WP2 – Station Managers' Forum in INTERACT III

INTERACT III General Assembly,
Toolik Field Station, Alaska,
14 October 2023

Morten Rasch
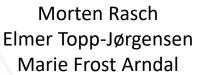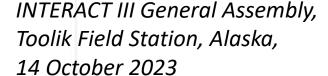Elmer Topp-Jørgensen
Marie Frost Arndal

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Aims of WP2

The aim of the INTERACT's Station Manager Forum (SMF) is to foster a culture of cooperation between stations and with scientific communities, industries, local communities and infrastructures in other regions.

Specifically, the objectives are to:
A. **Innovate** station management to better support excellent research and monitoring and to collect, exchange and refine information needed for operating INTERACT stations as one advanced infrastructure.
B. **Support** excellent science and innovation addressing INTERACT's Societal Challenges (SC) by interfacing with JRA's and TA/RA/VA activities.
C. **Integrate** new partner stations, their activities and data in the existing advanced community of INTERACT stations.
D. **Promote** cooperation on infrastructure management and safety with Antarctic, alpine, atmospheric and marine communities.

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Reporting of WP2

Workpackage 2 is a large workpackage:

Stations involved: 73 (94)
Tasks: 6 (16 sub-tasks)
Budget for 2020-23: c. 2 mio. EURO
Deliverables: 13
Milestones: 24

We can therefore, due to time limitations, not go into details with all the work currently being done within the workpackage. In this presentation, we will focus on what has been achieved since last annual meeting.

All achieved milestones, deliverables and publications can be found on the INETRACT website.

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Tasks in WP2

Task 2.0: Operate the Station Managers' Forum (UCPH)

Task 2.1: The unpredictable Arctic – WP4 (AU)

Task 2.2: Transport and communication – WP5 (AWI)

Task 2.3: Making station data and publications widely available – WP6 (UCPH)

Task 2.4: Educating local communities and decision makers – WP7 (UCPH)

Task 2.5: Cleaner Arctic – WP8 (Lead: AU)

Task 2.6: The Arctic Resort – WP9 (Lead: UKRI)

Task 2.0
Operate Station Managers' Forum (Lead: UCPH)

Milestones

M2.1-5: SMF meetings (Months 3, 13, 25, 37, 48)

M2.6-9: Seminars on themes chosen by station managers (Months 3, 13, 25, 37)

M2.10: Technical staff workshop (Month 25)

M2.11: Workshop on best practices of research infrastructure management with participation of other communities (Month 13)

Bonus products:
- Policy level workshop in Brussels with EU representatives arranged jointly with FARO, ARICE and EPB
- Contribution to European Polar Board (EPB) Environmental Impacts Report
- Input to ICARP IV in cooperation with EPB and FARO (ongoing)
- Sessions at Arctic Science Summit Week
- Presentation about INTERACT Tools at EUROGEO Workshop

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Task 2.0
Operate Station Managers' Forum (Lead: UCPH)

Deliverables

D2.1: INTERACT GIS with new features (Month 22)

D2.2: Updated digital Station Catalogue integrated in INTERACT GIS (Month 28)

D2.3: Web-editions of updated 'INTERACT Fieldwork Planning Handbook' (Month 35)

D2.4: Web-editions of updated 'Best Practices of Station Management' (Month 48)

D2.5: Updated 'INTERACT Minimum Monitoring Programme' (Month 48)

D2.6: Guide on research permit systems for all arctic countries (Month 14)

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Task 2.1
Unpredictable Arctic (Lead: AU)

Milestones and deliverables

M2.12: Extreme event monitoring field test implemented at minimum four stations (Month 36)

M2.13: Rapid biodiversity change monitoring field test implemented at minimum four stations (Month 42)

Both milestones postponed due to pause in Arctic Council working group activities (Ukraine conflict). Expected ready for test implementation late in 2023.

Bonus product:
Review paper on extreme events studies in the Arctic

Task 2.2
Transport and communication (Lead: AWI)

Milestones and deliverables

M2.14: Session at SMF on communication and positioning systems (Month 13)

D2.7: Pocket guide on how to reduce CO_2 emissions in Arctic science (Month 26)

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Task 2.3 - Making station data and publications widely available (Lead: UCPH)

Milestones and deliverables

M2.15-16: Seminars on state-of-the-art methods/technologies for environmental monitoring (Months 25, 37)

M2.17: Selection of photos from different stations provided to WP6 (month 12)

D2.8: Pocket guide on metadata standards for scientific networks (Month 29) - Deadline postponed to align with Register of Polar Observing Networks under SAON/Arctic Council (POAwg)

D2.9: Repository with selected data from INTERACT stations integrated in INTERACT GIS (Month 44)

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Task 2.4 - Station outreach: Educating local communities and decision makers (Lead: UCPH)

