



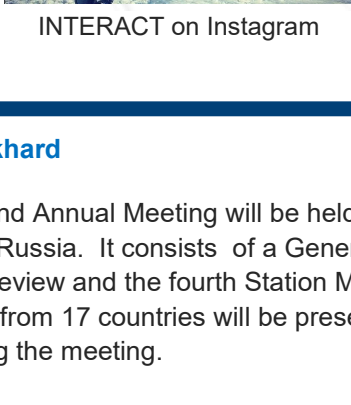
INTERACT NEWSLETTER

Newsletter #4 September 2018

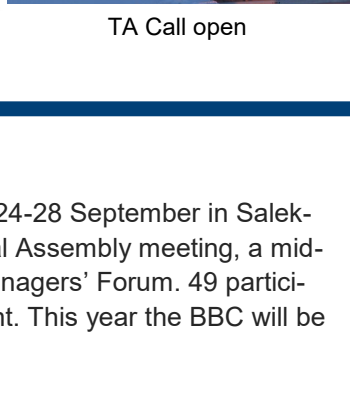
Top stories in this newsletter



2nd Annual Meeting
in Salekhard



INTERACT on Instagram



TA Call open

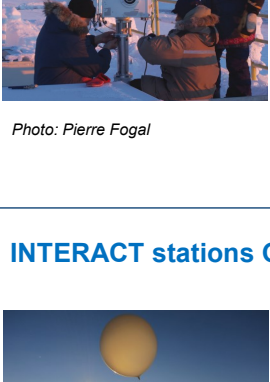
2nd Annual Meeting in Salekhard



Photo: Google maps

The 2nd Annual Meeting will be held 24-28 September in Salekhard, Russia. It consists of a General Assembly meeting, a mid-term review and the fourth Station Managers' Forum. 49 participants from 17 countries will be present. This year the BBC will be visiting the meeting.

GDPR— the General Data Protection Regulation



During the summer INTERACT has reviewed all personal data handling and developed a short guideline in order to secure compliance with the new EU General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR. The purpose of the regulation is to harmonize data privacy laws across Europe, to protect and empower all EU citizens' data privacy and to reshape the way organizations across the region approach data privacy. The key principle to be GDPR compliant is to 1) Collect personal data with a clearly defined purpose and don't use it for something else 2) Don't collect more data than you need and 3) Delete data that is no longer used.

The INTERACT GDPR guidelines can be found here:
<https://eu-interact.org/>

Call for Transnational and Remote Access is open

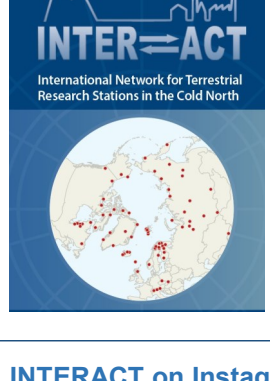


Photo: Pierre Fogal

The call for applications for Transnational Access and Remote Access is open until 12 October, 2018. Further [TA call information](#), [stations available in the call](#), [descriptions of stations and their facilities](#), and registration to the [INTERACCESS on-line application system](#) can be found on the [INTERACT website](#). For any additional information, please contact the Transnational Access coordinator Hannele Savela, hannele.savela@oulu.fi. Apply to INTERACT Transnational Access to conduct research at the coolest places in the North!

INTERACT stations G7 Action

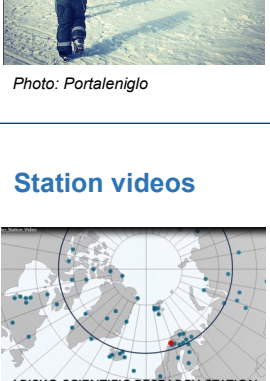


Photo: Kevin Hammonds

The 44th G7 summit was held on June 8 and 9, 2018, in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada.

To highlight the need of actions being taken in order to reach the goals of the Paris agreement, scientific weather balloons were released simultaneously on the 4th June from several field stations in the INTERACT network. Footage from the balloon releases will be edited to a short film.

