



# EU Polar Cluster

Pjotr Elshout, EU Polar Cluster Coordinator  
European Polar Board, Project Officer





A strong, well-connected network of European  
Polar projects and organisations operating  
together to substantially increase their combined  
impact and legacy



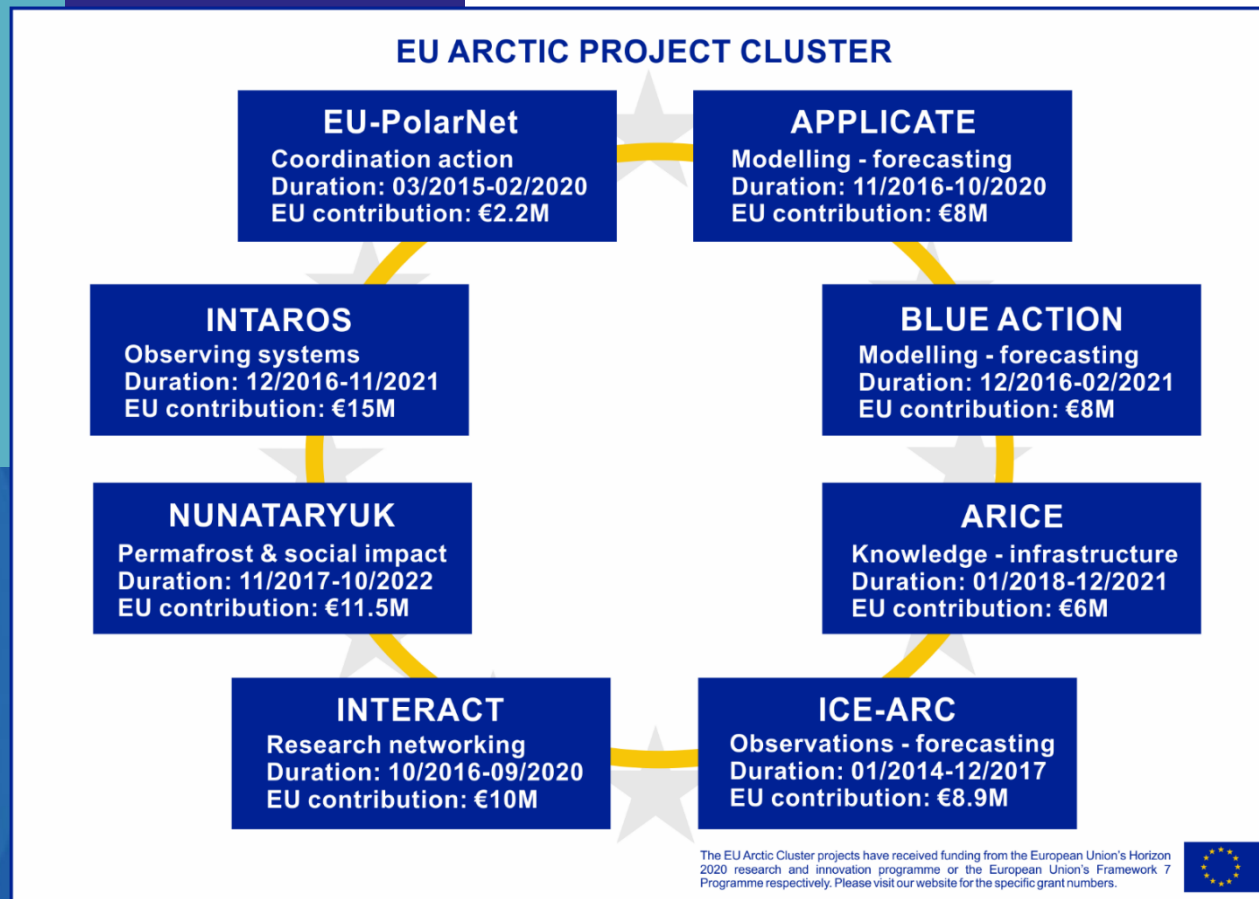
# The beginning: the EU Polar Cluster



## 3 priority areas

1. Climate change and safeguarding the Arctic Environment
2. Sustainable Development in and around the Arctic
3. International Cooperation on Arctic Issues.

