

# Minutes

## 4th Annual meeting INTERACT II

Online meeting

22 September 2020



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## 1. Introduction

Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, this year's annual meeting was held online. Instead of meeting in person, the online meeting platform Zoom was used. For immediate survey responses, the interactive presentation software Mentimeter was used. The meeting was held during four hours to make it as efficient as possible as it is a challenge to keep focus on online meetings for a long time. All presentations were made available one week before the meeting to ensure that all participants were well prepared for the meeting. Since INTERACT partners covers 20 time zones, it is impossible to find a meeting time that suits everyone, but we used "timeanddate.com" to ensure that as many as possible could join. The meeting was recorded so that partners that could not participate due to time difference could watch the presentations later. 93 participants from 16 countries attended the meeting. All presentations are available at [eu-interact.org/presentations-from-interact-ii-4th-annual-meeting/](https://eu-interact.org/presentations-from-interact-ii-4th-annual-meeting/)

## 2. Work package progress

### 2.1 WP1 Coordination & Management

*Margareta Johansson, Lund University*

The main objectives of this Work Package are to facilitate and ensure that the operation of the consortium is smooth and that the various work packages are integrated so that synergy can be achieved. This work package's ambition is also to make sure that everything is delivered on time and that milestones are reached on time.

News since the last meetings is that INTERACT has been prolonged 12 months for WP1 and WP5 due to covid-19 to enable a field season in 2021 instead of the lost 2020 season. This means that the final reporting will be after September 2021 and an additional reporting in November 2020 (for the total sum spent from all partners). The last newsletter was entirely dedicated to how INTERACT is coping with and can help (i.e. by offering online teaching material; Virtual Access etc.) in times of the ongoing pandemic. Overall, the project is running according to schedule with 12 deliverables left (out of 75 in total; 8 in 2020 and 4 by the end of the project next year). There have been more changes since the last meeting: Mapillary has left the consortium due to new ownership of the company and CLU leaves INTERACT in the end of September 2020 as this company cease to exist, and 4PM joins instead, which enables Luisella to continue her work with us.

In August this year, the INTERACT non-profit organisation (INPO) was established with a board of directors. The non-profit organisation has submitted papers to the Swedish tax authorities to receive an id-number but this will take a couple more weeks. The internal documents that establish the work procedures for INTERACT non-profit organization will be drafted during the coming months and when they have been approved, all association's members (the stations) will be invited to join.

Remaining tasks in this work package are three deliverables (minutes from the final annual meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup> newsletter and a road map report for the future) and the EU reporting that was mentioned earlier (November 2020 - the total sum spent by all partners; October 2021 - the final reporting).

## 2.2 WP2 Scientific coordination, mentoring and education

*Terry Callaghan, University of Sheffield*

This work package aims to communicate INTERACT activities, to coordinate the communication of the science within the network to external stakeholders, and to promote arctic and climate issues in school and university education.

Since the last meeting three deliverables have been submitted, and a milestone has been reached. The third Computer-assisted web interviewing survey report (D2.4) addressed a special group of teachers (SCIENTIX ambassadors); the recommendations to authors of educational resources (D2.5) presents very clear and basic questions about who the users will be, where the material will be used, what facilities will be available and how the materials are going to be used. The third deliverable is the third newsletter issues for teachers (D2.8) which was sent out in February this year. The milestone that has been reached (M2.2) is the updating and expansion of the Coursera video course “The changing Arctic” – a successful online learning tool with 6011 people who have attended the course (a number that is growing every week) of which 457 have achieved awards for their essays. This course is based on the first edition of the “Stories of Arctic Science”. Another highlight when it comes to INTERACT educational resources is that the animation “Glaciation and hanging valleys formation” has been viewed over 15000 times.

Remaining tasks are two deliverables: A report summarising feedback from target end users concerning ways to extend the educational value of INTERACT’s Arctic gallery and glossary (D2.1); and a report of INTERACT Science Stories II (D2.2). The second edition of INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science is in press and will come in one printed and one digital version. The digital version will include extra material, animations, videos, educational resources, blogs and more.

