



Information for INTERACT TA/RA User Groups

The following information is aimed to help you in preparing, conducting and reporting your INTERACT Transnational Access or Remote Access. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us at the INTERACT TA Coordination office (TA project planner Heli Niittynen, heli.niittynen(at)oulu.fi), and we will do our best to guide you.

Before the access visit(s), TA/RA user groups should

- Make their own travel/logistic arrangements by keeping the total cost within the budget allocated in the access decision (in INTERACCESS)
- Consult the station (station contacts are listed at [Info to User Groups](#) -webpage) about the travel arrangements, possibly required research licenses or permits, and confirm the dates of your visit/research to the station
- Consult the station manager about the form of travel reimbursement. The options for travel reimbursement include:
 - Personal travel claim
 - Institutional invoice (only for TA Users external to [INTERACT consortium](#))
 - Station purchases the flights/tickets for the TA Users

If none of the travel reimbursement options listed above is suitable, ask the station for further procedure.

After completion of their access visit(s), TA/RA user groups must

- Provide a Project Summary Report in INTERACCESS system about the used access
- Send a travel claim/institutional invoice to the station(s) where they made their TA visit. Travel reimbursement will be paid only after the Project Summary Report has been submitted.
- Complete the EU [User Group Questionnaire](#)
- Publish the results within a reasonable time in open literature, specifying in the acknowledgements that the research has been supported by INTERACT

Note: INTERACT reserves the right to publish the project names, acronyms and short project descriptions on the INTERACT website, based on specific parts of the Project Summary Reports. Furthermore, The European Commission has the right to publish the list of users, containing the names, home institutions and the description of the project.

Important steps required for TA and RA use and related reimbursements

1) Submit Project Summary Report in INTERACCESS

You can set your project into "reporting mode" in INTERACCESS from a button that can be found from the end of your project application. Fill in and submit a Project Summary Report in [INTERACCESS](#) within 8 weeks after completion of your TA/RA to the station(s).

If your access involves several stations, you only need to complete one report. If your TA visit or RA takes place over several field seasons, you are required to submit the report for every field season.

2) Travel Arrangements and Claiming of Travel Reimbursements

-Only user group members listed in the TA decision in INTERACCESS are entitled to have their travel cost reimbursed. The group leader must request permission from the station manager and TA Coordination if it is necessary to change a research team member.

-Contact the station before you start making travel arrangements to agree on the best option for travel reimbursement.

-User groups make their own travel arrangements from home institution to the station and back, by keeping the costs within the limits provided in the TA decision. Chartered parts are arranged by the stations (e.g. ZAC, VRS, Ny-Ålesund).

-Notify the station and TA Coordination if there are changes in the travel cost estimates, timing or length of the access visit.

After the access visit, claim travel reimbursements from the station:

- Personal travel claim: Use the station's travel claim form, available from the station. Send the travel claim + banking details + original receipts of all claimed costs to the address instructed by the station within eight (8) weeks after completion of your visit.
- Institutional invoice: If your institution has purchased the tickets for you, send an institutional invoice to the address instructed by the station (only for TA Users external to [INTERACT consortium](#))
- Station has purchased the tickets >> follow station instruction for possible further actions

Accommodation at the station is not charged from the TA Users during the access visit. If accommodation is not provided at the station facility, the user groups reserve their own accommodation (reasonable priced B&B or hotel) by themselves and pay it first, and the station reimburses the costs after the visit together with the other travel costs.

Note: The research station will proceed with the travel reimbursement only after the Project Summary Report has been submitted to INTERACCESS.

Eligible costs that can be reimbursed with travel claims

Only user group members listed in the TA decision in INTERACCESS are entitled to have their travel cost reimbursed. The cost items claimed by the user groups for reimbursement must be actual costs, and verifiable by receipts.