AN INTEGRATED  
EUROPEAN UNION POLICY  
FOR THE ARCTIC





# Current projects and partners



Polar	<div></div>
Arctic	<div></div>
Antarctic	<div><div></div><div><p>Partners</p></div></div>





- **H2020 project** (CSA) to co-develop and advance European Polar research actions
- 25 consortium members  
22 European countries
- **Duration**  
01.10.2020 – 30.09.2024
- **Coordinator:**  
Alfred Wegner Institute (AWI)



[www.eu-polarnet.eu](http://www.eu-polarnet.eu)



- **Independent organisation** focused on major strategic priorities in the Arctic and Antarctic
- 28 Member organisations  
20 European countries
- **Established**  
1995
- **Hosting:** NWO in The Hague



[www.eupolarboard.org](http://www.eupolarboard.org)



- **Collaboration** of Arctic and Antarctic projects funded by the EC
- 24 projects,  
3 permanent members
- **Established** 2016/2019
- **Coordinator:** EU-PolarNet 2 (BAS, EPB, AWI)



[www.polarcluster.eu](http://www.polarcluster.eu)



# Working together

## Added values of clustering activities

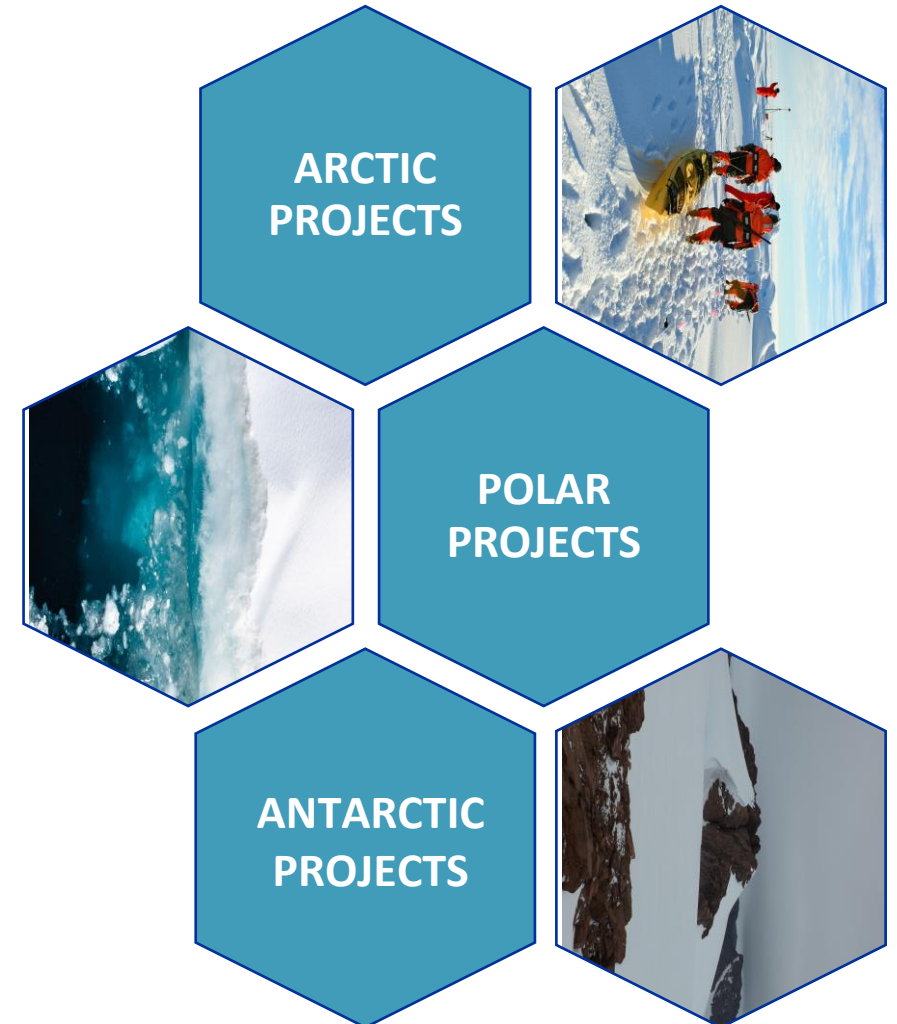
**Higher impacts** than single project's outputs

