

INTERACT Kick off meeting

Reykjavik, Iceland
24th – 27th January 2017



Excursion to Reykjanes peninsula

Minutes by Berglind Greta Kristjansdottir and Hanna Maria Kristjansdottir from Sudurnes
Science and Learning Center



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Summary

INTERACT held its kick off meeting in Keflavik, Iceland on the 24-27 of January 2017. 57 participants from 17 countries representing most infrastructures participating in INTERACT and all work packages gathered to discuss the coming four year's work. The nine WPs were presented and discussed and a Station Managers' Forum was held. A visit to Sudurnes Learning and Science Centre one of the research stations were organized as well as an excursion to the Reykjanes Peninsula.

1. Presentation from work packages

The presentations from this session is available on INTERACT's web site <http://www.eu-interact.org/about-interact/downloads/presentations/>

1.1. WP 1 - Coordination and Management - *Margareta Johansson, Luisella Bianco*

Margareta Johansson from Lund University presented the main goals of work package 1; Coordination and Management. She introduced the team which is from Lund University, CLU, and the University of Sheffield. In total 46 partners have been validated and one is yet to be validated. As soon as they are they will be added to the partner group.

The grant agreement has been finished. Declaration of Honors has already been signed by all Beneficiaries and the GA has been signed by the coordinator. GA is yet to be signed by the EU. Margareta talked about the final steps of the grant agreement preparation. When the EU has signed the PLSIGN needs to sign the Accession form within 30 days.

The Consortium Agreement has been signed by all 47 partners and an electronic version has been distributed. Few hard copies are still missing but they will be collected when the scientific secretary has started her job.

A scientific secretary, Katharina Beckmann, has been employed. 43 candidates applied for the job. Katharina will start on the 6th of February and will be based at Lund University.

They have been presenting INTERACT at foreign meetings in different countries like at the Artic Circle meeting in Reykjavík, Iceland, at the BECC meeting in Sweden, at Tomsk State University in Russia and at the Artic Future Symposium in Belgium. The last meeting was the INTAROS kick off meeting in Bergen, Norway.



There have been two daily management group meetings, one in Reykjavík, Iceland and one in Lund, Sweden. Minutes from those meetings can be downloaded from our web site: <http://www.eu-interact.org/about-interact/downloads/meeting-minutes/>

Next the group is going to focus on the web site and start a construction on a new website, hosted at CLU. They are going to sort out email lists and focus on social media.

Margareta discussed eight different tasks that will be done, for example to provide general coordination and administration. Then she talked about upcoming deliverables and upcoming milestones (see slides).

1.2 WP2 - Scientific coordination, mentoring and education - Terry Callaghan

Terry Callaghan from the University of Sheffield presented work package 2; Scientific coordination, mentoring and education. They want to coordinate the communication and inform the outside world on INTERACT and INTERACT about the outside world.

Terry discussed a few tasks the group is working on. One of the tasks is to inform students of all ages. To do this they are going to use INTERACT-mentoring program, establish INTERACT ambassadors and use the INTERACT pool of expertise to coordinate links between science.

They are going to promote Arctic and climate change issues in education at local levels, at European levels and at wider levels. Sub-task to this is to promote polar issues by providing educational resources within universities. They will develop online educational resources and outreach for schools and universities and get feedbacks from schools.

Terry talked about specific contributions to other work packages like WP1 the coordination and management program. Also the "Red phone" (WP6) which entails rapid response to environmental emergency alerts.

There has already been progress in adapting and promoting environmental and climate change issues in education, for example with Wicked Weather Watch for schools and networking organization with educational component – CAFF, schools in Finland, Alaska and Canada.

Next steps of the project are to appoint support staff.

Wojciech Piotrowski from the Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences introduced a new project called EDU-ARCTIC. EDU-Arctic is an EU-funded (Horizon 2020) project focused on using Arctic research as a vehicle to strengthen science education curricula across Europe. It aims to encourage students aged 13 to 20 to pursue further education in science, technology, engineering and



mathematics.

1.3 WP3 - Station Managers Forum - *Morten Rasch/Elmer Topp Jorgensen*

Morten Rasch from Copenhagen University and Elmer Topp Jorgensen from Aarhus University presented work package 3; Station Managers Forum.

