

## Meeting Minutes

INTERACT Work Package Leader Meeting

24 March 2023 10:30-12:30 CET

Participants: Terry Callaghan, Margareta Johansson, Simon Wilson, Niklas Labba, Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Jonny Day, Maria Erman, Hannele Savela, Pjotr Elshout, Katharina Beckmann

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### 1. WP presentations and input from others

#### WP 9 – The Arctic Resort: increasing benefits and reducing impacts from developing Arctic tourism

*Niklas Labba*

The template with tourist specific guidelines is now ready for distribution. The Kobbefjord research station has been used as a pilot station. The templates are available on the INTERACT website: (<https://eu-interact.org/tourism/>)

Niklas has developed a website with Sámi guidelines as a result of the workshop that he has had with the Sámi communities. Issues that the Sámi want visitors to consider are divided into “Attitude issues” and “Practical issues”. Niklas guided us through these. The website is not live yet. Niklas will send it to the Work Package Leaders and Daily Management Group for comments (who should submit their comments before 7<sup>th</sup> April)<sup>1</sup>.

Next step will be to talk to Sámi Finnish parliament who are looking for advice on how to develop a certification system.

#### WP 8 – Cleaner Arctic, cleaner world: documenting and reducing pollution

*Simon Wilson*

Deliverable 8.3 was delivered on time. Simon has been encouraging the engagement of station managers and arranged a workshop in Toronto in connection to an ArcticNet meeting. Five passive sample networks and 19 INTERACT research stations were represented. The biggest geographic gap is Russia due to the war.

The stations need some money to get passive samplers (not very expensive) – would it be possible to redistribute money for this? Remote access money cannot be used for this unless it can go under “added value”. If remote access is not an option, we could ask to make a budget transfer within WP8 if there are still excess funds to be used for this.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.samigeaidnu.com>  
Sami

If the prolongation is accepted, this would be very welcomed by this work package, as an additional field seasons would help deploying the passive samples that will monitor organic pollutants of emerging concern (for example mercury).

## WP 7– Preparing for a future world: improving education and awareness at all societal levels

*Terry Callaghan*

The science stories book has had a new animation added and there is only one animation left until it is completed.

It has taken almost a year to get the contract finished with BBC, and now there is a very high activity. Terry has received rough cuts of the 4 films (Disappearing homes; Tourism; Extreme Events; Arctic Amplification) and will receive the fine cuts shortly. Terry is also still awaiting the explanatory graphics. The films are of a very high quality. Deadline is by the end of June, but it should be ready well ahead of that. We could then start planning on how to release the films.

The BBC films and the trailer for Northwards could be shown at the Arctic Circle meeting in Iceland in October – an INTERACT movie night. We need a brainstorming meeting to discuss how to use all the unused material.

The British government is having an environmental audit next week and Terry will be there.

## WP 6– Climate Action: Making data widely available

*Maria Erman*

This work package has fulfilled all their deliverables and milestones on time. The only update is that they have sent the technical report for the second periodic report. All material from this work package, including the Master Theses that were written in collaboration with this work package, are available on the [INTERACT website](#).

## WP 5– Connecting the Arctic: Transport and Communication

*Pjotr Elshout*

WP5 did a new survey on the Arctic Science Agreement and received roughly 25 replies. They have asked for a new deadline (July 2023) to allow time to include the answers for this additional survey that was made to have results from before and after the outbreak of the war (Russia-Ukraine).

One question that could be discussed in a smaller group is how we can make the topic interesting also for the Antarctic community. We should also get in touch with the Danish Ministry for higher education who were outlining the Arctic Science Agreement. Elmer will contact Pjotr and help him get in touch with the right people.

## WP 4 – Unpredictable Arctic – extreme weather events

*Jonny Day*

Task 4.4 - Advancing the exploitation of INTERACT station data to improve weather predictions - is almost ready. This task is aligned with the YOPP site model intercomparison model where modellers and observationalists are brought together to work on a common set of problems. A common format for observatory and model data has been developed to facilitate process-oriented diagnostics – Merged Observatory/Model Data Files (MOD/MMDFs).