Increased **knowledge sharing**

**Joint activities** for less but better engagement with stakeholders

**Creating synergies** between already planned activities for greater visibility

**Pooling resources** (human, financial, in kind...) for better use of citizen's money





# Mission of the EU Polar Cluster



- To **connect** EU Polar Cluster Members, further developing the European polar research, observation, and infrastructure, and modelling **community network**.
- To organise **joint activities** by Cluster Members for greater impact than possible individually, while minimising duplication, sharing workload, and avoiding stakeholder fatigue.
- To support the sustainability and accessibility of large-scale EU-funded Polar projects' selected **legacy** outputs after their official end.
- To share **advice and best practices** among EU Polar Cluster Members.
- To **promote** the European polar research community, especially the strength, excellence, integration and best practices of EU-funded polar research.
- To provide a single **contact point** to all EU Polar Cluster Members for external partners.



# Cluster joint activities



## EU Polar Cluster joint events & booths

- Arctic Forum 2021
- SMM 09-2022
- Arctic Circle 10-2022



## Annual meetings

- EU Polar Science Week 2020
- Brussels, June 2022
- Brussels, May/June 2023 (tbc)





# Cluster joint activities



## Thematic workshops on different topics

- Covid-19 impacts on Cluster members, January 2021
- Impact of war in Ukraine on members, May 2022

## Horizon Booster

- Flyer
- Video (in preparation)



