

Dear Teachers and Educators,

INTERACT II 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!



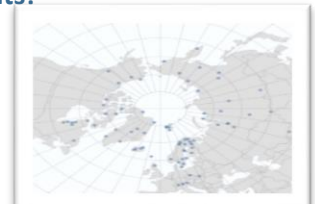
New educational resources for various age groups and narrated animations



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.



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

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