A potential game-changer that this work package has been working on is a MODF-Scheme (Merged Observatory Data File) to bring together the various data (such as temperature, soil moisture etc.) from the stations, processing it (bringing together meta-data and who is responsible) and do investigations about model performance. When it comes to forecast, a common issue in polar regions has been to underestimate extreme colds.

All WP4 deliverables are complete. Four papers are in preparation and will be submitted soon. Next steps are to await the publication of these papers, and submitting an application for a cross Copernicus special issue to contain these. A standardization and archiving of the data at the MET Norway YOPP portal are also ongoing. There are no more tasks ahead apart from finalizing what is already in the pipeline.

## WP 3 – Giving Access to the Arctic

*Hannele Savela*

A brief summary since September. The TA call closed in November. The TA board has been evaluating the applications and 57 out of 93 were accepted. The budget transfer calculations have been a challenge, especially since we cannot be sure that there will be a prolongation. About 200 000 Euros have been re-allocated. Now the stations have made their access decisions. In total during INTERACT III, 73 user groups have been using Transnational Access and it is currently 39 stations that are offering TA.

Several events and webinars have been arranged. At ASSW there was a TA user meeting that was recorded and will be published shortly. This was also a milestone in the work package. Next week there will be a webinar for station managers. There will also be a webinar for the new user groups that have been granted access, and a webinar for station managers and administrators on how to declare costs.

There are currently no new needs or requests from the other work packages. There have been collaborations with WP 5 and WP 2 (The workshop in Brussels between Faro, EPB, and ARICE) where barriers to Arctic science were brought up, for example funding issues. This could be brought forward in the policy brief to the Arctic Council.

## WP 2 – Station Managers Forum (SMF)

*Elmer Topp-Jørgensen*

Elmer guided us through the deliverables of this work package. INTERACT GIS was re-launched in February with new features. The ownership will be transferred to Umeå University. One of the books regarding “Best practices of Station Management” will be submitted next month. It is a draft paper analyzing all INTERACT stations (including the Russian stations) to show what impact the geopolitical situation has on the science.

A Pocket guide on metadata standards scientific networks is postponed and work is ongoing. A repository with selected data from INTERACT stations integrated in the INTERACT GIS system is also in progress. A pocket guide on how to reduce plastic consumption and pollution is in progress and will hopefully be out next month. The promised SMF meetings have already been held, but there will be a few bonus meetings as well.

*Input needed from other WPs:*

WP4 - It would be nice to have input to methodologies for monitoring abiotic extreme events (ECMWF). It is also a requirement to get input on which ecosystem components to monitor to assess the impact of extreme events on species and ecosystems (CAFF).

WP8 - Required from AMAP is assistance in connection to get implementation of AMAP protocol. It would also be an asset if AMAP would comment on how to reduce plastic consumption and pollution.

WP9 - Comments to potential booklets/brochures on how to handle tourism at research stations (not a requirement, but would be nice to have). Next month all stations are invited to a meeting to talk about how we can move along with other topics (rollups, and other display material for the stations).

## WP 1 – Project Coordination

*Margareta Johansson*

Since the last general assembly in September, WP1 has focused on EU administration work. First of an amendment to terminate the contract for the Russian partners was prepared and have finally been approved. As a consequence of this, termination reports from Russian partners have been submitted by all Russian partners but it has taken very long for the EU to review these and hence they are still not finished. We have also been working on the second periodic report, and it is complete, but we cannot submit it until the termination reports for the Russian partners have been approved by the EU. Finally, after the submission and approval of the periodic report we can hand in the amendment regarding a 12-month extension (and also the termination of one partner, DASHE, and some deliverable deadlines). We don't need to prolong everybody's work packages if they are already done. We are following the original schedule (with the exception of field work – the two lost field seasons need to be postponed).

As a project, we are not allowed to work with Russian state owned institutions. But for individuals collaborating with Russian colleagues, they should just leave out the acknowledgement of INTERACT/EU project. Acknowledgements that are before the war can stay. It is up to each institution and country to determine whether ongoing collaborations are ok or not.



### 3. Any other issues

5 new stations are joining the network, and now there are 74 stations in total apart from the 21 Russian stations that are on pause.

Some of the new stations are already filling out their information in the INTERACT GIS system and some of that information will be automatically transferred to the INTERACT website (for the moment it is done manually).