The INTERACT station managers forum consists of leaders/managers of 79 Arctic and Northern Alpine research stations together with task leaders.

The main achievement during INTERACT I was for example to bring station managers together to network and share knowledge. They also published three books as a result of work in the Station Managers' Forum.

Morten discussed a few facts about INTERACT Station Managers Forum and the aims during INTERACT II. There are six main tasks in the station management forum. For example to operate the INTERACT station managers forum as an advanced platform, to create awareness of the Scene, to provide a first class science support and enhance field work preparations and field guides. They are also going to publish a book on what you should be aware of as a scientist going in to the field, what to bring to field work and so on.

He talked about milestones in the Station Managers Forum, WP3 (see slides). Morten also informed that the co-production of a station catalogue with EU-Polar Net that will present infrastructures in both Polar Regions and in different domains (marine, terrestrial and atmospheric) will soon be available.

1.4 WP4 - Data Forum - *Boris Biskaborn*

Boris Biskaborn and Boris Radosavljevic from the Alfred-Wegener Institute presented work package 4; Data Forum.

The ultimate aim of work package 4 on Data Management is trouble-free information-traffic across the surveillance network of INTERACT research and monitoring stations.

INTERACT research stations generate data and metadata. The project is to gain interoperability between Arctic station data management and accessibility.

The project's objectives are to know how data is being stored, establish a demonstrator catalogue or a data catalogue and share best practice. The stations that already have good data management will be used as examples for other stations. The task is to prevent data going missing by analyzing and identifying, and link research stations together. They have established four different ways to accomplish these goals (see slides).



They also discussed deliverables and milestones and showed a short video that demonstrated the problems of data sharing horrors.

1.5 WP5 - TA, VA, Giving Access to INTERACT - Kirsi Latola/Hannele Savela

Kirsi Latola and Hannele Savela from Thule Institute at the University of Oulu presented work package 5; TA, VA, Giving Access to INTERACT.

There are three tasks in WP5 1) management of WP5 and operation of Transnational Access (including Transnational, Remote and Virtual Access), 2) Development and implementation of the online TA tool "INTERACCESS", and 3) Outreach.

The INTERACT project provides 6850 person days of physical access to 43 stations in 2016 - 2020. Transnational Access means free of charge, trans-national access to research infrastructures or installations for selected user groups. The access includes the logistical, technological and scientific support and the specific training that is usually provided to external researchers using the infrastructure. Stations claim the costs from the EU.

Remote Access is a form of Transnational Access in which the user/s do not visit the infrastructure/installation physically themselves; instead the staff of the infrastructure/installation is conducting the study/collecting the samples/doing the monitoring for the user/s according to their research plan. Same application progress as for TA. Remote access provides 970 person days to 17 stations in 2016 - 2020. No applications have been received for Remote Access during the first TA call ending December 18, 2016.

Eligibility for TA is that trans-national access can be granted only to another country than where the applicant is working at (not to national institute). There are 15 members on the TA board nominated by WP2/WP5.

Virtual Access (VA) is a free access to data provided by 29 stations. Anyone can obtain and use the data and the stations must follow-up the users and provide information to WP5.

They talked about TA call for projects in s/s 2017 and w 2017/2018. There were 108 applications (104 eligible), 4251 person days to 34 stations but no applications for RA.

The TA User Community connects the previous TA users, TA applicants and scientists interested in TA/RA/VA. They bring people together and have four meetings at major scientific events with varying themes. The first meeting of 2017 will be in Vienna on the 23rd - 28th of April.

An example of the TA budget was shown.



1.6 WP6 - Rapid response to environmental emergency alerts: the “Red phone” - Josef Elster

Josef Elster from the University of South Bohemia and Terry Callaghan from the University of Sheffield presented work package 6; Rapid response to environmental emergency alerts: the “Red phone”.

They had an opportunity to do something no one had ever done before, “The red phone – rapid response to environmental emergency alerts”. It can involve a whole range of events (pollution, volcanic dust, invasive species and so on).

They will use many ways to help with the response. They will establish a procedure for alerting, consult with relevant organizations, compile and analyze existing constraints and identify Space Agencies and laboratories that would analyze data.