HORIZON  
RESULTS  
BOOSTER

An initiative  
of the





# Cluster joint policy advice



## Webinar 'The new Arctic Policy and Research & Innovation'



## COP26 EU Pavilion side event 'Polar Warming, Global Warning'





# Cluster structure

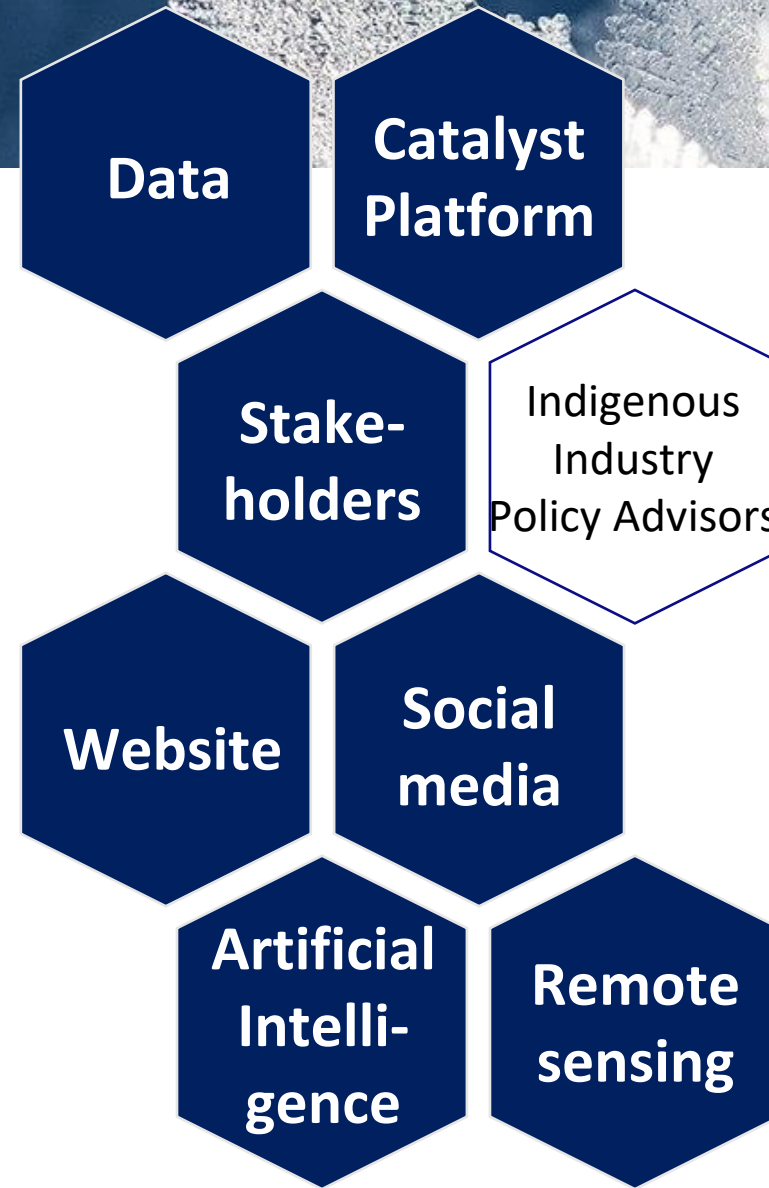


## Working groups

- Ongoing activities applicable to selected Cluster members
- More focused activities
- Involving people from relevant projects

