

Minutes

INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

22 March 2022

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

1. INTERACT 2 Reporting

We have submitted the INTERACT 2 final report again but got it in return as we have Russian partners in the project and the EU does not at the moment know how to deal with this in a final report. We will make a final submission as soon as the EU has provided guidelines how to proceed.

2. INTERACT 3

Amendment

We have an amendment request (for a 1-year extension) that has not been submitted. We are waiting for further instructions from the EU regarding the participation of the Russian partners, can we keep them or should their participation be terminated. When we receive further guidelines, we will proceed and submit the amendment.

Helmholz recap

Margareta participated in the ARICE general assembly and found out the following about the potential upcoming call from the EU that AWI would like to coordinate: The EU is requesting thematic topics. Some stations, some ships and both poles will be involved in this call. This is not about INTERACT joining as a whole. The Daily Management Group gave Margareta the mandate to discuss further with Nicole Biebow from ARICE/EU Polar Net. If possible, we want INPA to have a role in the project. There is no current call for INTERACT to secure its future. The joint policy brief with ARICE and FARO will be important as a platform for lobbying for INTERACT at EU level. The overarching topics in the call are not yet specified, but the infrastructure matrix map that was created for the INTERACT III application might be useful.

The EU polar cluster has a policy task group which Margareta is part of. In the upcoming meeting in Brussel this could be further discussed.

Instead of waiting, can we do any lobbying at the EU? If we can figure out who to talk to at the EU this would definitely be interesting. This can be further discussed at the upcoming physical DMG meeting in Finland.

There will be a FARO & ARICE meeting in April where they will also talk about the upcoming EU Polarnet 2 workshop on polar observing systems (which will be held on the 19th June).

A pre-meeting will be held at 1 PM the same day (the 19th) for those who are invited (Elmer, Margareta, Hannele).

3. INPA

Membership forms

We will send out the membership agreement forms to those stations who joined (but currently pausing Russian stations until the ongoing situation has changed).

Upcoming General Assembly

We need to have the INPA GA before the end of June. The conclusions from the doodle poll were 23-24 May. It will be a hybrid meeting based at a castle in Denmark. We need to discuss what to do with the Russian stations given the current situation. We must think about their safety as well and that is why it can make sense to temporarily pause the collaboration.

- Katharina and Luisella will send out invitations to INPA members to participate at the General Assembly.

INPA Web site

The INPA website is developed by Tomsk State University and is almost ready. The next step is to ensure that we are able to change the content of the site, add news etc.

- Luisella will contact staff at TSU to ensure that INPA can make changes on the web site.

INPA Staff

A potential project manager working for INPA is Caro who works at WWF in the UK. Margareta will talk to her on Friday. She can start working 6th June at the earliest.

- Luisella and Margareta will put together a job description and inform the Board of any progress with hiring a project manager to work for INPA.

Project update

Arctic Passion

The General Assembly will be held end of June in Denmark. Maggan, Luisella and a project manager will participate. The most urgent problem INPA has in Arctic Passion is to replace the three Russian stations with other stations as Arctic Passion does not collaborate with Russia from February 2022.

eRImote

The kickoff meeting for eRImote is planned for the end of June in Hamburg, Germany. Hannele will participate on behalf of INPA.

ABC- iCAP

There is a contract that needs to be read and signed and in addition, parts of the whole project plan will be revisited (as a large part of the work was planned to be carried out in Russia). At the moment we are not aware of the potential impacts on INPA, so will get back to that as soon as we know anything.

4. TA Visits 2022

The Russian TA stations have received emails from Margareta saying that the upcoming projects are cancelled for summer 2022. About 14 will be cancelled for the upcoming season. In total, 100 access decisions have been sent out for the field season 2022. Two stations still haven't made their access decisions. 51-52 projects will be carried out + 30 projects from earlier seasons that have been postponed and will hopefully be carried out in the upcoming summer.

5. Upcoming external meetings

ASSW – TA session and booth

Hannele, Kirsi, Margareta, Katharina and Terry are going. We will have to talk about the ongoing situation at the meeting – there are similarities to the covid situation (cancelling TA etc.). It is better being prepared to talk about this as the question will come up in one way or another. The organizer has also cancelled participation from Russian colleagues which affects the planned TA User session as Sasha from Salekhard was one of the speakers.

- Margareta and Terry will send an email to Sasha about ASSW (that Russian participants sadly are not welcome).

EGU

Nobody is able to attend this year and hence INTERACT will not have a presence at EGU.

6. Upcoming INTERACT meetings

Daily Management Group meetings

The DMG will meet in person in Finland. Arrival day is the 26th of April and the meeting will start early on the 27th. The group will depart on the 29th of April.

Next General Assembly

The next general assembly will be held 26-30 September 2022. We have talked about Toolik, Alaska, but as North America still has a quarantine of 10 days this might not be an option. We could approach Finse again and stay at a nearby hotel (Ustaoset) or an Icelandic station, perhaps Rif. For now, we should think practically and choose a venue that is easily accessible for most members.