



Minutes

INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

Daily Management Group Meeting
25 March 2021

Participants: Luisella Bianco, Terry Callaghan, Kirsi Latola, Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Margareta Johansson, Morten Rasch, Hannele Savela and Katharina Beckmann

Update from ASSW 2021

Data Portal Launch

On the 22nd of March, the INTERACT VA Data portal was launched during the ASSW. Over 90 people attended the event and there was a lot of positive feedback. Presentations were given by Margareta Johansson, Øystein Godøy and Hannele Savela. In addition, the data portal was presented and demonstrated by the developer Raoul Nuccetelli. The work on the data portal will continue. Especially the work with IMLA (INTERACT Machine Learning Algorithm) will develop so that the data sets in the portal will be classified to different topics. All the meta data in the data portal is open for harvest. The data portal is accessible through <https://dataportal.eu-interact.org/> and an entry-point on the INTERACT website will be added soon.

Workshop on International Access to Research Infrastructure in the Arctic

On the 23rd of March, a joint workshop was held between INTERACT Station Managers' Forum, FARO, ARICE and APECS. The aim of the meeting was to initiating dialogue and developing networks that facilitate access for international scientists to national research facilities and infrastructure in the Arctic: Identifying challenges, best practices, and next steps. There were 70 people attending the workshop. It was fruitful to bring the networks together. There were separate marine and terrestrial breakout groups. Some barriers were identified:

- Long term funding for science, infrastructure, infrastructure networks
- Permit systems, including import/export
- Data standards – networks and network gaps
- Funding for data management and interoperability

FARO will bring the thematic infrastructure organisations together to discuss challenges, liaise with IASC (science part) and possibly feed into Arctic Council work towards another meeting at ASSW 2022.

Website on Arctic permits

Deliverable D2.6 “Guide on research permit systems for all arctic countries on INTERACT website” developed in the Station Managers Forum (WP 2) will also be added to the INTERACT website. This is a great asset for travelling scientists. To ensure that the information is kept updated, there needs to



be a contact point for station managers to provide any updates and it was suggested to have an annual report back from station managers if they know about any changes.

Arctic Council representatives were present at the workshop on International Access to Research Infrastructure in the Arctic where this initiative was presented. They are eager to learn more about the overview of permit systems and how it works.

Updates on Publications

Science Stories 2 + e-book

The INTERACT Science Stories 2 has now printed in Denmark and hard copies are available in Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The e-version of the INTERACT Science Stories 2 is currently being developed by Tomsk State University. In addition, Wicked Weather Watch develops in collaboration with Terry additional learning material that will be added to the lower swipe out pages on the e-book. The upper swipe out pages are almost ready for all the science stories. The lower swipe out pages will develop over time.

The Chair of the Arctic Council has offered to write a foreword for the e-book Science Stories. The book and the e-book will be launched at an event at the University of the Arctic Congress on the 17th of May.

SMF publications

There are four upcoming publications:

- INTERACT handbook on communication in the Arctic is an 80 pages handbook developed together with APECS – 14 days after Easter this book will be ready to be published.
- INTERACT reducing environmental impact from Arctic Science. This book has been out for review with the station managers and there are a few comments. The rest is ready for the layout phase.
- INTERACT reducing the environmental impact of arctic research station. This is a 140 pages manuscript that just needs a final proof reading, otherwise it is ready for production.
- The fourth publication is just at the starting phase. This will also be a book together with APECS, and will be about reducing carbon dioxide imprint of arctic science.

Together with Niels Martin Schmidt, Torben Christensen and a few others from Aarhus, a scientific paper about standardization in stations is in preparation, using the INTERACT research and monitoring book and INTERACT as a platform to fill gaps. This process will help opening up for other stations and scientists to come on board once the goal is clear. The newest IPCC climate models are being used on the places where the biggest changes are expected. The stations can play a role in this by for example identifying flagship observatories, satellite observatories. Things like greening, increased precipitation and temperature are central. A relevant connection to this work is that Terry has a paper in press about greening, browning and stability.



Updates on coming field season

INTERACT 2

The original plan was that postponed projects from last year would be carried out in 2021. However, due to current circumstances it is likely that many of the projects cannot be carried out during 2021 either. We have requested an additional prolongation of one year to the EU but this was not accepted. If we were to move the projects to 2022, this would exceed the budgets for many stations. We therefore have to cancel all TA projects in INTERACT2 that cannot be carried out in 2021. The TA users have however a possibility to re-apply within INTERACT 3 in future calls.

INTERACT 3

Access decisions have been made and the field work that cannot be carried out in 2021 will be postponed to 2022.

