

Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities



Dx.x- SMF 7 minutes

Project No.730938– INTERACT

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Lead partner for deliverable: UCPH

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Station Managers’ Forum V Minutes

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1. Publishable executive summary

The INTERACT SMF meeting VII was held online due to COVID travel restrictions. The meeting was an added activity and therefore has no deliverable number. The meeting was used to present recent achievement of the SMF and carry the final activities related to the DoW.

INTERACT II – Station Managers’ Forum VII

2. Minutes from Station Managers’ Forum, 22 September 2020

2.1. Station Manager Forum

Morten Rasch welcomed all participants to the online Station Managers’ Forum (SMF) VII, which will also be the final SMF meeting of INTERACT II. The Coordination and Transnational Access work packages (WP 1 and 4) will continue for one more year due to COVID-19. The rest of the work packages will close by the end of September 2020.

The Station Managers’ Forum in INTERACT II is coordinated by Morten Rasch, Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Laura Lønstrup and Marie Frost Arndal. 48 online participants representing 35 stations were registered and a short introduction round was conducted.

2.2. Achievements of SMF in INTERACT II

As this meeting had changed into an online meeting due to COVID-19, the agenda was reduced quite a lot to fit into a short online meeting.

Morten gave a short wrap up of all the milestones and deliverables achieved in INTERACT II. By the end of INTERACT II, there were 42 partners and 88 stations involved. There has been a total of seven Station Managers’ Fora, and 16 deliverables and 15 milestones achieved. Books and other outreach products published or in press include:

1. INTERACT Fieldwork Planning Handbook – in cooperation with APECS
2. INTERACT Practical Field Guide – in cooperation with APECS
3. INTERACT Station Catalogue 2020
4. INTERACT Card game (3rd edition)

Several other bonus products also available such as:

1. “Images of Arctic Science”, which is based on c. 100 pictures from the INTERACT Photo Competition 2020 (c. 800 pictures received from c. 100 photographers). The book is already available online and hard copies will be distributed at the next physical meeting.
2. INTERACT guidebook: Reducing the Environmental Impact of Arctic Research Stations – in press
3. INTERACT guidebook: Reducing the Environmental Impact of arctic fieldwork – in press

Remaining milestones and deliverables:

- Three of four safety courses for station managers have already been held. UNIS has been leading this task and the final milestone, i.e. the 4th safety course/seminar, was held later during this meeting.
- INTERACT Research and Monitoring Report, 2nd edition, was delayed as data gathering for the report was affected by the COVID situation. It is expected to be finalized and published on the INTERACT homepage within the next few days.

INTERACT GIS has been further developed with an improved application module, and integration of station catalogue features and research and monitoring information. From now on, research

stations can update station information themselves by creating a user account as station manager in INTERACT GIS. Also the management organization that was established at SMF VI is now in operation.

2.3. Safety course

Presented by Fred Skancke Hansen from the Arctic Safety Centre at the University Centre in Svalbard presented a safety course on following theme:

- Safety during field work in mountainous terrain and on sea ice.

The presentations are available at <https://eu-interact.org/presentations-from-station-managers-forum-vii-in-interact-ii/>

2.4. SMF and COVID-19

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, it is uncertain how long we have to keep on with online SMF meetings. Virtual meetings necessitates agendas shorter than our normal two days meetings. We therefore need to consider different ways of securing that the deliverables and milestones are reached in a timely manner and high quality in an online meeting scenario.

How this could be achieved was discussed in a plenum session addressing the following questions:

- How should we adapt SMF meetings and activities to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19?
- Online meetings, seminars, surveys, Open Floor Sessions?
- Platform for meetings, frequency and duration of online meetings?
- How should we deal with time-zone differences?

All agreed that shorter meetings would be the best. Two identical meetings to cover two time zones would be helpful. Social interactions and informal information exchange and project development will be difficult to achieve during online meetings. Online SMF meetings should be thematic and focus on milestone and deliverable input to SMF and other WPs and information exchange between stations.

THE SMF coordinators will plan for short online meetings in the future with regular interval, such as every 2-3 months.

2.5. Assorted information

The photos from the new “Images of Arctic Science” book can be used in INTERACT related material. If you want to explore photos, please contact Morten Rasch (mras@ign.ku.dk) who can provide a link to a Dropbox with the photos, and/or help you to get in contact with the photographers.

2.6. Closing of SMF

Elmer thanked all participants and Morten closed the SMF meeting. SMF personnel will look forward to frequent and shorter online meetings in the future, but we will also miss the physical meetings with the social and informal information exchange aspects.