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 weaknesses in applications
- What happens after the TA/RA decisions?
- “To-do-list” for the applicant
- Q&A
The International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

86 research stations

**EU-H2020 Infrastructures** (10 M€), 2020-2023

- 63 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**: sharing best practices

**International Networking**: collaboration to build capacity

**Joint Research Activities**: extreme weather events, transport and communication, open data, improving education and awareness, documenting and reducing pollution, benefits and impacts of Arctic tourism

**Outreach**: sharing information and experiences
Transnational Access

Free access to research infrastructures and installations

53 research stations, 6495 person-days

Maximum TA is 90 days per user group in 2020-2023

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

Photo: Rúna Magnusson
Remote Access

- Modality of Transnational Access
- Station staff collects the samples according to the research plan
- 33 stations, 670 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

Photo: Jan Kavan
Eligibility for TA/RA

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

- 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
Application process

- Call open until 30\textsuperscript{th} March for access taking place between June 2020 – April 2021 >> note COVID-19
- Call announcement 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 May 2020 >>

Photo: Arctic Live Team / NERC UK AS
• Prepare and submit your application in INTERACCESS
• [https://eu-interaccess.org](https://eu-interaccess.org)
• Includes the whole TA application, evaluation and reporting process
• Read the ”Information for Applicants” and ”Application Manual”!
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)
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
  - TA User Group Facebook group for discussions and practical questions
  - TA User community meetings on-line and 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/RA Call pages at www.eu-interact.org > Read call information and instructions 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"
Virtual Access

Free and open access to data and metadata

INTERACT Virtual Access single-entry point

Offered by 32 in INTERACT III (18 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!