

Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities



D2.8 – 3rd Newsletter issues for Teachers

Project No.730938 – INTERACT

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Publishable Executive Summary

The INTERACT 3rd Newsletter for Teachers was sent out between the 19 and 24th February 2020 by e-mail to 1366 teachers and educators and has in addition been posted on INTERACT web site. The Newsletter contains 2 pages and is published in PDF format. It can be downloaded, read on-line or printed out in A4 format. The Newsletter contains information about the Project's new educational materials dedicated to up-to-date topics related to the Arctic, produced by INTERACT, and some reports that is of interest to STEM teachers; the Newsletter also announces the launching of the INTERACT III project with new educational activities offered to teachers.

1. Introduction

Newsletter issues for Teachers are a part of Task 2.2 “Promote Arctic and climate change issues in education”.

Newsletters are one of the tools of communication with science teachers and polar educators. They are designed to inform the teachers about INTERACT educational resources. They are also intended to promote polar and climate change issues within school organisations.

Within the project, a series of 3 Newsletters has been produced and distributed among the teachers. This document describes the 3rd and last Newsletter for Teachers.

2. Technical details

The 3rd Newsletter for Teachers was sent out between 19 and 24th February 2020 by e-mail to **1366** teachers and educators who expressed their interest to receive news about the INTERACT Project and/or have registered to EDU-ARCTIC project platform (as an element of networking activities). E-mail addresses were collected during the 1st CAWI Survey (May/June 2017) and during the STEM workshops for teachers organised by IGF PAS; in case of EDU-ARCTIC users, e-mail addresses were provided through the registration process.

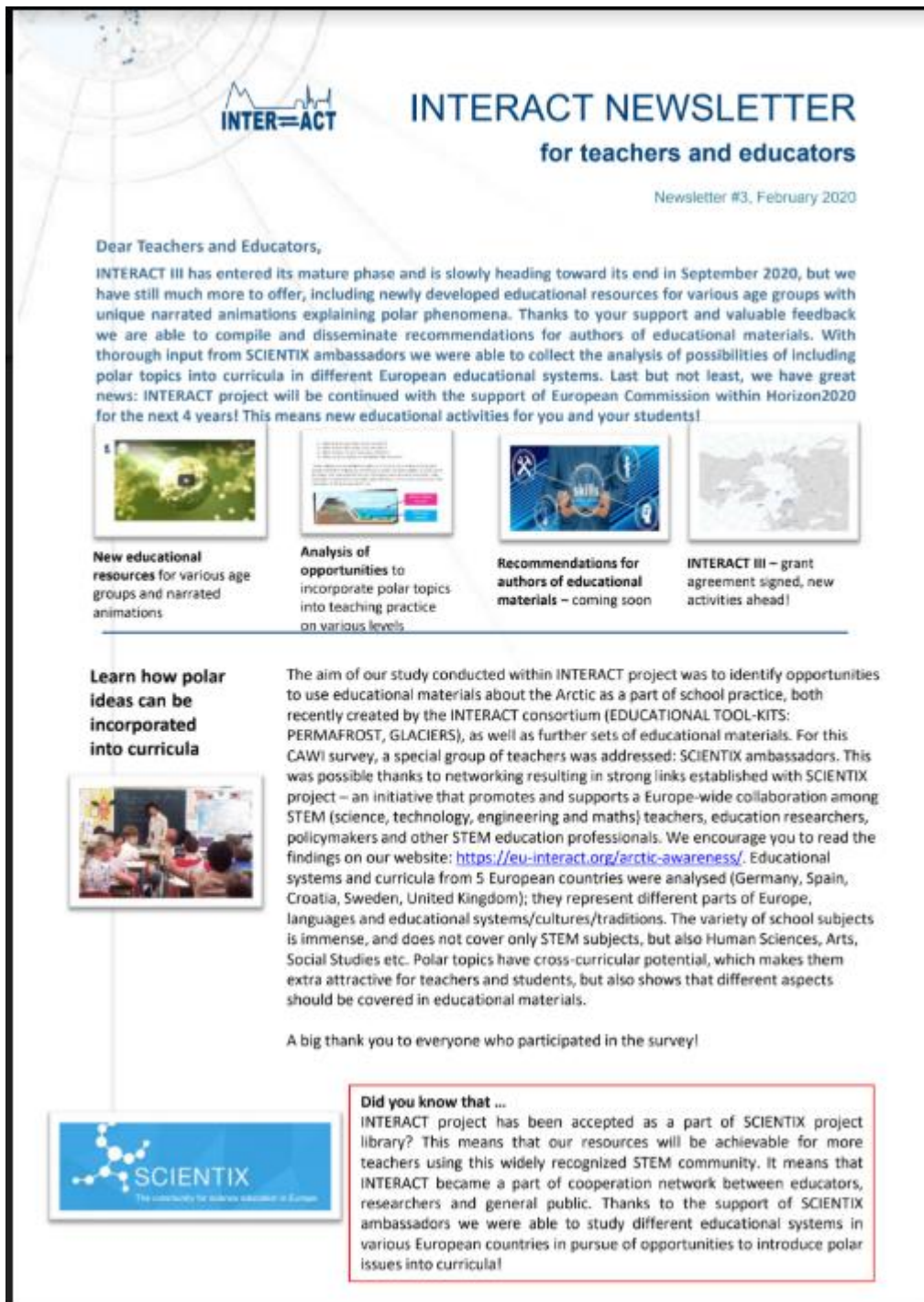
The Newsletter contains 2 pages and is published in PDF format. It can be downloaded, read on-line or printed out in A4 format.