There must be a plan on how to respond to environmental emergencies in the Arctic. Each country may have a plan but there is no plan for the whole Arctic. People have to know how to react and what to do. They will select an example of an environmental emergency and make a plan on how to react. They will then run a test on an imagined disaster.

Terry then talked about deliverables and milestones (see slides).

1.7 WP 7 - Improving and harmonizing biodiversity monitoring - Tom Barry

Tom Barry from CAFF and Tom Christensen from CAFF and the Aarhus University presented work package 7; Improving and harmonizing biodiversity monitoring. CAFF stands for conservation of Arctic flora and fauna (CAFF) biodiversity working group.

To monitor they will use standards developed by the Circumpolar Biodiversity monitoring Program (CBMP). CBMP is an international network of scientists, government agencies, indigenous organizations and conservation groups working together to improve detection, understanding and reporting of Arctic biodiversity trends.

The CBMP improves decision making by providing environmental baselines, Arctic Biodiversity Data Service, authoritative assessments and harmonized biodiversity monitoring.

CBMP experts are developing four coordinated and integrated Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans to help guide circumpolar monitoring efforts. These plans represent the Arctic's major ecosystems; marine, freshwater, terrestrial and coastal.

Barry showed a picture of the structure and overall assignment of CBMP and discussed the tasks of the WP.



1.8 WP8 - Developing technology for drones for scaling up from research stations - *Annelie Sule*

Annelie Sule from Umbilical Design and Tomas Gustafsson from ÅF Technology presented work package 8; Developing technology for drones for scaling up from research stations.

Umbilical Design is a national space broker in Sweden, for the European Space Agency, it's one of 15 space brokers in Europe. ÅF is the largest engineering and consulting company in Sweden.

The project will focus on how to increase awareness of unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, in Arctic environments and how to produce best practices and standards for use at Arctic research stations. The objective is to develop a technology for drones for scaling up from research stations.

The tasks of WP8 are to hold a workshop (in autumn 2017) to see how drones can support different researchers and what kind of technology people would like to see in the future. They are going to utilize the research you are conducting, use drones technology in arctic terrestrial settings and produce a best practice scheme for use of drones with sensors at INTERACT research stations. The problem is that there are different regulations in different countries concerning drones.

There will be six deliverables for the next 19 months and the project's timeline is from 2016 – 2018.

1.9 WP9 - Adapting to environmental change - *Anders Oskal*

Anders Oskal could not be at the meeting since his organisation had not yet been validated and they are not officially a partner in the project yet. Instead Margareta Johansson presented work package 9; Adapting to environmental change.

The project is about adapting to environmental change on local bases. They will design and standardize procedures to help local communities to adapt to environmental changes and help them to adapt to climate change and ensuring sustainable use of living resource. She discussed the projects deliverable and milestones (see slides).



2. Reporting instructions and Progeta tool - *Luisella Bianco, Margareta Johansson, Hannele Savela*

Luisella Bianco discussed and demonstrated the Progeta management tool that will be used to manage the INTERACT project. She talked about the working breakdown structure (WBS) and the different responsibilities of coordinator, WP leaders and task leaders. Progeta will be accessible on <http://interact.progeta.info> . All partners will get an email soon with the login information.

Luisella then discussed reporting to the EU. The project has three reporting periods. Every partner has to do a periodic financial report and is responsible for their own report. She also discussed eligible costs, non-eligible costs and categories of costs.

An example of a time sheet template was shown. Working time must be recorded throughout the duration of the project. An estimation is insufficient.

Hannele Savela discussed reporting of TA, RA and VA. All stations have specific reporting obligations.

3. Ways forward and conclusions from meeting - *Margareta Johansson/Terry Callaghan*

Terry Callaghan and Margareta Johansson thanked everyone for the meeting. The meeting minutes and presentations will be uploaded on the INTERACT webpage.

The next meeting will be held from the 23rd until the 26th of October. The venue will be presented later.

