



INTERACT Transnational Access

-What you should know when applying for TA/RA

Webinar for TA applicants, 11th Sept, 2018

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www.eu-interact.org



Some technical issues

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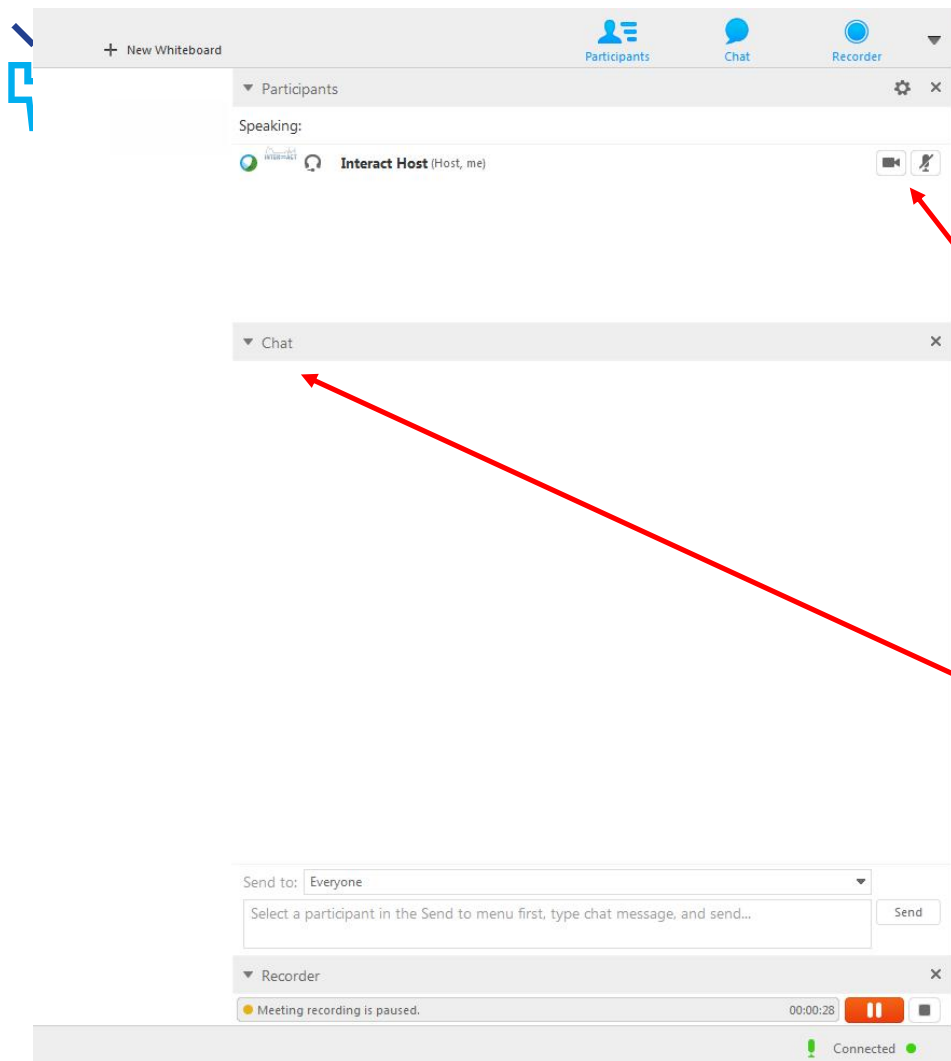
Some technical issues

You can able/unable your camera and mute/unmute your microphone from the tabs

- unable the camera as it tends to slow down the on-line connection
- keep the microphone muted when you are not speaking to avoid echo

You can submit questions or comments also via the chat option

This Power Point presentation, recording of the webinar, and other information will be available on the TA Call webpages at <http://www.eu-interact.org/transnational-access/tacall/>





