Instructions for the Research Plan

To guarantee the comparability of applications, the research plan must follow the structure below. Name the file as follows: Project acronym_your surname_research plan. The plan must not exceed 6 pages (Times New Roman 12 pt or corresponding), including the References. Research plans exceeding six pages will not be evaluated. The plan will be reviewed by international experts and shall include the following information:

1. Information about the applied TA project
   - Project name, project acronym, name and contact information of the group leader, station(s) where the TA is applied to, duration of the project (applied person-days, dates of the planned research)

2. Background
   - Significance of the proposed research nationally and internationally
   - Previous research pertaining to the topic (in brief) and how the research project links to it and is innovative
   - How the research project links to other research by the group leader or research team
   - If you have been granted previous INTERACT TA, explain the key achievements of the previous access visits, and how the now planned research builds on or extends to the findings and results of your previously granted INTERACT TA

3. Objectives
   - Research objectives
   - Justifications for how the proposed research ties in with the TA call and its objectives, including the infrastructure's ongoing research or potential

4. Research methods and material, ethical issues, required research permits, logistic issues
   - General timetable for the research per station (station, timing, what is done and by who)

- Research methods, described to explain how they will contribute to answering the research questions and objectives, and how they will support the chosen approach
- Research material collected
- Ethical issues (e.g. ethical governance procedures, informed consent, anonymity of subjects)
- Required research permits or information on pending permit applications. Consult relevant station manager for additional information on permits, if needed.
- Specific logistical needs, including visa, import licenses for equipment, export licenses for samples, requests for specific scientific equipment (see Field Sites descriptions for available items), etc.
- Risk management: critical points, alternative ways to implement the project

5. Modality of access to conduct the study and alternative station(s)
- If you are applying physical Trans-National Access, describe shortly if the planned study could be either fully done as Remote Access project (station collects the samples for the scientist) or modified to RA instead of a physical Trans-National Access. Please include particularly what expertise RA would require from the station staff, how many measurements/sample collections would be needed, what kind of equipment the station should have etc. This information is very important, in case the physical access is not possible/available due to force majeure, such as COVID-19 related travel restrictions.
- Provide alternative station(s) within INTERACT TA (if any), where the study could be conducted

6. Expected results and possible risks
- Describe expected scientific and societal impact of the proposed research
- Describe the potential for scientific breakthroughs and for increasing the capacity for renewal of science and research. Identify potential risks for the success of your proposed research
- Describe the applicability and feasibility of the results of the proposed research
- Describe publication of results and raising awareness among potential end-users, the scientific community and the general public
- Data access; a major objective of INTERACT is to increase the availability of data and access to it. It should be indicated here, how this objective will be taken into account concerning the data obtained from the applied project

7. References
- List of references used in the research plan

Attach the research plan and a 2-page CV to your application in INTERACCESS. Early career scientists as main applicants (TA User Group leaders) should also attach two recommendation letters with their application.