The 2018 edition of the INTERACT card game



A new release of the INTERACT card game has been issued. The card game now consists of 80 stations from 15 countries. This is an updated version of the existing card game and there are several ways to play—and new suggestions are always welcome!

INTERACT on Instagram



Photo: Portaleniglo

INTERACT is now on Instagram! You will find us as EU-INTERACT, [@eu_interact](#)

Those of you who use Instagram to share your fantastic photos from the Arctic, please consider tagging your photos with [@eu_interact](#), [#euinteract](#) or [#eu_interact](#) for the possibility to be featured on the INTERACT account! We will regram the featured photos with photo credits.

Station videos



The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) is an INTERACT partner and is engaged in producing various informational material aimed at early career researchers who will visit the INTERACT stations. As a means to visually introduce some of the stations, particularly for folks who may never have been to a research station, and APECS will be creating a few brief example videos, two of which have already been produced: one for the Abisko Scientific Research Station (which you can watch here: eu-interact.org/field-sites/abisko-scientific-research-station/) and the other for the Villum Research Station (which you can watch here: eu-interact.org/field-sites/villum-research-station/). These videos are meant as examples and it is hoped that most INTERACT stations will be encouraged to produce something similar. Feel free to contact Fiona Tummon (fiona.tummon@apecs.is) should you have questions or would like any help with cutting video material together.

WP 6 updates

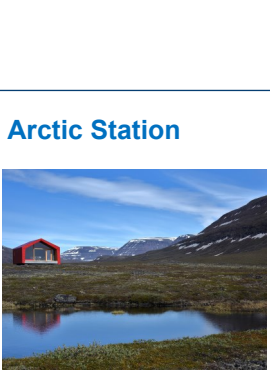


Illustration: Alexandra Bernardova

What are the possible risks in the Arctic? According to the responses from the questionnaire sent to all station managers across the INTERACT network, the most important are, except the extreme climate events or volcanic activity, pollutants in the environment and spreading of diseases (e.g. rabies or anthrax), where the WP6 was presented. Trial run, to test the proposed system, concerning the distribution of some air-borne diseases was started this summer.

Meetings where INTERACT was present

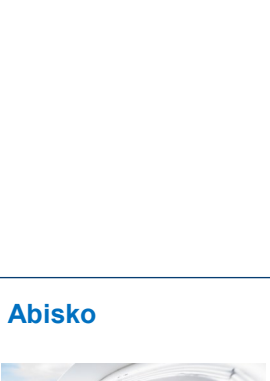


Photo: Mia Bennett

INTERACT was either presented or represented at these meetings throughout the last couple of months:

- Arctic Circle Forum, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, 8-9 May 2018
- 6th Envri Week, Zandvoort, Netherlands, 17-18 May 2018
- Polar 2018, Davos, Switzerland, 20 June 2018
- EUCOP 2018, Chamonix-Mont Blanc, France, 25 June 2018
- UArctic Congress, Oulu, Finland, 3-7 September 2018
- iClimate, Dragør, Denmark, 6 September 2018

Meet us at upcoming meetings



INTERACT will also be represented at several meetings throughout the next couple of months:

- The Arctic Biodiversity Congress, Rovaniemi, Finland, 9-11 October
- Arctic Circle, Reykjavik, Iceland, 19-21 October
- GEO week, Kyoto, Japan, 29 October-2 November
- AGU Washington DC, USA, 10-14 December

NEWS FROM THE STATIONS

Labrador Institute

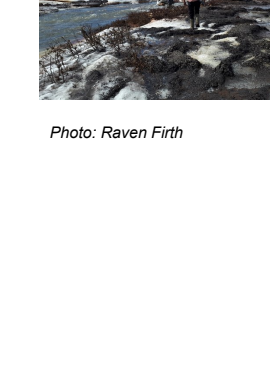


Photo: Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo

The Labrador Institute Research Station completed its inaugural year of the Labrador Lands and Waters Science Camp in July 2018. The camp was open to Innu and Inuit Labrador youth and offered a hands-on science training experience with half-day activities in physical science fields such as plant ecology, geology and traditional ecological knowledge. Upcoming projects for the Labrador Institute Research Station include the establishment of a weather station, participation in Science Literacy Week and working with researchers on community monitoring initiatives associated with plastics in fish.

