

Attending meeting: Katharina Beckmann, Luisella Bianco, Terry Callaghan, Margareta Johansson, Kirsi Latola, Morten Rasch, Hannele Savela, Elmer Topp Jørgensen

Amendment Grant Agreement for INTERACT III

An amendment of the Grant Agreement has been submitted today by Lund University. LU was encouraged by the EU to make an amendment as it had become known that one of the new partners beneficiary 48 - NORDURSLODAGATTIN EHF - PIC 973696477 was under liquidation.

At the same time, we requested a universal take over from partner 6 (Luisella Bianco - 4 PM; PIC 911904955) to partner 65 (4PM SOCIETA' A RESPONSABILITA' LIMITATA SEMPLIFICATA - PIC 895917124). The new legal entity (4PM SOCIETA' A RESPONSABILITA' LIMITATA SEMPLIFICATA - PIC 895917124) is a SME and it will be able to give more support to the project than a natural person, as it is now.

China Iceland Arctic Research Observatory remain as Observer Station or not?

The China Iceland Arctic Research Observatory was represented in INTERACT III via Arctic Portal that has now been eliminated as partners in INTERACT III. The Daily Management Group has decided that the research station can remain as observer station in INTERACT if they wish.

Upcoming meetings

We have an upcoming DMG meeting that we planned to have at Föhr, Germany in the end of the summer. During the ongoing Coronavirus we have decided to postpone the planning of this meeting until we know how travel restrictions will look like at the end of the summer. Meeting postponed until travel restrictions are removed.

We have an upcoming General Assembly that is planned to be held at Toolik Lake Research Station in Alaska between 21-25 September 2020. We will contact Donie to make sure that this is still a possible option and see how flexible they can be with cancellations if needed due to the coronavirus. If everything is ok, then we continue to plan this meeting and assume that travel restrictions have been removed by then.

Field season 2020

Due to the Coronavirus there are travel restrictions all over the world at the moment. In addition, many of the research stations are located very remotely and would most likely not be able to deal with the Coronavirus if brought by a TA user. As the field season for spring and summer is approaching rapidly we need to adapt a strategy for the season to ensure that as much of the resources for doing research using TA will be utilized.

We propose to adapt the following strategy for spring/summer 2020:

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- We need to follow national guidelines for travel restrictions in both the country where the TA user comes from and the country that the TA user is going to. If the travel restrictions allow the TA visit and the research station is able to host the group then the project can take place.
- TA that can be converted to RA should be converted.
- The TA that cannot be carried out according to plan should be postponed for one year.
- TA for INTERACT III first call will be postponed to summer 2021

Amendment for Grant Agreement for INTERACT II

As a consequence of the ongoing corona virus and the impact on TA we will ask for an extension of INTERACT II until 31 December 2021. Margareta will contact our scientific officer to discuss this and if possible we will apply for an amendment.

A push for VA during Corona lock-down

Given that many researchers are stuck at home we will take the opportunity to increase focus on VA and highlight the possibility to still carry out research but from a distance. A campaign to enhance and improve INTERACT VA will be carried out spring-summer 2020.

INTERACT Non-profit organization

Most comments provided at the General Assembly meeting have been included in the statutes (for details see minutes from INTERACT III Kick-off meeting).

An important change about the board of the non-profit organization is to clarify who can be a board director. So far only station representative can be member of the association. Now the suggestion is that the following can be members:

- Employee of legal entity (station manager etc.)
- Person who has contributed to INTERACT (i.e. DMG members)
- Major stakeholder representatives

The statutes will be circulated in the DMG after the document is back from the lawyers.