## 2.3 WP3 Station Managers’ Forum

*Morten Rasch, Copenhagen University*

The overall objective is to consolidate, develop and run an expanded Station Managers’ Forum (SMF) of managers of research stations throughout the circumpolar Arctic, in northern countries and adjacent alpine and forest regions for knowledge exchange; implementation of best practices of station management; development of improved services for research station users; and for development of new technology and methods/procedures relevant for running research stations.

Specific aims of this work package are to produce a practical field guide and a fieldwork planning guide, and thereby improve fieldwork efficiency and safety for users of research stations. Another specific aim has been to reduce the environmental impact of the research station operations and science activities by developing relevant procedures and technologies between station managers and relevant industries. Furthermore, this work package has been developing the INTERACT GIS tool for research station management, with interlinked modules for the handling of applications for access to stations by non-TA applicants and successful TA applicants; for presenting station characteristics to users and also for storing project metadata to allow dissemination to other repositories and media.

All tasks have been completed and all deliverables have been submitted. Furthermore, a couple of bonus products have been made: The INTERACT card game (in several editions); the photo book INTERACT Images of Arctic Science (fresh from the press when these minutes are written); and INTERACT Reducing the Environmental impact of Arctic Research Stations (in the layout process).

## 2.4 WP4 Data Forum

*Øystein Godøy, METNO*

The main objective of this work package is to improve the accessibility of data and establish a unified view of the data produced using INTERACT facilities.

All deliverables have been submitted, and since the last meeting, some important activities have been accomplished: The third Polar Data Forum was arranged in November 2019, and as a direct outcome from that bimonthly Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshops have been arranged together with SAON/IASC (related to Polar Data Planning Summit, Polar Data Architecture Workshop and Third Polar Data Forum); also monthly activities together with the Polar Semantics working group has been held in order to make existing frameworks more accessible. A new SAON CON related working group on Polar Observing Assets is being initiated (with focus on making sites information machine readable etc.).

## 2.5 WP5 Giving Access to INTERACT

*Kirsi Latola, Oulu University*

The main objective of Work Package 5 is to increase societally relevant key research activities throughout the Arctic and neighbouring alpine and forested regions. This is being carried out through transnational, remote and virtual access; by developing the online application, evaluation and reporting management tool INTERACCESS; and also, by extending the research user community and sharing knowledge.

A lot has happened since the last meeting. First of all, WP5 has been extended until September 2021, whereupon the projects that were granted access for 2020 have been rearranged either by being postponed or changed into Remote Access projects. Furthermore, webinars have been held for Station managers and TA users, and also eight one-hour webinars (16 presentations in total) have been held under the name *INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science and Stations*. In March, the third TA User Community was held online.

Together with WP2, the work on the second edition of INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science its e-book version has continued, with estimated publication date at the end of this year. Due to the prolongation of the project, the report on Transnational Access and scientific publications have been postponed until the final report in November 2021, as has the unit of access delivery.

Access provision during INTERACT II is presented in [Appendix 1](#).

## 2.6 WP6 Rapid response to environmental emergency alerts

*Alex Bernardová, University of South Bohemia*

This Work Package finished in April 2020. Its main aims have been to help protect Arctic and global residents from the hazards of potential future environmental emergencies by identifying and documenting potential risks and establishing a process starting with alerting research station staff to possible environmental emergencies via a one stop shop.

All milestones and deliverables of this work packages have been reached and submitted. In summary: an action plan along with a popular science summary was written including experience from a field trial of a fictitious hazard event. Appropriate agencies that can ensure long term sustainability of the rapid response capability have also been identified.

The main outputs from this work package are the identification of the most important risks in the Arctic (being environmental contaminants, diseases, non-native and range-expanding species, extreme events, and hazards). The experiences from the trial run show that there are gaps and obstacles in collecting any type of data for someone else, and that it is very important that the protocols are understandable and that the sampling should be easy without the need for special equipment. Other obstacles in sampling are shipping regulations and sampling permissions. A list of relevant agencies, laboratories, databases or projects can be found in the deliverable report D6.3 (on the INTERACT website). In order to keep the information updated, relevant links will be provided on the INTERACT website.