Arctic Station

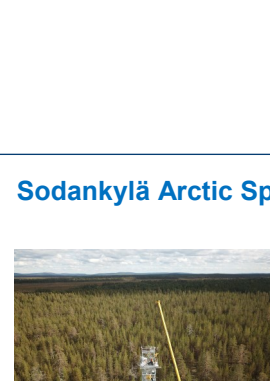


Photo: Morten Rasch

At Arctic Station (Disko Island, West Greenland), several bigger research projects are extending their activities to the nearby valley, Blæsedalen c. 5 km from the main station. In autumn 2017, Station manager Morten Rasch was contacted by an Italian film production company, whose customer, who wanted to support a polar research project with some infrastructure as part of their marketing. The idea was to film the establishment of the infrastructure, and to use the film for marketing purposes and for a documentary for Discovery. The house is now finished, the marketing film called 'The Ariston Challenge' will be released on the internet in mid-September, and the Discovery production is currently being edited. The hut is being used a lot both for scientific work, as a shelter for bad weather and as accommodation during more intensive field campaigns.

Abisko



Photo: Anna-Karin Landin

In collaboration with the national research infrastructure SITES and the European research infrastructure ICOS, Abisko Scientific Research Station (ANS) will modern more than a hundred years of observational data with modern technology to increase the resolution of data, but also extend the monitoring to a larger area. By introducing UAV, drones and further invest in automatic measurements of climate, carbon dynamics and geology in both aquatic and terrestrial environments, ANS now goes into a new era of landscape scale environmental monitoring. These investments will build a strong base for the future of environmental research carried out in Arctic Sweden.

Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station

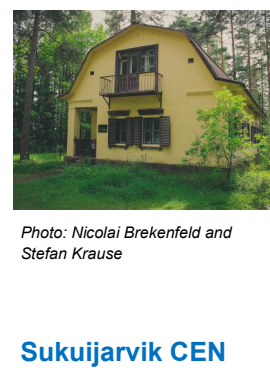


Photo: Vusuke Murakami

The six members of Mars Society's Mars 160 crew successfully completed a 35-day residency at the Society's Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station on Devon Island in the Canadian Arctic in July 2017. The crew had representatives from Australia, France, India, Japan, Russia, and the United States. Much of the field work was done under simulated EA conditions to better understand operational constraints of Mars exploration. Research included botanical collection for the Canadian Museum of Nature and psycho-social research for the Institute of Biomedical Problems in Moscow. Other investigations included EVA operations, polar regolith, periglacial polygon development, hypoliths, facies of the Silurian limestones, along with habitat design and operation. Presentation and publication of results has begun and will continue through 2018.

RIF Field Station

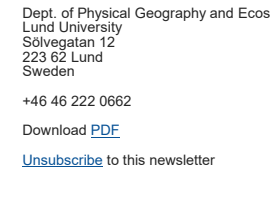


Photo: Hrónn Guðmundsdóttir

Spring and Summer 2018 have been eventful at Rif Field Station (RFS). Their ecosystem monitoring plan, developed as a part of INTERACT Work Package 7, was finalised in May and is a huge milestone for RFS and, hopefully, for INTERACT in general. The monitoring plan is still work in progress and will be revised and improved further in the coming months. Another milestone was marked in August when the members of WP7 drafted a Data Management Plan for RFS.

In September, a climate station will be set up in RFS's intensive monitoring area. The Icelandic Met Office will service the station and it will soon provide valuable data for everyone doing research and monitoring in the Melrakkasléttu peninsula.

Meinypil'gyno Community Based Biological Station

Photo: Nsikolay Yakushev

Meinypil'gyno Community Based Biological Station had a busy summer with researchers and visitors from 4 different countries.

