

Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities



D1.17 – 7th Newsletter

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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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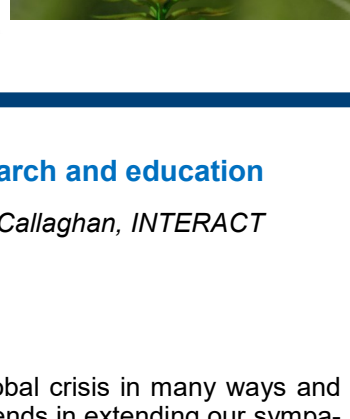
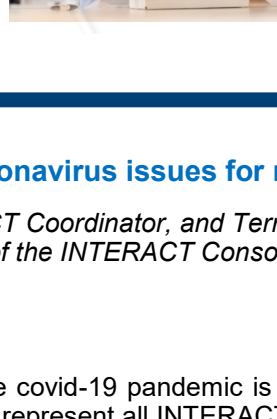
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Publishable Executive Summary

The seventh INTERACT Newsletter is focussing on the challenges that COVID-19 is posing on INTERACT and the society as a whole and INTERACT's way to deal with it and help in extraordinary times like this. In this newsletter we report on how the corona virus is affecting the possibilities for research stations to be open. Many of the INTERACT research stations are located in very remote areas often with long distance to nearest hospital and it would be a disaster if the virus was spread in an area like this. Also, we report on how this will affect the upcoming field season and the Transnational Access users. In addition, we report on how INTERACT and the educational material that have been developed within the project can aid teachers in these times when online classes are the only alternative to teach.

INTERACT NEWSLETTER

Newsletter #7 March 2020



INTERACT responds to Coronavirus issues for research and education

Margareta Johansson, INTERACT Coordinator, and Terry V. Callaghan, INTERACT Science Coordinator, on behalf of the INTERACT Consortium

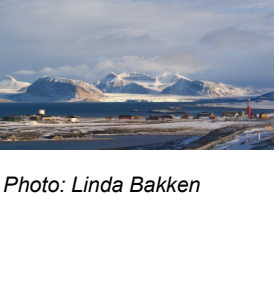


Illustration: Pete Linforth

The covid-19 pandemic is a global crisis in many ways and we represent all INTERACT Friends in extending our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones. For those who are ill, we wish a speedy and complete recovery. INTERACT is also affected by the pandemic and we have hence devoted this newsletter to inform about the ongoing situation and how INTERACT responds and is helping.

Closed INTERACT research stations



Photo: Linda Bakken

Due to the ongoing pandemic, many stations in the INTERACT network are closed or have limited access during the spring and summer season. As soon as we receive information from the research stations we post it on the INTERACT web site as well as on INTERACT Facebook pages. So far, we have received notifications from two stations:

- Toolik Field station announces that they are unable to host research or support personnel at the station at least to the end of June 2020. All existing reservations throughout June will be canceled. The station will be minimally staffed to ensure that the facilities are maintained, and to provide limited Remote Access to research projects.
- The UK Arctic Research Station in Ny-Alesund is closed this spring as the station has no medical professionals, has a limited supply of drugs and has limited transport. BAS will continue to monitor the Coronavirus situation and hopes to open the station in mid-June for the summer season.

INTERACT research support

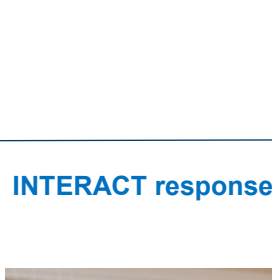


Photo: Ivan Fufachev

As INTERACT and the TA users have a great moral responsibility at this time to keep possible infection away from local, often isolated, communities in the Arctic, INTERACT is temporarily moving away from field visits to research stations. It is instead encouraging researchers around the world to use:

Virtual Access (VA) means free access to stations' data and databases through the INTERACT VA single-entry point. Visit the INTERACT VA single-entry point to discover what VA has to offer for your research. Unleash the hidden potential of the vast retrospective and long-term monitoring data from the stations and stay tuned for the brand new INTERACT VA entries and datasets during the upcoming months!

