INTERACT Transnational Access
-What you should know when applying for TA/RA

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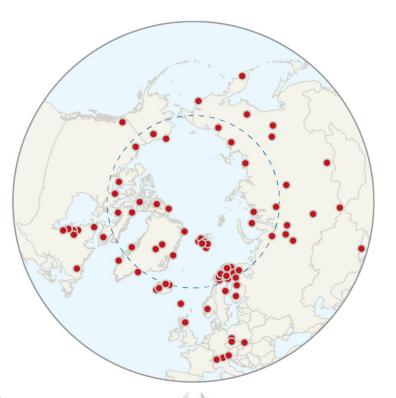
Content of the webinar

- 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 weaknessess in applications
- What happens after the TA/RA decisions?
- "To-do-list" for the applicant
- Q&A

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The International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

86 research stations

EU-H2020 Infrastructures (10 M€), 2016-2020
49 consortium partners in 19 countries
Building capacity for monitoring, research and education throughout the Arctic

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 aquisition and management standards
Outreach: sharing information and experiences

HORIZON 2020

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Transnational Access

Photo: Rúna Magnusson

Free access to research infrastructures and installations

43 research stations, 6850 person-days available altogether

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

What is realistic in terms of TA: 1-3 persons, 1-3 stations, 500 EUR – 15 000 EUR

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" located or operated by same country where they are working and residing

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Remote Access

Photo: Jan Kavan

- Modality of Transnational Access
- Station staff collects the samples according to the research plan
- 17 stations, 970 staff-days
- Logistic costs reimbursed
- Same application and evaluation process with TA
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Suitable for multi-station and comparative approach, but requires simple set-up

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

- 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

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Application process

Photo: Arctic Live Team / NERC UK AS

- Call open until 8th October for access taking place between April-August 2020
- Call annoucement and guidelines at www.eu-interact.org
- INTERACCESS on-line application system www.eu-interaccess.org
- Eligibility check, evaluation by TA Board
- TA Board makes TA recommendations
- Stations make TA decisions
- Decisions announced in Feb 2020 >> The whole process takes 5-6 months

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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"!

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.

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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)

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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!!!

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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

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Applicant "To-do-list"

1) Visit TA Call pages at www.eu-interact.org > Read TA/RA Call information carefully

2) Register to INTERACCESS > Read Information for Applicants and Application Manual > Prepare and submit TA application

3) Find out information about the station, where you are applying to
   a) www.eu-interact.org > Field Sites (station info), Infrastructures (stations available for TA/RA)
   b) 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"

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Virtual Access

- Free and open access to data and metadata

- INTERACT Virtual Access single-entry point

- Offered by 18 partners at the moment

- No application process >> registration and acknowledgements

- Unique retrospective/historical data made available

- Can supplement data obtained with TA/RA

Apply INTERACT TA to conduct research at the coolest places of the North!