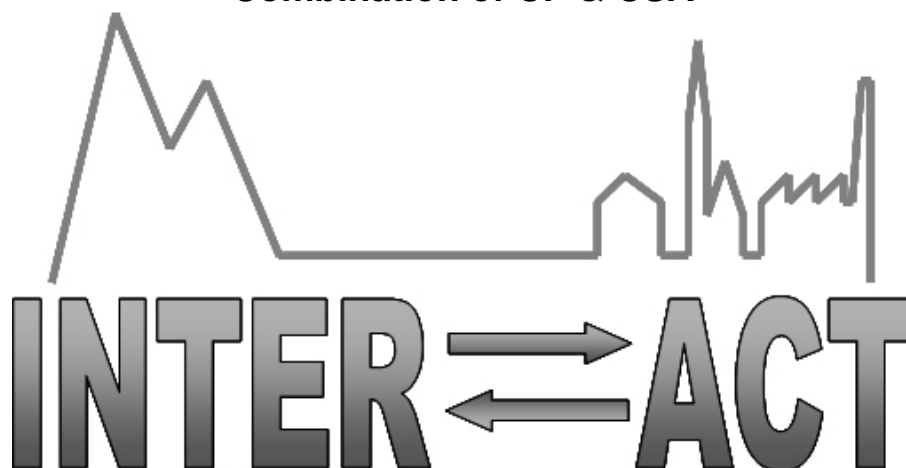


Combination of CP & CSA



D8.1- Increased cooperation with the University of the Arctic

Project No.262693– INTERACT

FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1

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Dissemination Level		
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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Publishable Executive Summary

INTERACT has started to cooperate with the University of the Arctic during 2011, with the ambition to inspire students to focus on the scientific challenges of the Arctic/Sub-Arctic. The University of the Arctic is a cooperative network of Universities, Colleges and other organisations committed to higher education and research in the North. It seeks to empower the residents of the Circumpolar North, by building human capital through higher education. It reduces barriers to higher education in the North in order to provide increased opportunities for northerners and it develops initiatives in partnership with the northern community, and particularly with indigenous peoples. The President of the University of the Arctic has attended the INTERACT First Annual meeting in February 2012. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of the Arctic and INTERACT was signed on March 31st 2012.

The Memorandum of Understanding recognises that there are many common interests and by working together it is intended to inspire a new generation of researchers to carry on a legacy of environmental research in the north to contribute to future development and network renewal. In particular, the University of the Arctic will serve as a link to various educational and research frameworks while INTERACT field stations will provide the venues and facilities for students and researchers from University of the Arctic member institutions.

1. Memorandum of Understanding with University of the Arctic

INTERACT has started to cooperate with the University of the Arctic during 2011, with the ambition to inspire students to focus on the scientific challenges of the Arctic/Sub-Arctic.

The University of the Arctic seeks to:

- “Empower the North” *Empower the residents of the Circumpolar North, by building human capital through higher education.*
- “Improve Access to Education” *Reduce barriers to higher education in the North in order to provide increased opportunities for northerners.*
- “Serve Our Community” *Develop initiatives in partnership with our community, and particularly with indigenous peoples, that are responsive to their needs and support their aspirations.*
- “Create Shared Knowledge” *Create Shared Knowledge and provide for quality discussion on contemporary issues related to the Circumpolar North.*
- “Build Regional Identity” *Build a shared regional identity, while valuing inclusiveness and respect for diversity across the region.*
- “Strengthen the Voice of the Arctic” *Strengthen the Circumpolar North's Role in the World by increasing knowledge about Arctic issues*

The President of the University of the Arctic was invited to the 2nd Station Managers' Forum, held in Copenhagen, November 2011. However, the first time when the University of the Arctic could be represented at an INTERACT meeting was during the First Annual meeting held in Svanhovd February 2012. The President of the University of the Arctic, Lars Kullerud participated. It was agreed that University of the Arctic and INTERACT should work together. In particular, the University of the Arctic will serve as a link to various educational and research frameworks while INTERACT field stations will provide the venues and facilities for students and researchers from University of the Arctic member institutions. This will encourage student mobility within and between the Arctic countries in this way inspire a new generation of researchers to carry on a legacy of environmental research in the north and contribute to future development and network renewal.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of the Arctic and INTERACT was signed on March 31st 2012 (see below) by the Coordinator of INTERACT and the President of the University.

Memorandum of Understanding

between the

**International Network for Terrestrial Research
and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT)**

and the

University of the Arctic (UArctic)
c/o UArctic International Secretariat

Preamble:

This memorandum of understanding recognizes that there are many common interests between the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic project (hereafter referred to as “*INTERACT*”) and the University of the Arctic (hereafter referred to as “*UArctic*”).

INTERACT is an infrastructure project under the auspices of SCANNET. It is a circumarctic network of 42 terrestrial field bases in all eight Arctic countries and a further six European Alpine countries. *INTERACT* specifically seeks to build capacity for research and monitoring in the European Arctic and beyond, by offering access to numerous research stations through its Transnational Access program.

UArctic is a cooperative network of universities, colleges and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. UArctic’s overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and indigenous peoples through education, training and shared knowledge. UArctic education is circumpolar, holistic and diverse in nature and draws on the combined strength of its members to address the unique challenges of the region.

Common Interests:

INTERACT and *UArctic* share a number of common interests and are open to conducting cooperation within mutually recognized fields of interests that, for example, may consist of but are not limited to:

- Inspiring students to focus on the scientific challenges of the Arctic/Sub-Arctic, and in this way seek to secure a new generation of researchers who can carry on a legacy of environmental research in the north and contribute to future development and network renewal.
- Collaborating on the mutual exchange of information pertaining to research activities and relevant educational offerings.
- Working in partnership to enhance the development and delivery of collaborative forums such as *INTERACT*’s “*Station Managers’ Forum*” and *UArctic*’s “*Field School Operators’ Forum*”.
- Enhancing the sustainability of both networks through mutual collaboration.

Declaration of Intent:

- UArctic will serve as a link to various educational and research frameworks, for example UArctic Thematic Networks, while INTERACT field stations will provide the venues and facilities for students and researchers from UArctic member institutions to attend field courses, summer schools and meetings.
- INTERACT and UArctic seek to cooperate in sharing information regarding educational offerings that can suitably be “adopted” (e.g. field courses, summer / winter school programmes, graduate courses).
 - INTERACT and UArctic will explore the possibilities of integrating various aspects of their respective activity catalogues (e.g. course catalogue, field stations catalogue, etc.) to, for example, developing dynamic GIS data links, collaborating on shared promotion and marketing, etc.
- INTERACT and UArctic agree to keep each other informed about developments through annual participation in each other’s meetings (annual Partner meeting and Council of UArctic)

Any and all collaborative efforts are to be performed within the operating terms of reference of either party, and any financial implication are to be negotiated on a case by case basis.

This memorandum of understanding shall commence on March 31, 2012, and will remain in force until 31 of December 2014, and thereafter be reviewed and continued as appropriate. Either party has the right to terminate this agreement for its sole discretion, by giving notice in writing to the other party.

Signatories:

March 31, 2012

Terry Callaghan
Co-ordinator of INTERACT



Lars Kullerud
President of UArctic