Remote Access means that the station staff would collect the samples and conduct the study for you, according to your research plan. We are currently exploring the possibilities and abilities of the stations and TA projects to shift some of the access granted for s/s 2020 from physical to remote access. If you feel like your study could be one of those studies, contact the station and the TA Coordination to explore the possibility further.

Details of capacity and calls can be found at eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/

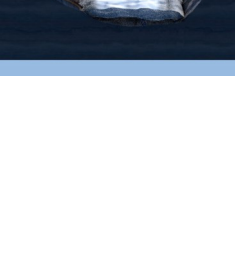
INTERACT responds to the Corona virus issues for education



Photo: Alexander Kopatz

The virus has severely disrupted education from universities to schools: one estimate suggests that 400 million students are experiencing disruption and schools are closed or are closing in many countries. Fortunately, the Internet, distance learning tools and on-line educational resources are available to support research and learning. INTERACT is in the forefront of freely offering all these services for the Arctic. INTERACT has just provided advice for educators on how to use its online education resources and distance learning in general. Learn more here: eu-interact.org/deliverables/ (deliverable D2.5)

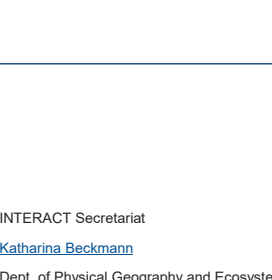
INTERACT educational support for university students



INTERACT works with the University of the Arctic, a network of over 200 universities, and is producing free and widely available educational resources for undergraduate students. These include:

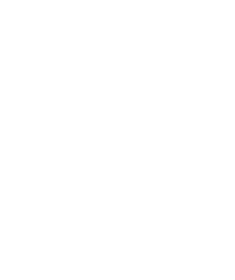
- a massive on-line outreach course which gives credits to students completing the course (5300 learners in English so far and more in Russian).
- webinars on specific topics such as glaciers and permafrost
- films on specific topics like flora and fauna of Siberia now being used by the Altai University in the absence of classes produced by TSU and SECNET youtu.be/AxKtYLU-7e8
- blogs from researchers who have received INTERACT transnational Access funds for previous field visits to the Arctic
- a multidisciplinary science stories book based mainly on research by scientists who previously received transnational access funding together with short overview papers by leading experts.
- animations with voice tracks of important environmental processes such as effects of climate change on glaciers, permafrost and peatlands and the effects of UV-B radiation on plants. eu-interact.org/arctic-awareness/

INTERACT educational support for secondary school students and their teachers



Most of the resources listed above are also relevant for senior school students. In addition, a book was written specifically for pre-university students by Johansson, Callaghan and Dunn (2010). The Rapidly Changing Arctic. Top Spec Geography, Geographical Association, Sheffield. ISBN: 978-1-84377-254-5) together with articles in an English Language magazine specifically for schools. INTERACT is working with the leaders of the former EU project "EDU-Arctic" that reached out to more than 1,000 teachers in more than 50 countries to provide tool-kits for teachers on subjects such as glaciology, permafrost, and past environments (the later currently being constructed). Each tool kit contains a syllabus, material for teachers, lesson plan, worksheet, experiment scenario, power-point presentation, webinar and animations. They are available in English and Polish.

INTERACT educational support for primary school students and their teachers



INTERACT works closely with the UK charity Wicked Weather Watch wickedweatherwatch.org.uk/

WWW has already reached out physically to over 10,000 school children in the UK and now during the coronavirus crisis is providing materials and activities for school children at home. These include:

- Experiments
- Games
- Quizzes
- Cooking for the Arctic

INTERACT in the near Future



Photo: Stefano Ventura

INTERACT is committed to provide on-line educational resources to reach out to all sectors of research and education - and the general public and Arctic residents including Indigenous Peoples. We shall continue to develop these resources with our partners and continuously up-date our web site (eu-interact.org) with new developments and possibilities. We are already surveying teachers around the World to learn what resources would be helpful to them and we shall also strive to be responsive to new requests during this difficult period. Please send any specific requests to INTERACT Science Secretary Katharina Beckmann katharina.beckmann@nateko.lu.se

INTERACT sincerely hopes that all our readers and their families will remain healthy!

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