3. The contents

The 3rd Newsletter for Teachers contains information about the Project’s new educational materials dedicated to up-to-date topics related to the Arctic, produced by INTERACT, and some reports (previous deliverables) that might be of interest to STEM teachers; the Newsletter also announces the launching of the INTERACT III project with new educational activities offered to teachers. The newsletter contains the following headings:

1. Introduction
2. How to create educational materials?
3. Learn how polar ideas can be incorporated into curricula
4. A short note on INTERACT acceptance as a part of SCIENTIX project library
5. New WICKED WEATHER WATCH materials
6. New animations
7. INTERACT III: new educational opportunities

The Newsletter also contains a short general note about the INTERACT Project, and contact details. The images of the two pages of the Newsletter are attached below.







INTERACT NEWSLETTER
for teachers and educators


Newsletter #3, February 2020

Dear Teachers and Educators,

INTERACT III has entered its mature phase and is slowly heading toward its end in September 2020, but we have still much more to offer, including newly developed educational resources for various age groups with unique narrated animations explaining polar phenomena. Thanks to your support and valuable feedback we are able to compile and disseminate recommendations for authors of educational materials. With thorough input from SCIENTIX ambassadors we were able to collect the analysis of possibilities of including polar topics into curricula in different European educational systems. Last but not least, we have great news: INTERACT project will be continued with the support of European Commission within Horizon2020 for the next 4 years! This means new educational activities for you and your students!

			
New educational resources for various age groups and narrated animations	Analysis of opportunities to incorporate polar topics into teaching practice on various levels	Recommendations for authors of educational materials – coming soon	INTERACT III – grant agreement signed, new activities ahead!


Learn how polar ideas can be incorporated into curricula



The aim of our study conducted within INTERACT project was to identify opportunities to use educational materials about the Arctic as a part of school practice, both recently created by the INTERACT consortium (EDUCATIONAL TOOL-KITS: PERMAFROST, GLACIERS), as well as further sets of educational materials. For this CAWI survey, a special group of teachers was addressed: SCIENTIX ambassadors. This was possible thanks to networking resulting in strong links established with SCIENTIX project – an initiative that promotes and supports a Europe-wide collaboration among STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) teachers, education researchers, policymakers and other STEM education professionals. We encourage you to read the findings on our website: <https://eu-interact.org/arctic-awareness/>. Educational systems and curricula from 5 European countries were analysed (Germany, Spain, Croatia, Sweden, United Kingdom); they represent different parts of Europe, languages and educational systems/cultures/traditions. The variety of school subjects is immense, and does not cover only STEM subjects, but also Human Sciences, Arts, Social Studies etc. Polar topics have cross-curricular potential, which makes them extra attractive for teachers and students, but also shows that different aspects should be covered in educational materials.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the survey!

Did you know that ...
INTERACT project has been accepted as a part of SCIENTIX project library? This means that our resources will be achievable for more teachers using this widely recognized STEM community. It means that INTERACT became a part of cooperation network between educators, researchers and general public. Thanks to the support of SCIENTIX ambassadors we were able to study different educational systems in various European countries in pursue of opportunities to introduce polar issues into curricula!





How to create educational materials?

In the „Arctic Awareness“ section we are presenting a collection of educational materials; along with these resources we plan to offer future authors of educational content, particularly focused on polar topics, a set of useful guidelines and good practices. Our findings will be based on teachers' feedback. Stay tuned and find out what kinds of skills need to be shaped, what are the differences of learning processes for various age groups, and how to introduce online tools and experiments.

NEW WICKED WEATHER WATCH MATERIALS

While INTERACT educational tool-kits focuses on secondary schools (13-19 year old), our partnership with Wicked Weather Watch complements this by working with younger schoolgirls and schoolboys. The latest material: *Ocean currents and the role of the Arctic*, available on <https://eu-interact.org/arctic-awareness/> with hands-on activity, offers delightfully simple and thorough explanation of thermohaline circulation, how it's affected by climate change and what are the consequences!



NEW ANIMATIONS



Following PERMAFROST and GLACIERS themed animations, new graphic, narrated materials arrived. This time we plunge into PAST environments, events and landscapes and how they are explored, using different types of so called PROXIES: peatlands and plant fossils. Check out extraordinary materials that can be used to complete multiple classes: <https://eu-interact.org/arctic-awareness/>

INTERACT III : NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Four years of EU funding has been granted for another round of INTERACT. Beginning on the 1 January, INTERACT III is now up and running. Our ambition is to prepare the next generation to better mitigate and cope with environmental change by developing and delivering educational resources at school and university levels in response to needs identified by teachers across the world. Expect:

- promotion of polar issues by providing new educational tool-kits for secondary schools;
- at least 60 new online lessons dedicated to polar issues and results of research conducted at the stations participating in the project.

And a cherry on top: **BBC Studio Productions Ltd**, unrivalled in the quality of its films and world leading outreach to more than 1.5 billion people will produce – together with INTERACT researchers – **four films highlighting climate change impacts on Arctic environments!**

The INTERACT project is a circumpolar network of 86 Arctic research stations and northern alpine areas of Europe, Asia and North America, and an international consortium of 47 scientific institutions devoted to polar research. Through the project we build a capacity for identifying, understanding, predicting and responding to diverse environmental changes throughout the wide environmental and land-use envelopes of the Arctic. One of our aims is to facilitate the education and recruitment of the next generation of researchers.



European Commission



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

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