Content of the webinar

- INTERACT in a nutshell
- Transnational Access & Remote Access; what they are?
- Eligibility of the applicant for TA/RA
- Application process & INTERACCESS application system
- Evaluation process & Selection priorities
- Typical weaknesses in applications
- What happens after the TA/RA decisions?
- "To-do-list" for the applicant
- Q&A



INTERACT



The International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

- 82 terrestrial research stations in arctic and northern alpine and forest areas
- EU-H2020 Infrastructures project (10 M€), 2016-2020
- 49 consortium partners in 19 countries

INTERACT Activities

- **Transnational Access:** support for world-class science
- **Station Managers' Forum:** knowledge exchange
- **International Networking:** collaboration to build capacity
- **Joint Research Activities:** develop and improve methods, technologies and equipment
- **Data Management:** improved data acquisition and management standards
- **Outreach:** sharing information and experiences



Transnational Access

- Free access to research infrastructures and installations

- Maximum TA is 90 days per user group in 2016-2020

- 43 research stations, 6850 person-days available altogether

- Eligibility**

 - >TA to User Groups, where majority of users is not from EU Member state or associated state is limited to 20% on the consortium level

 - >**Trans-national**; scientists are not eligible to their "national infrastructures" that are either located at, or operated by, the same country where the TA applicant is working and residing



Eligibility for TA/RA

Scientists are not eligible for TA to their "national infrastructures"

Examples:

- Scientists working and residing in Denmark > **not eligible** to Greenlandic stations operated by Danish institutions
- Scientists working and residing in Czech Republic > **not eligible** to Czech Arctic Research Station in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in UK > **not eligible** to NERC Arctic Research Station in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in Poland > **not eligible** to Polish Polar Station in Hornsund in Svalbard
- -Scientists working and residing in Germany > **not eligible** to Station Samoylov in Russia



Transnational Access, cont.

- **What is funded**
 - Accommodation and meals at the station
 - Use of facilities at the station > indicate what you need in your application
 - Mandatory safety training (Svalbard, Greenland)
 - Travel costs from home institution to the station and back
 - Logistic costs, visa costs
- **Success rate > about 57 % of applications have been granted TA/RA**



Remote Access

- A modality of TA
- Station staff collects the samples and/or does the monitoring for the researcher according to the research plan
- Logistic costs reimbursed
- Application process is the same as for physical TA
 - Open with regular TA calls
- 17 stations offer RA for altogether 970 person-days
- Cost-efficient, especially good for projects taking place at many stations
- For "simple" research settings



Application process

- TA (incl. RA) call open > 13th August – 12th October 2018 for access taking place between March 2019 and April 2020
 - Call announcement and guidelines at www.eu-interact.org
 - INTERACCESS on-line application system
 - Eligibility check after call closes
 - Eligible applications evaluated by the TA Board
 - TA Board makes TA recommendations
 - Stations make TA decisions based on recommendations
 - Decisions announced via INTERACCESS by Feb 15th 2019
- ∅ The whole process takes 5-6 months



INTERACCESS

- Prepare and submit your application in INTERACCESS
- <https://eu-interaccess.org>
- Includes the whole TA application, evaluation and reporting process
- Read the "Information for Applicants" and "Application Manual" carefully!

The screenshot displays the INTERACCESS web application interface. At the top left is the INTERACCESS logo. On the right side of the header, the user profile for Hannele Savela is shown, with the email address hannele.savela@oulu.fi. A notification bell icon indicates 56 unread notifications. The main content area is titled "Available Calls" and features a call for applications: "INTERACT Transnational Access Call for s/s 2018 and a/w 2018-2019". The call is set to expire in a month and is currently open. The application period is from September 1, 2017, to October 13, 2017. The text of the call describes the opportunity for Transnational Access to 43 research stations across the Arctic and northern alpine and forest areas in Europe, Russia, and North-America. It lists various ecosystems and provides eligibility criteria, noting that applicants are not eligible for TA to their national infrastructures or stations in their own country.