Milestones

M2.18: Courses on community based monitoring of local relevance held at schools and/or high schools near four stations (Month 25 – postponed due to Covid-19 – achieved in Month 33)

M2.19-20: 'Open House' thematic days on respectively invasive species and plastic at minimum ten research stations (Months 31, 40)
- Postponed due to Covid-19. Material for Open House events ready and already in use at some stations
- Posters and presentations ready for use

M2.21: Course for station managers on improvement of communication to decision makers (Month 40)

Bonus activity: Seminar on Geo-politics in the Arctic held at SMF's 5 and 6

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Task 2.5
Cleaner Arctic (Lead: AU)

Milestones and deliverables

M2.22: Survey of resource use and disposal (incl. plastic) at research stations presented at SMF (Month 37)

M2.23: Plastic monitoring programme implemented at four stations (Month 30) – Postponed due to Covid-19 and pause to AMAP activities

D2.10: Checklist for environmentally friendly stations (Month 36)
- To be published soon in a new INTERACT book on reducing environmental impact of arctic research stations

D2.11: Pocket guide on how to reduce plastic consumption and pollution (Month 40)
- To be published soon as a guide book

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Task 2.6
The Arctic Resort (Lead: UKRI)

Milestones and deliverables

M2.24: Evaluation of tourism potential at INTERACT Stations (Month 12)

D2.12: Pocket guide on how to handle effects of tourism at research stations and in adjacent local communities (Month 30)
- Deliverable submitted. Will soon be turned into INTERACT publication

D2.13: Pocket guide for tourist on how to behave around research station, incl. their study areas and local communities (Month 30)
- Deliverable submitted. Will soon be turned into INTERACT publication

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Progress - Milestones

Milestone	Milestone name	Deadline (Month)
M2.1-5	SMF Meeting	3, 13, 25, 37, 48
M2.6-9	Seminars on themes chosen by station managers	3, 13, 25, 37
M2.10	Technical staff workshop	25
M2.11	Workshop on best practices of research infrastructure management with participation of other communities	13
M2.12	Extreme event monitoring field test implemented at minimum four stations	36
M2.13	Rapid biodiversity change monitoring field test implemented at minimum four stations	42
M2.14	Session at SMF on communication and positioning systems	13
M2.15-16	Seminars on state-of-the-art methods/technologies for environmental monitoring	25,37
M2.17	Selection of photos from different stations provided to WP6	12
M2.18	Courses on community based monitoring of local relevance held at schools and/or high schools near four stations	25
M2.19-20	'Open House' thematic days on respectively invasive species and plastic at minimum ten research stations	31, 40
M2.21	Course for station managers on improvement of communication to decision makers	40

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Progress - Deliverables

D2.1 INTERACT GIS with new features (Month 22)

D2.2 Updated digital Station Catalogue integrated in INTERACT GIS (Month 28)

D2.3 Web-editions of updated 'INTERACT Fieldwork Planning Handbook' (Month 35)

D2.4 Web-editions of updated 'Best Practices of Station Management' (Month 48)

D2.5 Updated 'INTERACT Minimum Monitoring Programme' (Month 48)

D2.6 Guide on research permit systems for all arctic countries on INTERACT website (Month 14)

D2.7 Pocket guide on how to reduce CO_2 emissions in Arctic science (Month 26)

D2.8 Pocket guide on metadata standards for scientific networks (Month 29)

D2.9 Repository with selected data from INTERACT stations integrated in INTERACT GIS (Month 44)

D2.10 Checklist for environmentally friendly stations (Month 36)

D2.11 Pocket guide on how to reduce plastic consumption and pollution (Month 40)

D2.12 Pocket guide on how to handle effects of tourism at research stations and in adjacent local communities (Month 30)

D2.13 Pocket guide for tourist on how to behave around research station, incl. their study areas and local communities (Month 30)

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Ways forward

Work is in progress in accordance with the contract (and accepted delays due to Covid-19) and we are on schedule in relation to all tasks, deliverables and milestones.

We prioritize to publish our products as real books, and with the help of our cooperation partners we have been able to produce many more than we are obliged to. We hope to keep on doing that.

We have experienced delays (due to COVID-19) with Arctic Council related tasks, 'Open House arrangements at research stations' (M2.19) and 'Courses on Community Based Monitoring at schools / high schools' (M2.18). Now new deadlines have been set and we are on track to meet these.

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Requirements from others

WP2 is working together with all other workpackages, all station managers and a huge amount of external stakeholders.

We are extremely grateful for the enthusiasm put into the cooperation by everyone.

A modest wish: Please reply before deadline on e-mails from us and please help us to secure that as many research stations as possible participate in surveys, questionnaires etc. That is crucial for the quality of our work.

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Let's INTERACT