Eligible costs that can be reimbursed:

-Quarantine costs related to COVID-19 pandemic. Only direct accommodation costs are reimbursed, up to 50 EUR/day/person. Any other costs related to COVID-19 and quarantine (meals during quarantine, vaccinations, insurances) are NOT reimbursed.

-Flight, train, bus, taxi costs

-Logistic costs/freight/shipping costs

-Visa costs

-Rental car costs, related fuel costs

-Fuel costs if using own car

Non-eligible costs that are NOT reimbursed with travel claims

The following costs are non-eligible and are not reimbursed:

Bar bills, private telephone calls, meals and food purchases during the journey to and back from the station, internet payments, contingencies, overheads, currency exchange losses etc. extra costs or services are not reimbursed. Costs of health, life and luggage insurance, and personnel costs of any kind are not reimbursed by INTERACT Transnational Access.

Daily allowances are not paid by INTERACT Transnational Access at any station.

In most stations the meals are included to the TA visit however there is exception: meals and food purchases during the access visit are not reimbursed at following stations, thus the TA Users to these stations must pay their meals and food purchases themselves: Abisko Scientific Research Station, Finse Alpine Research Station, Artic Station in Greenland, Cairngorms, Sudurnes Science and Learning Center, Canadian High Arctic Research Station, The DMI Geophysical Observatory Qaanaaq.

Use of rental or private car

Reimbursement is based on the actual costs (rent, fuel costs), km allowances are not reimbursed. Road tolls may be paid extra. When two or more participants travel together by car, travel costs will be reimbursed to only one person. Receipts required: receipt and specification of rental costs, receipts of fuel costs, copy of calculation of kilometers from www.mappy.com or www.viamichelin.com, road toll receipts (if any).

Disclaimer

Travel arrangements to INTERACT Transnational Access sites are the responsibility of the applicant. Should technical or logistical problems arise, the user groups should first contact the relevant Station Manager/Logistics Manager. Only in exceptional situations where the local personnel cannot help, should the INTERACT TA Coordination be contacted. In these exceptional circumstances, the first contact will be Hannele Savela, leader of the Transnational Access Workpackage (hannele.savela(at)oulu.fi).

INTERACT shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses caused to any user group member in connection with any Transnational Access given at the INTERACT Transnational Access sites. Transnational Access Users must have appropriate travel and health insurance and assume complete and full responsibility for any and all passport, visa, vaccination, currency exchange or other entry requirements of each destination, and all safety or security conditions at the Transnational Access sites during the length of their travel and stay.

All user group members must have an appropriate travel and health insurance, and be clear about the legal responsibilities of their employers. INTERACT has no liability to cover the extra costs of unforeseen circumstances related to travel (e.g. delays or cancellations), customs, shipment and logistics, nor has it legal responsibility for the health and welfare, including emergency and accident situations, of those who are awarded INTERACT Transnational Access.

3) Feedback about Transnational Access to the EU

To enable the European Commission to evaluate the outcome of Transnational Access, and to improve the services provided to the scientific community, each Group Leader of a user group supported by INTERACT Transnational Access is requested to complete the "User Group Questionnaire". The questionnaire must be submitted once by each user group as soon as the experiment at the infrastructure(s) comes to an end.

You will find the questionnaire at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RIsurveyUSERS>

When completing the questionnaire, please indicate the INTERACT III Grant Agreement No. 871120 and your project acronym. You can find your project acronym from INTERACCESS.

4) Publications resulting from Transnational Access to a research infrastructure

TA Users are expected to publish their results deriving from the granted access in suitable scientific publications. Below you find examples on how to acknowledge INTERACT Transnational Access in scientific publications and conference presentations.

a) Acknowledgements

The user groups should include the following sentence in the Acknowledgement section of their publications: "The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 project INTERACT, under grant agreement No. 871120".

b) Conference presentations

When you present the results of your project at scientific meetings or conferences, please acknowledge the support from INTERACT Transnational Access. You may also use the INTERACT logo, which can be obtained from the TA project planner heli.niittynen@oulu.fi.