INTERACCESS

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INTERACT

Available Calls

INTERACT Transnational Access Call for s/s 2018 and a/w 2018-2019

expire in a month
status open

Open on **September 1, 2017** close on **October 13, 2017**

The call is for Transnational Access to 43 research stations offering Transnational Access in INTERACT, including both physical and remote access. Stations offering TA are located across the Arctic and northern alpine and forest areas in Europe, Russia and North-America. The sites represent a variety of glacier, mountain, tundra, boreal forest, peatland and freshwater ecosystems, providing opportunities for researchers from natural sciences to human dimension. Note: applicants are not eligible for TA to their national infrastructures, i.e. stations that are located in the same country or operated by institutions located in the same country in which the applicant is working/residing. For example, scientists working in Finland are not eligible for TA to Finnish research stations, scientists working in UK are not eligible for TA to UK Arctic Research Station in Svalbard, scientists working in Denmark are not eligible for TA to research stations in Greenland, operated by Danish institutions, etc.



Evaluation Criteria

- Each application is graded for several evaluation criteria: 1) Scientific quality of the planned research, 2) Scientific merits of the user group leader, 3) Relevance of the planned research for INTERACT goals, and 4) Value for money.
- Each criteria is scored from 1-5, where 1=poor, 2=satisfactory, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent.
- Ranking of applications is based on the total scores (max. 20)
- TA Board recommends user groups for TA to the research stations
- Stations make the TA decisions based on the recommendations, feasibility of the projects at the station, station strategy and focus areas etc.



Selection priorities

The evaluation of user groups is based on the evaluation criteria, but taking into account that priority should be given to user groups who...

- Have not previously used the installation
- Are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists
- Apply working at more than one location for generating comparative studies
- To early career scientists (≤ 5 years from a PhD degree)
- In their application take into account the call priority area, which is introducing new or enhancing the existing activities within networks to INTERACT stations (e.g. ITEX, CALM)
- A detailed listing of different networks supported and/or participated at the INTERACT Stations can be found from the [INTERACT Research and Monitoring Report](#).



Typical weaknesses in applications

- **The application instructions have not been read/followed**
 - Eligibility
 - Budgeting
 - Length and form of the required appendixes
- **Applicant has not done his/her homework on what has already been done on the topic at the station/region**
- **The importance/novelty of the applied research is not clearly justified**
- **The feasibility of the applied study to the station has not been checked**
 - Travel and logistic arrangements
 - Amount of days needed
 - Required facilities
 - Local conditions (phenology, species etc)
 - You can contact the station to ask for the feasibility beforehand!!!



What happens after TA/RA decisions?

- **TA/RA decisions are sent to applicants via INTERACCESS**
 - Granted person-days of TA/RA
 - Amount of Travel and Logistic costs
 - Applicants Accept/Reject the granted access
- **TA User Community**
 - Webinar for information
 - Facebook group for discussions and practical questions
 - TA User community meetings back to back with congresses etc.
- **Before the TA visit**
 - TA users make their travel arrangements, freight, licenses, permits, insurances, visa etc. themselves, but in consultation with stations and WP5
- **After the TA visit**
 - Project report submitted in INTERACCESS
 - Travel and logistic costs are reimbursed after the visit **by the stations**, based on actual direct costs



Applicant "To-do-list"

- 1) Visit TA Call pages at www.eu-interact.org > Read TA Call information carefully
- 2) Register to INTERACCESS > Information for Applicants, Application Manual, Prepare and submit TA application
- 3) Find out information about the station, where you are applying to
 - 1) www.eu-interact.org > Field Sites (station info), Infrastructures (stations available for TA/RA)
 - 2) Contact the station manager to ask about feasibility and possibly required permitting etc.
- 4) Check your eligibility for TA to the station(s) where you plan to apply
- 5) Learn what has already been done on the topic at the station/region > build on that
- 6) Clearly justify the importance/novelty of the applied research
- 7) Check your budget > read budgeting info from "Information for Applicants"



**Apply INTERACT Transnational Access to conduct
research at the coolest places of the North!**

www.eu-interact.org

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