

Minutes

INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

28 May 2020
Zoom, online meeting platform

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

Issues related to both INTERACT II and III

INTERACT non-profit organisation

A suggested governance structure of INTERACT non-profit organisation were presented. It involves the Association's members (which is the core of the organisation), an honorary president, a board of director, association's staff and supporting members. The different roles were also suggested and discussed. In addition, the Board composition and responsibilities were discussed. Finally, next steps how to make progress on the formation on the association were presented.

INTERACT web site

It was discussed whether the website should provide announcements regarding stations being open or closed for visitors and researchers during the summer season of 2020 considering the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. The conclusion was that it would involve a lot of work to keep such a calendar updated and the risk of it getting outdated is large. Hence it was concluded that it is better if each station provides this information upon request.

The website has been updated to fit INTERACT III. New icons have been added matching the work packages: Tourism, Pollution, Artificial Intelligence, Transport & Communication, and Extreme Weather. The section regarding station management is also under the process of being thoroughly updated, as is Arctic Awareness.

Annual meeting

The first annual meeting for INTERACT III (and final meeting for INTERACT II) that was planned for Alaska, will not be held in Alaska, but rather somewhere in Europe, as easily accessible as possible for all attendees. Usually, all meetings are held close to one of the INTERACT station, but given the circumstances with Covid-19, a remote location is not ideal. Ideally, everyone will be able to join the meeting physically, but online options are considered. A suggestion was made that participants could meet up in local "clusters" and join the online meeting together to be able to foster a feeling of togetherness.



Issues related to INTERACT II

Science stories book

Progress of INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science 2 were presented. 35 Stories are reviewed and finished and seven are outstanding. The remaining stories will hopefully be finished in the coming month so that the book can then go to lay-out in the autumn. Also, progress is made with the e-book and this will take off when the hard copy is finished.

Milestones and deliverables

All milestones and deliverables are on time.

Amendments

The amendment for Mapillary to leave INTERACT is ongoing and will hopefully soon be approved and finished.

Issues related to INTERACT III

Milestones and deliverables

One deliverable “D1.12 State-of-the-art web portal” was supposed to be finished by 31 March but is slightly delayed. It is expected to be finished by the end of May instead. All other milestones and deliverables are on time.

How to ensure an integrated network?

Suggestions are online workshops with JRA (joint research activities) WPs: one in the morning, and one in the afternoon meeting to ensure that INTERACT partners from both the East and West can join. We have to make sure that the “watchdogs” are involved. WP leaders should meet the task leaders beforehand, and it was discussed how this could be encouraged (i.e. by making the INTERACT Zoom available). Another suggestion is meeting between watchdogs and work package leaders.

Other items

INTERACT Photo Competition

The photo competition was held to gather photos for the INTERACT coffee table book. Almost one hundred excellent photographers from the INTERACT Community participated in the competition. We received almost 800 pictures for the nine different categories, i.e. Arctic Fieldwork, Climate Change, Glaciers, Landscapes, Local Communities, People, Remote Field Camps, The Research Station, Wildlife and Plants. The pictures have been evaluated by an international evaluation committee, and we are now able to announce the results of the competition. The three best photos in each category are published on the INTERACT website, and social media accounts.

- Katharina should create an art exhibition in Facebook.



Science stories webinars

The INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science and Stations series started on May 12th. These webinars will be presented on Tuesday afternoons to tell captivating stories about Arctic research stations and science done at them with support from INTERACT Trans-National Access! Each webinar consists of two 30 min popular science presentations, and they are open for everyone. This webinar series is added value as it was not in the Description of Action. The webinars are recorded and published on INTERACT's YouTube channel so that people that are unable to join the webinar can access the information afterwards.