## Cluster Curators

- Few people, responsible for the smaller working groups

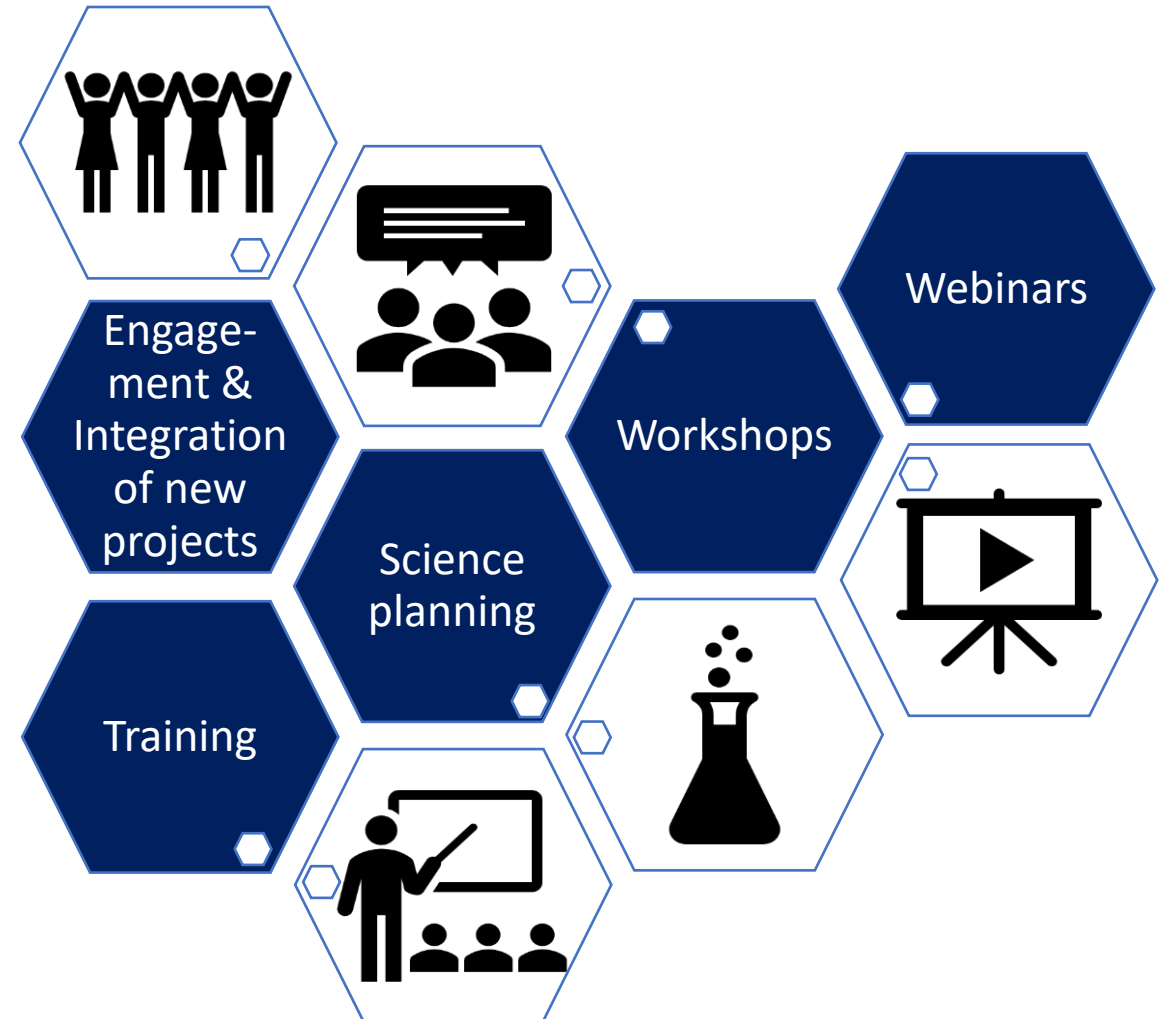




# Cluster structure

## Action groups

- Science planning groups
- Based on a topic
- Short lived (few months), deadlines
- Clear goals, deliverables and outcomes







# Collaborative tools



[@EUPolarCluster](https://twitter.com/EUPolarCluster)  
[#EUPolarCluster](https://twitter.com/EUPolarCluster)

[www.facebook.com/groups/EUPolarCluster](https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUPolarCluster)



[www.polarcluster.eu](https://www.polarcluster.eu)



# Newsletters



Summer 2021

## EU Polar Cluster Newsletter

Welcome to the EU Polar Cluster's newsletters!

The aim of these newsletters are to give you an update of the key inter-project activities. These are organised through the **Task Groups** - so the primary focus of this newsletter is the updates from these Task Groups. In addition we have provided the links to those projects that have published their own **newsletters** in the recent months. It is not appropriate or practical for all projects to write their own, so these projects will update through the task groups.

For several situations, there are areas that overlap the Task Groups, in particular conferences, where for example we need to communicate to policy stakeholders. These **cross-cutting events** are listed below - with our plans for upcoming events, and a summary of the outputs of recent events. These events are managed by **Working Groups** from across the projects and TGs as appropriate.

As there are a lot of projects, and you may not be familiar with all of them, but there are too many for one go, we've agreed the best approach is to **focus on highlighting 3-4 projects** each time. This edition we cover the highlights of two recently completed projects, APPLICATE and KEPLER, and introduce our two new projects, Arctic PASSION and CRICES.

Please forward this link on to colleagues to sign up for newsletters (task group mailing lists are added directly) [Cluster mailing list - sign up here](#)

Elaina Ford, BAS (EU Polar Cluster Coordinator)

### Task Group Updates

See [www.polarcluster.eu/task-groups](http://www.polarcluster.eu/task-groups) for descriptions, aims, and contact points.

### Communication and Dissemination Task Group

We have been working over the last few months on several aspects of the Cluster. This has been possible

thanks to the help of many people. Over the last few months, through the 'bottom-up' project to develop



Winter 2021

## EU Polar Cluster Newsletter

Welcome to the second EU Polar Cluster's newsletter. There's been a lot of progress over the year, and despite covid projects are working together. This includes:

- Conference sessions: ASSW, COP26, EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue
- Webinars: EU's new Arctic Policy, ICYMARE, eScience Tools in Climate Science, and several project training webinars (see website for more info)
- Cluster website and social media development (please check your project pages, and make sure you tag the Cluster, and post your items to the Facebook account)
- Increased collaboration through Cluster and TG meetings, Teams site, and newsletters.

The aim of these newsletters are to give you an update of the key inter-project activities, which are organised through the **Task Groups** which give updates below.

Highlights are included on our **cross-cutting events**, where TGs have worked together with a summary of the outputs of recent events. These events are managed by **Working Groups** from across the projects and TGs as appropriate.

As there are a lot of projects, and you may not be familiar with all of them, but there are too many to describe in one go, we've agreed the best approach is to **focus on projects** highlighting a few each edition - here we cover Blue Action and INTERACT III that have recently ended.

We were hoping to have an in person Cluster wide project meeting in March, but with the omicron variant this looks unlikely, so we will likely postpone. We'll be in touch again in the New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a healthy and safe New Year.

