



Minutes

INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

16 February 2021
Zoom, online meeting platform

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

INTERACT 3

Update on deliverables and milestones

Most deliverables and milestones are on time but a few have planned minor delays. Two deliverables from WP6 will be submitted by the end of February.

Update from WP leader meeting

The meeting was held last week to ensure interaction between the work packages. All work package leaders were asked to provide an overview of progress and also identify needs from other work packages. A lot of progress and interaction were reported among the work packages that are up and running whereas a few work packages have only just started and the interaction with other work packages will increase now. It was concluded that these meetings will occur every 6th months or more frequent if needed to ensure interaction between all components of the project.

TA strategy

A TA webinar was held to inform the stations about the current covid-situation and how to prepare for the field season. A similar webinar will be held for TA users with adjusted content. Scenarios and actions were presented on how to mitigate the effects of the current situation and still have some activity at the stations. The main points were:

- INTERACT can reimburse for the quarantine costs. A flat rate of 50€ per person and day for maximum 14 days.
- It is possible to shift TA projects between INTERACT 2 and 3, which will optimise the use of the funds (trying to push as much as possible towards INTERACT 2).

GA meeting/s 2021

An online meeting will be held in May and a physical meeting in November. For the physical meeting, Finse (mainland Norway) was suggested as a venue.

- Katharina will send a doodle to DMG and WP leaders to find good dates.
- Katharina will contact Finse to check the possibilities of holding a meeting there.



Ensure integration between JRA, SMF, TA tasks

As mentioned above, there will be work package leader meetings every 6 months to make sure that there is information exchange. In addition, there will be regular meetings between the Station Managers' Forum and WP 4. There is also a WP 8 survey coming up that has been developed in collaboration with SMF. SMF and WP 9 also have close collaboration with different surveys and a pocket guide currently being produced. SMF and WP 6 already work together. Now this work package is in direct contact with the station managers they need. The TA seminars that were held last spring have also inspired the SMF to arrange seminars on certain topics, but also between work packages to keep everyone informed. WP 5 has made a survey on the station managers needs for information on communications means and will proceed with this work. BBC Natural History Unit (WP 7) are now onboard through a subcontract with Sheffield University. Members of INTERACT will provide material for WP7, for example, there are drone pilots that can assist, and AMAP also has footage. Inkode has together with the TA coordination developed an INTERACT Machine Learning Algorithm "IMLA". There will be a training campaign and advices from the station managers, the Data Safe Guard (WP1) and the experts in WP 6 will be sought.

- Hannele will announce when the training interface is ready.

Publication in Arctic Today

Terry, Morten and Martin Breum have had a meeting regarding an article in Arctic Today, but Arctic Today is looking for "breaking news" instead of describing projects like INTERACT. An idea would be to maybe try with a different journal or come up with something that would suite the scope of Arctic Today such as "INTERACT finds new species etc..."; "mobility in the Arctic and how INTERACT could help"; "Permit system – INTERACT gets authorities working". "The science agreement – is it working?"

A discussion followed on the science agreement and a good example where researchers from Poland managed to get soil samples out from Russia after 1,5 years legally was mentioned. By adding a question in the feedback form for TA users, we can receive information on how the science agreement is working. UArctic already did a survey on bottlenecks two years ago (baseline before the agreement came into force).

Station Managers' Forum is working with APECS on permits for arctic research and this work is almost ready with their deliverable report. No country has a one door science coordination office, so this work already has impact: Faroe Islands did not have a permit system at all, but the government is now working on it because of the pressure from INTERACT.

- Morten and Terry will continue to communicate with Martin Breum
- Hannele adds questions in TA feedback form (discuss with Elmer and Renuka to ensure the information gathered is useful for WP5)

Article in EU Research – magazine

EU Research magazine is one of the World's leading open access publications for scientific research and dissemination. It gets published quarterly and is distributed throughout 33 countries in Europe to over 50,000 readers. Margareta will be interviewed by one of the journalists and this will result in a paid 3-page article that will present INTERACT.



INPO

Internal documents

The internal documents have been drafted and is currently circulated within the INPO Board for review.

EU authorisation

A *per capsulam* decision has been made by INPO Board to authorise Margareta to be the LEAR (who signs forms in the EU systems) and also authorise her to open a bank account for INPO.

AINA application

AINA approached INTERACT to seek collaboration with INPO on an upcoming Youth exchange programme. This needs to be developed during the first year of the project if the application is funded. It would be like a “TA for young people”.

Remaining to dos regarding INPO:

We need to get the stations onboard, and also open a bank account.

Misc.

There is an idea to translate INTERACT products into various languages (both different nations in the Arctic but also into Indigenous languages). People like to learn in their own languages and there is especially a strong feedback from teachers. This needs to be further elaborated and has been postponed for a brainstorming meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- ASSW - 22 March: VA single entry point Launch
- ASSW - 23 March: A joint workshop with SMF, FARO, ARICE
- EGU - 19-30 April Online Vienna: joint booth with ENVRI

Any other business

A suggestion was made that INPO should apply for observer status in the Arctic Council. This will be discussed further in coming DMG meetings.

The next DMG meeting will be held on the 25th March 13-15 CET.