

By Morten Rasch and Elmer Topp-Jørgensen



Station Managers'
Forum

WP 3: Station Managers' Forum

www.eu-interact.org



INTERACT II Annual Meeting, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, 21-22 October 2017



Station Managers' Forum

INTERACT's Station Managers' Forum consists of leaders of 83 Arctic and Northern Alpine research stations.

The overall objectives are:

- (i) knowledge exchange
- (ii) implementation of best practices of station management
- (iii) development of improved services for research station users
- (iv) development of new technology and methods/procedures relevant for running research stations.

The forum is coordinated by Morten Rasch (University of Copenhagen) and Elmer Topp-Jørgensen (Aarhus University) in cooperation with 82 station managers and other INTERACT participants.

INTERACT's Station Managers' Forum was established in 2011 during the first phase of INTERACT.

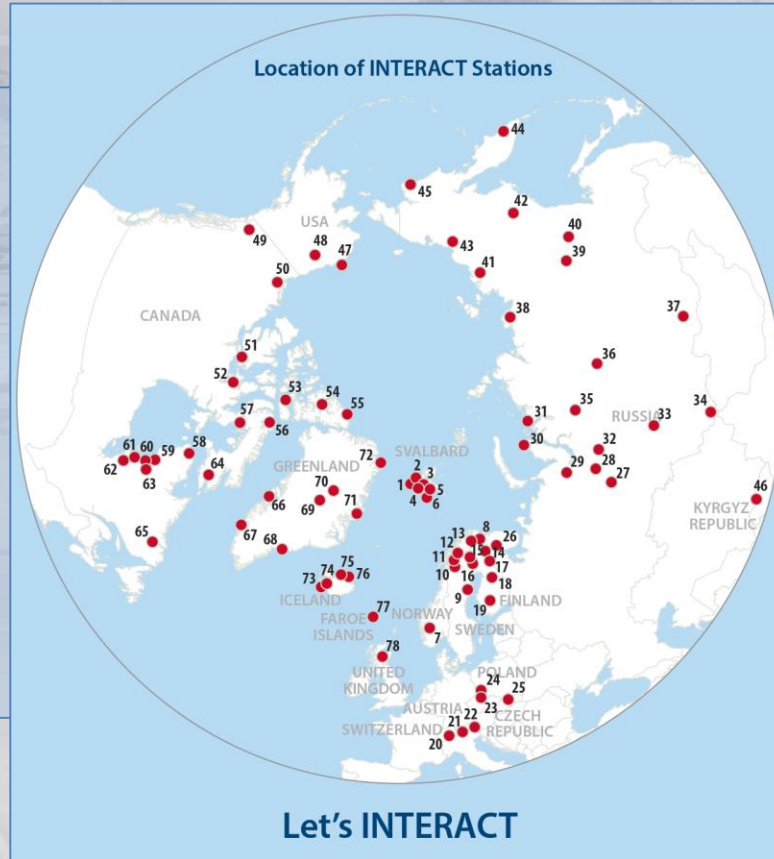


Station Managers' Forum

Who are we?

83 research stations in the Arctic and the Northern Mountain Areas, who is:

- serving scientists,
- cooperating with local communities
- doing in-house monitoring and research
- providing knowledge on arctic terrestrial environments for stakeholders
- possessing joint expert knowledge on issues like run of infrastructures in remote areas, arctic safety, environmental issues etc.



Station Managers' Forum

Who are we?



Managers of 83 research stations and other INTERACT participants



Morten Rasch and Elmer Topp-Jørgensen



Station Managers' Forum

Achievements during INTERACT I:

1. To bring station managers together to network, share knowledge and experiences.
2. To establish a one-stop-entry to arctic and northern alpine research stations.
3. To increase the knowledge among stakeholders about research stations in the Arctic and the Northern Alpine areas and their role in Climate Change related research.



INTERACT Station Catalogue



INTERACT Management Planning Handbook



INTERACT Research and Monitoring Report



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INTERACT Station Managers Forum in INTERACT II:

Leading partner: University of Copenhagen (UCPH)

Tasks: 6

Task leaders: The University of Sheffield (USFD), University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Aarhus University (AU), International Polar Foundation (IPF), Agricultural University of Sweden (SLU)

Number of partners: 42

Cooperation with the following workpackages: WP1, WP2, WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7, WP8, WP9



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Aims of Station Managers Forum during INTERACT II:

- Facilitate internal knowledge exchange (i) among station managers, (ii) with other partners in INTERACT, and (iii) between the SMF and relevant stakeholders, including cooperating partners, international organisations and networks, industry, etc.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange across domains and establish links between managers of terrestrial, atmospheric and marine research platforms on management and technology issues.
- Improve station management and the services provided to users of research stations by providing relevant thematic courses on practical station management issues and by providing a forum for discussion and knowledge exchange between station managers on management issues.
- Improve fieldwork efficiency and safety for users of research stations by producing a common field work planning guide and a common practical field guide for INTERACT stations.



Station Managers' Forum

Aims of Station Managers Forum during INTERACT II (continued):

- Reduce the environmental impact of research station operations and science activities by developing relevant procedures and technologies between station managers and relevant industries.
- Continue the development of the INTERACT Station GIS tool for research station management, with interlinked modules for (i) handling of applications for access to stations by non-TA applicants and successful TA applicants, (ii) presenting station characteristics to users, and (iii) storing project metadata to allow dissemination to other repositories and media.