Elaina Ford (EU Polar Cluster Coordinator)

### Task Group Updates



Spring 2022

## EU Polar Cluster Newsletter

Welcome to the EU Polar Cluster's newsletters. We have a lot of updates for you this edition:

### Contents

- Task Group updates
- Project newsletters
- Events - highlights from recent events, as well as upcoming events you might be interested in
- Project Focus - we continue the series of highlighting a few projects each edition - this time we have new Cluster member ARCOS, and recently ended projects INTAROS and iCUPE. We also have an update from INTERACT (version II ended but III continues) - they have recently launched an e-book, INTERACT-ive.

Other key updates for you:

### Cluster structure change - task groups

We have had a low turn out to the Task Group meetings over the last year, with many Cluster Members not sending substitutes if they can't make it. This is a combination of factors, zoom fatigue, busy diaries, relevance. The coordination group have discussed this and decided that, whilst it worked for the Cluster originally when it was smaller, this format no longer provides the best collaboration mechanism. We therefore will disband the Task Group structure, and will look to a new format.

This will be agreed at the in-person meeting. If you have ideas, please pass them to your project coordinator or organisation chair to raise (or email me).







# Calls publicity



[Home](#) ▶ [Calls/Vacancies](#)

## Calls and Vacancies

Open calls or position vacancies

**SO-CHIC VISUALISATION CONTEST OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS** 

CREATE A VISUALISATION / ILLUSTRATION THAT DESCRIBES THE SO-CHIC PROJECT

**DEADLINE: 31 OCTOBER 2022**

ONE WINNER AND 3 RUNNER-UPS 

LEARN MORE: [WWW.EUROPEANPOLARBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.EUROPEANPOLARBOARD.ORG) 

  **SUBMISSIONS TO BE SENT TO [EPB@NWO.NL](mailto:EPB@NWO.NL)**

**ISAR-7**  
March 6-10, 2023  
Tachikawa, Japan

Transdisciplinary studies on a rapidly changing Arctic toward a sustainable society

**SESSION: High-latitude Fires, Arctic Climate, Environment, and Health (HiFACE 2)**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS | Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2022**  
[www.jcar.org/isar-7/abstract/](http://www.jcar.org/isar-7/abstract/)

Hybrid Session (Online) [www.centreforwildfires.org](http://www.centreforwildfires.org)

## Climate Coffees

ECRA and Blue-Action invite colleagues from across the climate science community to join us for a new series of regular online knowledge exchange events.

These relaxed meetings are an opportunity to share ideas, discuss methods and communicate new results.

All speakers and topics: [ecra-climate.eu/ClimateCoffee](http://ecra-climate.eu/ClimateCoffee)  
Sign up: [coffee@ecra-climate.eu](mailto:coffee@ecra-climate.eu)

 BLUE ACTION

 The Blue-Action project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 727052

 ECRA  
European Climate Research Alliance





# Collaboration through the Catalyst platform



## CATALYST

### Starred

# EU-Polar-Cluster\_Catalyst-task-group  
# EU-Polar-Cluster\_general  
🏠 EU-PolarNet Catalyst Contacts  
# EU-PolarNet-2-Services

### Groups

Add Group +  
# ASSW-2023  
# Antarctic-Research  
# Arctic-Circle-2022  
# EU-Polar-Cluster\_Catalyst-task-group  
# EU-Polar-Cluster\_general  
# EU-PolarNet-2-Services  
# Infrastructure-and-Logistics-Group  
# Public-T6.1-WS-Group  
# Science-Group  
🏠 EU Polar Cluster\_Catalyst contacts  
🏠 EU-PolarNet Catalyst Contacts

### User

My Account  
My Stream  
My Content  
Moderation Queues

### Users

Manage Tags  
Resources

### #Arctic-Circle-2022 ☆

Arctic Circle 2022 Cluster booth

[Discussion](#) [Resources](#) [Members](#)



**Anneli Strobel** • Tue 12th July

EU-PolarNet 2 is planning to attend and organise a Cluster booth



**Michael Karcher** • Tue 6th September

Hi, Arctic PASSION will be present with a number of our participants and be involved in orga