Annex I: Agenda

INTERACT H2020 Kick off meeting

Draft Agenda

The kick off meeting will be held at a Radisson hotel in Keflavik:

<https://www.parkinn.com/airport-hotel-keflavik>

Tuesday 24 January 2017

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| 17:00 | <i>Icebreaker at Sudurnes Science and Learning Center and Guided tour of the Facilities</i> |
| 18:30 | <i>Dinner at Sudurnes Science and Learning Centre</i> |

Wednesday 25 January 2017

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| 9:00-9:10 | Welcome
<i>Margareta Johansson Terry Callaghan</i> |
| 9:10-9:30 | Round table introduction |

WP presentations describing work to be done, upcoming milestones and deliverables and partners involved

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|-------------|---|
| 9:30-9:50 | WP 1 - Coordination and Management
<i>Margareta Johansson, Luisella Bianco</i> |
| 9:50-10:10 | WP2 - Scientific coordination, mentoring and education
<i>Terry Callaghan</i> |
| 10:10-10:30 | WP3 - Station Managers Forum
<i>Morten Rasch/Elmer Topp Jorgensen</i> |
| 10:30-11:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:00-11:20 | WP4 - Data Forum
<i>Boris Biskaborn</i> |
| 11:20-11:40 | WP5 - TA, VA, Giving Access to INTERACT
<i>Kirsi Latola/Hannele Savela</i> |



11:40-12:00	WP6 - Rapid response to environmental emergency alerts: the “Red phone” <i>Josef Elster</i>
12:00-12:20	WP 7 - Improving and harmonizing biodiversity monitoring <i>Tom Barry</i>
12:20-12:40	WP8 - Developing technology for drones for scaling up from research stations <i>Annelie Sule</i>
12:40-13:00	WP9 - Adapting to environmental change <i>Anders Oskal</i>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>

Station Managers’ Forum

14:00-14:10	Welcome and agenda <i>Morten Rasch</i>
14:10-15:00	Awareness of the Scene (Task 3.2) Presentation of task (Terry Callaghan) Selection of organisations, programmes and networks of relevance to INTERACT (Plenum)
15:00-15:30	First Class Science Support (Task 3.3) <u>Station Manager Courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of task (Fred Hansen)- Selection of topics for upcoming Station Manager courses (Plenum) <u>Mentorship Schemes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of task (Elmer Topp-Jørgensen)- Identifying existing regional/national cooperation between stations (Plenum)- Development of the Mentorship Scheme concept (Break out groups) <u>Best Practices across domains</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of tasks (Elmer Topp-Jørgensen)- Discussion of how to achieve cooperation across domains (marine, atmospheric, alpine) (Plenum)

Presentation of Arctic Safety Center at UNIS

- Presentation and potential for cooperation (Ann Christin Auestad/Morten Rasch)
- Discussion of relevance to INTERACT II (Plenum)

15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:10	First Class Science Support (Task 3.3) Continued
17:10-17:30	Meeting among WP leaders
18:30	<i>Celebration of the latest INTERACT publication – INTERACT R&M report</i>
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Thursday 26 January 2017

Station Managers Forum continues

9:00-9:40	Enhanced fieldwork planning and field guides (Task 3.4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of task (Morten Rasch) - First discussion of contents, process and identification of relevant resources (Plenum)
9:40-10:30	Reducing Environmental impact of research station management and science activities (Task 3.5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of task (Nighat Johnson Amin) - Presentation of Princess Elisabeth Antarctic Station (Nighat Johnson Amin) - Identification of themes to cover and how to identify best practices (Plenum)
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-11:40	INTERACT GIS (task 3.6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the task (Tomas Thierfelder) - Discussion of timeline and input needed from stations (Plenum)
11:40-12:00	Any other business and closure of Station Managers' Forum

End of Station Managers' Forum

12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
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13:00-21:00

Excursion around the Reykjanes peninsula, late afternoon swimming in Blue Lagoon and dinner at Lava Restaurant

<http://www.bluelagoon.com/food-and-drink/lava-restaurant/>

Friday 27 January 2017

9:00-9:30

Reporting instructions and Progetca tool

Luisella Bianco/Hannele Savela/Margareta Johansson

9:30-10:30

Possibility for themes/WP group discussions

Including:

- Transnational Access help desk and INTERACCESS guidance for the station managers
- SMF helpdesk – how can other WPs ensure best collaboration and “use” of the SMF

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-11:45

Possibility for themes/ WP group discussions continues

11:45-12:00

Ways forward and conclusions from meeting

Margareta Johansson/Terry Callaghan

12:00-13:00

Lunch

Annex II: List of participants

INTERACT H2020 Kick off meeting

Participant List

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