Station Managers' Forum

Tasks in the Station Managers' Forum:

Task 3.1 *Operate the INTERACT Station Managers' Forum as an advanced platform (UCPH)*

Task 3.2 *Creating Awareness of the Scene (USFD)*

Task 3.3 *First Class Science Support (AU)*

Task 3.4 *Enhanced field work preparations and field guides (UCPH)*

Task 3.5 *Reducing environmental impacts of station management and science activities (IPF)*

Task 3.6 *INTERACT Station GIS (SLU)*



Station Managers' Forum

Task 3.1 Operate the INTERACT Station Managers' Forum as an advanced platform (UCPH)

The forum will be used as an advanced platform for

- (i) collection, exchange and refinement of the information needed for the specified deliverables
- (ii) knowledge and information exchange among station managers and leaders of the INTERACT Joint Research Activities and Transnational Access, and
- (iii) promoting cooperation with the Antarctic, the alpine, the atmospheric and the marine research infrastructure communities.

There will be six SMF Meetings during INTERACT II

Progress:

- SMF1 planned, accomplished and reported.
- SMF2 planned – and soon accomplished.



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Task 3.2 Creating Awareness of the Scene (USFD)

Through targeted lectures Task 3.2 will increase the knowledge among station managers on arctic strategic developments of relevance to research stations and facilitate cooperation between station managers and relevant international stakeholders.

The task will work closely together with Workpackage 2 to secure that the information passed to the station managers is verified and up-to-date.

Progress:

- Presentations planned for SMF2.
- Networks survey initiated with WP2 to guide selection of topics for upcoming awareness of the scene presentations.



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Task 3.3 First Class Science Support (AU)

Task 3.3 will

- (i) provide expert training for station managers and staff through courses arranged for INTERACT station staff to improve and harmonize management procedures and services offered to the users,
- (ii) create a mentorship scheme for station managers from the INTERACT stations to share management experiences and where relevant/possible develop common practices, guidelines and/or protocols, and
- (iii) combine INTERACT experiences with perceptions from other communities (marine, atmospheric, Antarctic and alpine infrastructures) to identify common best practices of infrastructure management and operation to improve user experience.

Progress:

- Arctic Safety course planned for SMF2.
- Risk and course need survey initiated to guide future course topics.
- Discussed at SMF 1 and with WP2. Plan to be presented at SMF2.
- Connections made with COMNAP and ARICE.



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Task 3.4 Enhanced field work preparations and field guides (UCPH)

Task 3.4 will produce a field work planning handbook and a general practical field guide.

The handbook will include recommendations for field work preparation (science, health and safety, environmental issues, outreach, etc.) and country-specific sections on procedures for attaining relevant permits to carry out research at research stations and in their surroundings.

The field guide will be a practical guide to be carried into the field, including recommendations on practical issues related to conducting field work at research stations.

Progress:

- APECS have employed a person, starting on 1 October 2017.
- Draft list of contents will be presented and discussed at SMF2.



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Task 3.5 Reducing environmental impacts of station management and science activities (IPF)

Task 3.5 will deploy a series of lectures by station managers, specialists and industry, to discuss and develop various ways in which stations can reduce emissions and environmental impacts.

Progress:

- Initial workshop planning meeting held.
- Workshop planned for SMF 3 (March 2018).
- Workshop plan and contents to be discussed at SMF2.



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Task 3.6 INTERACT Station GIS (SLU)

The INTERACT Station GIS system will be refined to support three interlinked functions for communication between station management, visiting scientists, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders.

The system will be an online georeferenced station information and management system with three main functions:

- (i) a station information module based on the INTERACT station catalogue information including different thematic background maps and a search function for identifying stations with relevant facilities and/or natural features,
- (ii) a refined application module that allows visitors to research stations and successful TA applicants to apply online for access to the research stations, and
- (iii) a searchable project metadata repository for science projects at the stations.

Progress:

- Long-term operator selected.
- System to be migrated and finalised during 2018.
- Plan presented at SMF2.



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Deliverables in Station Managers' Forum:

D3.1/6: Six SMF meeting minutes (*Months 10, 15, 22, 34, 39, 46*)

D3.7: Training material and guidelines for four station management relevant courses (*Month 45*)

D3.8: '*INTERACT report on common Best Management Practices across the Terrestrial, Marine and Atmospheric Domains*' (*Month 36*)

D3.9: '*INTERACT Field Work Planning Handbook for Arctic and Northern Alpine and Forest Areas*' (*Month 24*)

D3.10: '*INTERACT Practical Field Guide for Arctic and Northern Alpine and Forest Areas*' (*Month 24*)



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Deliverables in Station Managers' Forum (continued):

D3.11: *'INTERACT Report on Reducing Environmental Impacts at Arctic and Northern Alpine and Forest Research Stations'* (Month 30)

D3.12: *'INTERACT Station Catalogue'*, 3rd edition (Month 33)

D3.13: *'INTERACT Research and Monitoring Report'*, 2nd edition (Month 45)

D3.14: An INTERACT Station Catalogue data package and an INTERACT project metadata package for the INTERACT Station GIS system (Month 18)

D3.15: User manual and software documentation for the INTERACT Station GIS system (Month 30)

D3.16: Publication of new research station features on the INTERACT website (Month 24)



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Milestones in Station Managers' Forum:

M3.1: WP3 Kick-off meeting (Month 4)

M3.2-7: SMF meetings 1-6 (Month 42)

M3.8: Awareness of the Scene Workshop (Month 11)

M3.9-12: Safety courses 1-4 (Month 42)

M3.13: Reducing environmental impact workshop (Month 18)

M3.14: Establishment of INTERACT Station Manager mentorship groups (Month 21)



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Achievements so far:

All tasks are working and on track. All deliverables has been delivered in time. All milestones have been reached in time, except the '*Awareness of the Scene Workshop*' which on purpose has been postponed.

More about current achievements and plans during the Station Manager Forum II on Monday (23 October 2017) and Wednesday (25 October 2017).



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Let's INTERACT