- ROADS and the concept of Shared Arctic Variables
- Wildfires as a Shared Arctic Variable
- Funding International Arctic Science



**Anneli Strobel** • Wed 7th September

Dear all, the Cluster booth at Arctic Circle 2022 has just been confirmed by the Arctic Circle. It will be located in **Harp's corner** on the second level of Harpa Concert Hall and Conference

In case your Cluster project is attending Arctic Circle, please let us know so we can organise

If there are no representatives of your project attending Arctic Circle, we can add information



**Sabrina Heerema** • Thu 8th September

Thanks for this information! ECOTIP has a session and 4 people from the project will be the



**Anneli Strobel** • Thu 8th September

Dear Arctic Circle participants and Cluster colleagues, we created a spreadsheet to fill in wh



APPLICATION/VND.OPENXMLFORMATS-OFFICEDOCUMENT.SPREADSHEETML

[Home](#) / [Events](#)

## Upcoming Events

**12 - 14  
Oct  
2022**

**13 - 16  
Oct  
2022**

[Home](#) / [News](#)

**EU Polar Cluster panel at SMM 2022, Hamburg, Germany: Operations in ice-covered waters. How can the maritime industry benefit from cooperation with science?**

Thursday, August 25th, 2022

08 September 2022, 13:35 - 14:35 How can the maritime industry benefit from cooperation with science? Moderator: Christine Valentin, Executive Director, World Ocean Council Europe Maritime traffic in ...

**Early Career Researcher for the Remote Sensing Working Group, deadline 20 August 2022**

Wednesday, August 10th, 2022

Each year since 2020, the SIOS Remote Sensing Working Group (RSWG) offers an early career researcher (ECR) the opportunity to serve as an observer member of the working group. The ECR acts as a SIOS a...



**CVL early adopters call, deadline 31 August 2022**

Wednesday, August 10th, 2022

The Cryosphere Virtual Lab platform is evolving and looking for early adopters! Application deadline has been extended to 31st of August 2022. From September 2022 CVL will be open for beta testing to ...



# Member Fact Sheets

- Overview of Cluster aims and objectives
- One page summaries of each member
- At website & Catalyst platform



## Welcome to the EU Polar Cluster – a collaboration of Arctic and Antarctic projects funded by the European Commission

The EU Polar Cluster is a network of collaborative polar [projects](#) funded by the European Commission, and two permanent members, the EPB and SIOS. We have a range of [Arctic](#), [Antarctic and Southern Ocean](#), and [Polar](#) projects. [Projects that have ended](#) still provide input to the Cluster, and we include them here to support the legacy of these projects.

The Cluster thus merges a broad spectrum of research and coordination activities – ranging from the most up-to-date findings on permafrost and sea ice, from enhancing observation to improving predictions, and from networking research stations to coordinating access to icebreakers.

Our objective is to bring the insights from our various areas of expertise together in order to provide one entry point to EU funded Polar research. Jointly we are aiming at providing policy-relevant information and supporting the EU in implementing its integrated policy for the Arctic.

How do we do this? In fostering international cooperation, in reporting on the impacts of climate change on the Arctic's fragile environment, in promoting sustainable development and in cooperating with policy makers, indigenous peoples and local communities, business and NGO representatives and other societal actors.

More information:

[www.polarcluster.eu](http://www.polarcluster.eu)

[@EUPolarCluster](#)

[www.facebook.com/groups/eupolarcluster](https://www.facebook.com/groups/eupolarcluster)



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- To promote the European polar research community, especially the strength, excellence, integration and best practices of EU-funded polar research.
- To provide a single contact point to all EU Polar Cluster Members for external partners and stakeholders, including Indigenous and local communities.

## Added value of clustering activities

- Higher impacts than single project's outputs
- Upscale collective projects' efforts
- Increased knowledge sharing
- Less but better engagement with stakeholders
- Greater visibility
- Better use of citizen's money



[www.polarcluster.eu](http://www.polarcluster.eu)





Thank you!

Contact: [p.elshout@nwo.nl](mailto:p.elshout@nwo.nl)



EU-PolarNet 2 project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101003766