## 2.7 WP7 Improving and harmonizing biodiversity monitoring

*Kári Fannar Lárusson, CAFF secretariat*

The objectives of this work package are to establish interface between CBMP and INTERACT; inform development of the Rif Field Station in Iceland based on lessons learnt at Zackenberg and CHARS; test CBMP Freshwater and Terrestrial monitoring plans in the field; develop a user manual for implementation; identify how data from INTERACT stations can inform Arctic Council initiatives. This work package includes three reference stations: Rif field station in Iceland, Zackenberg in Greenland, and CHARS in Canada.

The deliverables of this work package have been submitted: A monitoring plan and a data management plan for Rif Field Station; a user manual for implementing CBMP at INTERACT stations and a report on the flow of data from the field to Arctic Council assessments, monitoring and reporting activities.

The online user manual for implementing CBMP monitoring plans at research stations is a living document that CAFF intends to continue to work on, including a useful search tool.

## 2.8 WP8 Developing technology for drones for scaling up from research stations

This work package ended in 2018 so there was no presentation from this work package at the meeting.

## 2.9 WP9 Adapting to environmental change

*Anders Oskal, International Reindeer Centre\**

The overall aim of this WP is to produce an inspirational guide book for research station managers and local communities to develop a deeper mutual understanding of how to work together to build integrated local observation systems enabling local communities to respond to the challenges of present and predicted environmental change.

During the last year, deliverable D9.1 “INTERACT guide for facilitating local adaptation to environmental change” has been completed. The report contains an introduction that sets the scene in an Arctic context, it presents three case studies; hunting and fishing in West Greenland, reindeer herding in Finland and hunting, fishing and conservation in the Russian taiga. In addition, it provides recommendations on how partnerships can be formed between research stations and Indigenous and local communities, and suggested actions for research stations to help implement future adaptation.

*\*Anders Oskal was not able to join the meeting, but reported on progress so that it could be included in the meeting minutes.*

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 - Access Provision During INTERACT II

Access provision during INTERACT II TA/RA Call	Applications	Eligible applications	Applied stations	Days Applied	Projects Granted	Days used/Granted	Success rate (%)
1st TA/RA Call	108	104	34	4 251	58	1 689	56
2nd TA/RA Call	81	81	38	3 367	47	1 464	58
1st RA Call	3	3	10	55	1	30	33
2nd RA Call	6	6	12	197	2	20	33
3rd TA/RA Call	117	116	42	5 232	61	2 618	52
4th TA/RA Call	120	120	34	5067	65	2481	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	435	430	42	18 169	234	8302**	54
<b>Offered in GA</b>			43	7 820		7 820	

\*\* Utilization of TA and VA Access Pool to reallocate more funds for access provision



## Appendix 2 - Programme

### Tuesday 22 September 2020 General Assembly INTERACT II

(Zoom, the Internet, CEST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81625178656>

15:30	<b>INTERACT II General Assembly</b>
15:30	WP9 - Adapting to environmental change <i>Anders Oskal</i>
15:45	WP 7 - Improving and harmonizing biodiversity monitoring <i>Kári Fannar Lárusson</i>
16:00	WP6 - Rapid response to environmental emergency alerts <i>Alexandra Bernardova</i>
16:15	WP5 - TA, VA, Giving Access to INTERACT <i>Hannele Savela</i>
16:30	WP4 - Data Forum <i>Øystein Godøy</i>
16:45	WP3 - Station Managers Forum <i>Morten Rasch &amp; Elmer Topp-Jørgensen</i>
17:00	WP2 - Scientific coordination, mentoring and education <i>Terry Callaghan</i>
17:15	WP 1 – Coordination and Management <i>Margareta Johansson</i>
17:30	END OF DAY 1