The work of the station was focused on breeding bird monitoring with focus on waders and particularly spoon-billed sandpiper. This work plays a decisive role in the planning of the Natural Park.

Not only biologists but also experts in traditional life style of indigenous people from SPB University were continuing their projects together with Chukchi people of Meinypilgyno village.

The Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC)

Photo: Raven Firth

The Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC) was busy this summer. WARC provided logistical support for 170 visiting researchers from across the world and also started a number of its own research programs. Researchers at WARC are creating geospatial tools that will provide stakeholders across the Northwest Territories, Canada, with information they can use to inform decision making. These geospatial tools include Online Digital Hazard Maps of Landslides and A Geographic Information System to Support the Development and Implementation of Mineral Strategies in the Western Arctic. The staff at WARC is also running a number of research projects focused on what and how different factors drive the water quality of freshwater and marine ecosystems in the Beaufort Delta Region of the Northwest Territories of Canada. The factors they are interested in include: surficial geology, coastal erosion, permafrost thaw slumping, fire, and development. One of these programs is also exploring the potential of using local plant species to revegetate coastal thaw slumps, in an attempt to reduce their impact on the Beaufort Sea. WARC also runs a number of monitoring programs to monitor air quality, permafrost, water quality in the Mackenzie River, and wind and solar energy potential. For more information: <http://nwtresearch.com/projects/energy/wind-energy-potential/wind-and-solar-energy-reports>.

Sodankylä Arctic Space Centre

Photo: Aleksii Rimaili

Finnish Meteorological Institute has a long-standing program for ground-based remote sensing at the Sodankylä Arctic Space Centre. As of September 2018, a new 21-m high tower platform provides the capability to observe the forest canopy itself using the full range of instrumentation, including high frequency dual polarization radiometers (1.4, 10.65, 18.7, 21, 37 GHz), frequency scanning polarimetric radar system (1-10 GHz) and spectrometer (500-900nm). The purpose is to collect observational data on the seasonal variation of the forest cover, which in many cases distorts observations when aiming to obtain information on the ground surface, e.g. snow cover properties. The new tower installation, built as a part of the Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS), provides also as extensive array of automated reference measurements ranging from the carbon flux to meteorological data and forest, soil and snow cover properties.

Arctic Research Station in Labytnangi

Photo: From the archives

Arctic research station in Labytnangi, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous district, was busy last summer housing more than 60 researchers from 12 different countries. 30 researchers spent 742 person-days in remote parts of Yamal peninsula based on field stations Erkuta and Sabetta running by Government of Yamal under scientific lead of Arctic research station. The government of Yamal-Nenets autonomous district also started to build a new office for Arctic research station in 2018, as well as to fully equip field stations Erkuta and Sabetta by solar power stations and other needed field equipment.

Czech Arctic Research Infrastructure

Photo: V. Pavel

Czech Arctic Research Infrastructure in Svalbard is ready to welcome researchers. The infrastructure includes a full equipped base station in Longyearbyen and a field station in Petuniabukta, motorboats, snow scooters and an off road car providing logistic support. Since 2007, research vessel Clione - a 15 m long motorsailer - operates around the Svalbard archipelago.

New Observer Stations in INTERACT

Lammin-Suo Peatland Station

Photo: Nicolai Brekenfeld and Stefan Krause

INTERACT is growing and our newest observer station is the Lammin-Suo Peatland Station in Russia. The station is part of the main experimental cluster of State Hydrological Institute (SHI) about 40 minutes from St Petersburg. The research at the Lammin-Suo Peatland Station focuses on hydrology, meteorology, soil processes and the landscape evolution of the peatland.

Sukujärvi CEN

Photo: CEN

CEN (ww.cen.ulaval.ca) officially inaugurated its most recent research station in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Northern Quebec (Canada). This new station will soon become part of the INTERACT network. It is built to become a platform for exchange on Inuit and academic knowledge. The chosen name of the station, Sukujärvi, means "Science Place". Ongoing research in this area covers work on permafrost and infrastructure, slope dynamics, water quality of lakes and rivers, Arctic char, and social and health sciences.