Remaining funds in INTERACT 2

Given that some TA projects will not be carried out, there will most likely be some unspent money for INTERACT 2 and a discussion how to ensure the best use of these potential funds followed. The message from the EU project officer is that there should not be any substantial changes to the description of action. A possibility is to extend existing TA projects if needed. Other potential use of remaining money was discussed (see below).

Early summer INTERACT3 project

If TA projects funded in INTERACT3 is carried out in the early summer 2021, then these can be claimed in INTERACT2 instead of INTERACT3 as this would be an eligible cost.

INPO web site

The development of an INPO web site is an eligible cost for INTERACT 2. Establishing INPO means creating a platform (for example a web site) together with a promotional video.

- Luisella and Elmer will develop a draft outline of an INPO web site and present it at the next DMG meeting.

Salaries WP1 & 5

The work packages that are still running will claim their salaries from INTERACT2 rather than INTERACT 3 if possible. When we know how much money is available in INTERACT 2 (most likely in the beginning of the summer) we will consider if an amendment is necessary or not to ensure that the planned budget is almost the same as the used budget.

Translations of INTERACT material

At the last DMG meeting a suggestion was made to translate some of the INTERACT material. This has now been brought up again and some prioritizations are made. Material for younger children could be very relevant – especially for all non-English-speaking. Translation into Russian is especially important so that material can reach also the senior science community (the younger scientists are all already fluent in English). Politicians are listening to the older scientists that for example don't believe in climate change because of the lack of translation to gather the newest information on the matter.



To begin with, a leaflet for the science stories book with a QR code will be produced in both English and Russian.

- Terry and Maggan will be working on this.

Movie

Luisella has a suggestion to make a movie about INTERACT: there is a great story to tell. Especially in the south of Europe, the Arctic is so far away, and people don't know really very much about it. The idea is to make a short video, around 15 min, about the history of INTERACT for "ordinary" people. A famous Italian actor is already very interested and has connections. If we would like we could produce an emotional movie, that also could be useful for INPO. The angle could be "What is INTERACT doing in the Arctic (focusing on the human aspect)"

- Luisella and Terry will draft a storyline and present it at the next DMG meeting

Any other suggestions

INTERACT branded giveaways for example Face Mask with INTERACT, a sign to put outside stations saying it is an INTERACT station, a map showing who is in the Arctic.

- Morten and Katharina will continue brainstorming about INTERACT branded gimmicks and giveaways

It was decided that we would prioritize the development of an INPO website and salaries for WP1 and WP5, and after that we can see what should be prioritized.

Prolongation of INTERACT 3?

In order to be well prepared, it is good to ask already now to prolong the whole project (all work packages) for a year (and by that get another physical meeting). We already lost the 2020 season and it is very likely that we will lose half of 2021, which is good arguments.

- Maggan will contact the EU project officer

Upcoming meetings

INTERACT GA meeting dates

26-27 May 2021 online (one day SMF, one day GA)

22-26 November 2021 General Assembly physical meeting

- Maggan and Katharina will continue talking to Finse

EGU – Online meeting shared booth

EGU will take place 26-30 April 2021. INTERACT will have a joint booth with ENVRI.

- Katharina organises INTERACT's part in this booth.



UArctic Congress

The UArctic congress is 17-18 May. There are 30 min networking breaks with many virtual things happening. It was decided that the launch will be on the 18th May.

- Katharina, Maggan and Terry will brainstorm about this

COP 26 in Glasgow 1-12 November

EU Polar Cluster has a booth (organized by the Policy group) in the “red zone” where the politicians are and INTERACT has said that we are happy to contribute to this shared booth.

- Maggan will continue to work on this in the EU Polar Cluster Policy Group.

Any other issues

Arctic Passion

Arctic Passion starts 1st July and a consortium agreement has been circulated, but there is nothing more to report for the time being.

Collaborations among WPs

No updates on joint research activities apart from the pollution seminar that was held (organized by SMF and WP8). At the work package leader meeting it was clear that all work packages are on track and are collaborating.

INPO internal document

INPO internal document – last comments came in today. Since the stations are the end recipients, it would be good to circulate the document among some of them as well. And finally circulate the last version among all of them.

- Luisella will contact station managers that can comment on the draft before sending out the final version.

INPO application to become an Observer to the Arctic Council

As there has been a great connection established between the Chair of the Arctic Council that has offered to write a foreword for the e-version of INTERACT Science Stories 2, we should use this opportunity for INPO to apply to become an Observer to the Arctic Council.

INPO TA

If INPO should provide TA in the future (when INTERACT 3 has ended) then it could be an idea to look at the model used by SIOS. SIOS members pay an annual fee that can be used for transnational access. Also, SIOS also pays for national access (as well as transnational access) and this could be something to consider in the future as well.