## Appendix 3 - List of participants

Name	Family name	Organisation
Michael	Abels	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Christopher	Andrews	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Marie Frost	Arndal	Aarhus University
Renuka	Badhe	European Polar Board
Ariuna	Badmaeva	Baikal Institute of Nature Management of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Katharina	Beckmann	Lund University
Luisella	Bianco	4PM
Nicole	Biebow	Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research
Alexander	Borodin	Iridium Communications Inc
Sydonia	Bret-Harte	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Martin	Breum	Martin Breum
Marek	Brož	University of South Bohemia, Czech Arctic Research Station
Terry	Callaghan	University of Sheffield
Tom	Christensen	Aarhus University
Torben R.	Christensen	Aarhus University
Nick	Cox	UKRI (British Antarctic Survey)
Ruben	Cubo	AFRY
Luigi Paolo	D'Acqui	The Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
Jonny	Day	ECMWF
Frej	Dichmann	DASHE
Jan	Dick	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Josef	Elster	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Faculty of Science, Centre for Polar Ecology
Maria	Erman	AFRY
Giorgio	Falsaperna	LINKPRO
Nina	Filippova	Yugra State University

Name	Family name	Organisation
LeeAnn	Fishback	Churchill Northern Studies Centre
Hrönn G.	Guðmundsdóttir	Rif Field Station
Piotr	Glowacki	"Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences"
Øystein	Godøy	Norwegian Metereological Institute
Agata	Goździk	"Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences"
Håkan	Grudd	Swedish Polar Research Secretariat
Tomas	Gustafsson	AFRY
Laura	Härkönen	Natural Resources Institute Finland
Jouni	Heiskanen	University of Helsinki
Erika	Hille	The Western Arctic Research Centre
Adam	Houben	Canadian High Arctic Research Station
Margareta	Johansson	Lund University
Cornelya	Klutsch	NIBIO
Hanna Maria	Kristjansdottir	Sudurnes Science and Learning Center
Niklas	Labba	JNL
Kári Fannar	Lárusson	CAFF secretariat
Kirsi	Latola	University of Oulu
Mickaël	Lemay	UNIVERSITE LAVAL
Leena	Leppänen	Finland Meteorological Institute
Kim	Lindgren	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Britta	Löfvenberg	Umea University
Maarten	Loonen	University of Groningen
Elke	Ludewig	Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik
Trofim	Maximov	Institute for Biological Problems of Cryolithozone of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
Mauro	Mazzola	The Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
Dan	Mercer	Iridium Communications Inc
Anne	Morgenstern	Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research
Nicola	Munro	UKRI (British Antarctic Survey)
Maribeth	Murray	The Artic Institute of North America

Name	Family name	Organisation
Melissa	Nacke	AECO
Heli	Niittynen	University of Oulu
Joseph	Nolan	European Polar Board
Marco	Nuccetelli	INKODE
Raoul	Nuccetelli	INKODE
Steffen	Olsen	The DMI Geophysical Observatory Qaanaaq
Anders	Oskal	ICR
Hlynur	Oskarsson	Agricultural University of Iceland
Christina A.	Pedersen	Norwegian Polar Institute
Harry	Penn	The Artic Institute of North America
Rainer	Prinz	University of Innsbruck
Guillaume	Proulx	Uapishka Station
Grzegorz	Rachlewicz	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan
Zofia	Rączkowska	Polish Academy of Sciences - geography Dept
Morten	Rasch	University of Copenhagen
Katrine	Raundrup	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
Giorgio	Resci	INKODE
Ninis	Rosqvist	Stockholm University
Krzysztof	Rymer	AMU
Hannele	Savela	University of Oulu
Alanna	Schenk	DASHE
Andrea	Schneider	APECS
Olga	Shaduyko (Morozova)	Tomsk State University
Wlodek	Sielski	Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Jørgen	Skaftø	Aarhus University
Vera	Sklet	Norwegian Polar Institute
Markus	Skogsmo	AFRY
Tatiana	Skorospekhova	Lammin-Suo peatland station
Ireneusz	Sobota	Nicolaus Copernicus University Polar Station
Otso	Suominen	University of Turku

<b>Name</b>	<b>Family name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Johan	Tenstam	AFRY
Elmer	Topp-Jørgensen	Aarhus University
Anna	Wielgopolan	"Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences"
Simon	Wilson	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat
Amanda	Young	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Yulia	Zaika	M V Lomonosov Moscow State GDMSU Khibiny educational and scientific station
Evgeny	Zarov	Yugra State University
Sergei	Zhuravlev	Lammin-Suo peatland station
Nikita	Zimov	North-East Science Station (NESS) Pleistocene Park