partners in the participant portal, the group concluded that most likely many people had not seen the evaluation. Hence please find the evaluation of our successful INTERACT proposal attached.

#### *Grant agreement preparation*

During the last months, the INTERACT management team (Luisella and Margareta) has been working with Brussels on our grant agreement preparations. We have submitted twice to Brussels and are working on our third submission. Brussels has requested very few changes to our proposals and the largest problems we have encountered are with partners that are not validated and need assistance from the validation service in Brussels. Luckily, our brilliant EU Scientific Officer and Legal Officer have assisted us in this matter so things are finally happening. We still do not know exactly when the Grant Agreement will be signed, but we are hoping that this will be in the coming weeks. As we have told you earlier, the starting date of the project is 1 October to ensure transnational access to research stations already in summer 2017.



### *Consortium agreement*

The legal department at Lund University has created a draft of the consortium agreement following the DESCA guidelines (from the EU). We have circulated it for comments during the week starting 10 October and will then compile the comments and send it out again.

### *Upcoming deadlines during the first three months*

In the first three months of the project, we have 8 milestones (table 1).

*Table 1. Milestones for the first three months of the project.*

Title	Lead Beneficiary	Due Date (month)
M1.3 - Formation of Daily Management Group	LU	1
M7.1 - Establishment of the CBMP/INTERACT working group	CAFF	1
M1.4 - Formation of the International Advisory Board	LU	2
M1.5 - Formation of the Transnational access evaluation board and virtual access board (the selection panel)	LU	2
M2.1 - Establishment of a bulletin board on the web site advertising facilities for mentoring	IGF-PAS	2
M1.1 - INTERACT Web portal operational	LU	3
M5.1 - Transnational Access in operation	UOULU	3
M5.2 - INTERACCESS V1 operational	CLU	3

Milestone M1.3 was completed at this meeting in Iceland where the Daily Management Group was officially formed. Milestone M1.5 was discussed. The TA Board will consist of 14 people. Terry will chair the Board, Hannele will be the Secretary and Kirsi will also participate when needed. There will be 6 external experts representing different disciplines and 6 Station Managers representing the broad geographical areas and extending the coverage of disciplines. The VA Board will consist of a minimum of five members (the WP4 leader will chair this VA Board and can nominate the other members). Milestone M5.2, the INTERACCESS system that is being developed for TA applications and evaluations is well on its way and is ready for the first TA call which will open in early November and close in mid-December 2016. The call will be for Transnational access projects in 2017 (both summer 2017 and winter season 2017/2018 until April 2018).

We have only one deliverable for the first three months (table 2).



*Table 2. Deliverable for the first three months of the project.*

Title	Lead Beneficiary	Due Date (month)
D1.1 - Minutes from Kick-off meeting	LU	3

The date of the kick off meeting is not yet decided as we wish to sign the grant agreement before it is held. However, we will get back to everyone as soon as possible after this. A possible venue is Iceland.

#### *INTERACT Foundation*

Even though we have just received another four years of funding from Brussels, we need to continue to think about long term sustainability for the INTERACT network. We are exploring possibilities to start an “INTERACT Foundation”, and we are currently working on a business plan, including a draft mission statement, that we will discuss with international experts on legality in relation to establishment of non-profit organisations/foundations.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- Science Requests to Station Managers

We receive requests to contact station managers on behalf of researchers to participate in different research projects, collect samples etc. It was decided that from now on, we will ask those scientists to apply for remote access (which is offered by a number of stations and involves a scientific review) and if they will receive remote access, then we will also send out the request to all research stations so that the research stations that wish to participate in the projects can do so at their own expense (if they are not offering remote access).

- Arctic Safety Center

UNIS has received money from the Norwegian Government to develop an Arctic Safety Center at UNIS on Svalbard. UNIS has kindly invited INTERACT to be part of this project and we will via Morten work closely with this project and the INTERACT task related to safety that is led by UNIS in the Station Managers Forum. The Arctic Safety Center will have a steering group meeting this autumn where Morten will participate.

- ICASS Congress

We have been asked by the organisers for the upcoming Ninth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences: People and Place (ICASS) Congress to be represented at this meeting in Umeå in summer 2017. As we have a WP specifically on Adaptation (WP9) this is a very relevant meeting.



After the kickoff meeting we will decide who would be the most relevant person(s) to represent INTERACT at this meeting.

- INTERACT GIS

The daily management group acknowledged the enthusiasm from the task leader who has already started to contact some station managers to test the system. This is great progress and the only comment we had was that it is important that an INTERACT-GIS interface is highly visible and we need to ensure this.

- Charity, Wicked Weather Watch

This charity reaches out to school children in different countries and provides resources on climate change and the Arctic for students and teachers. Terry is the Patron and INTERACT is playing an important role by finding out what resources are needed by schools (Agata Gozdzik in WP2), providing graphic resources (Tomsk State University) and reviewing the science content of the web pages (Terry).INTERACT is explicit on their web site.