

WP 3 Access to the Arctic

Hannele Savela, Thule Institute, University of Oulu
Vanessa Spadetto, 4PM
Kirsi Latola, Thule Institute, University of Oulu



INTERACT III: TA and RA provision in numbers

Access modalities	TA, RA, VA
Stations	52 >> 39 (TA), 33 >> 26 (RA), 29 >> 25 stations (VA)
Person-days offered	6 495
TA/RA Calls	1st (2020), 2nd (2020), 3rd (2021), 4th (2022) 5th (2023)?
Person-days applied	13 844
User Groups applied	298
Person-Days granted	4811
User Groups granted	148 >> 133 (15 projects cancelled)

Current status of TA/RA Use

TA User Projects

Applied	Granted	Reported	Reporting	Accepted	Cancelled (8 to RUS)
298	148 >>133	65 (49%)	42 (32%)	26 (20%)	15

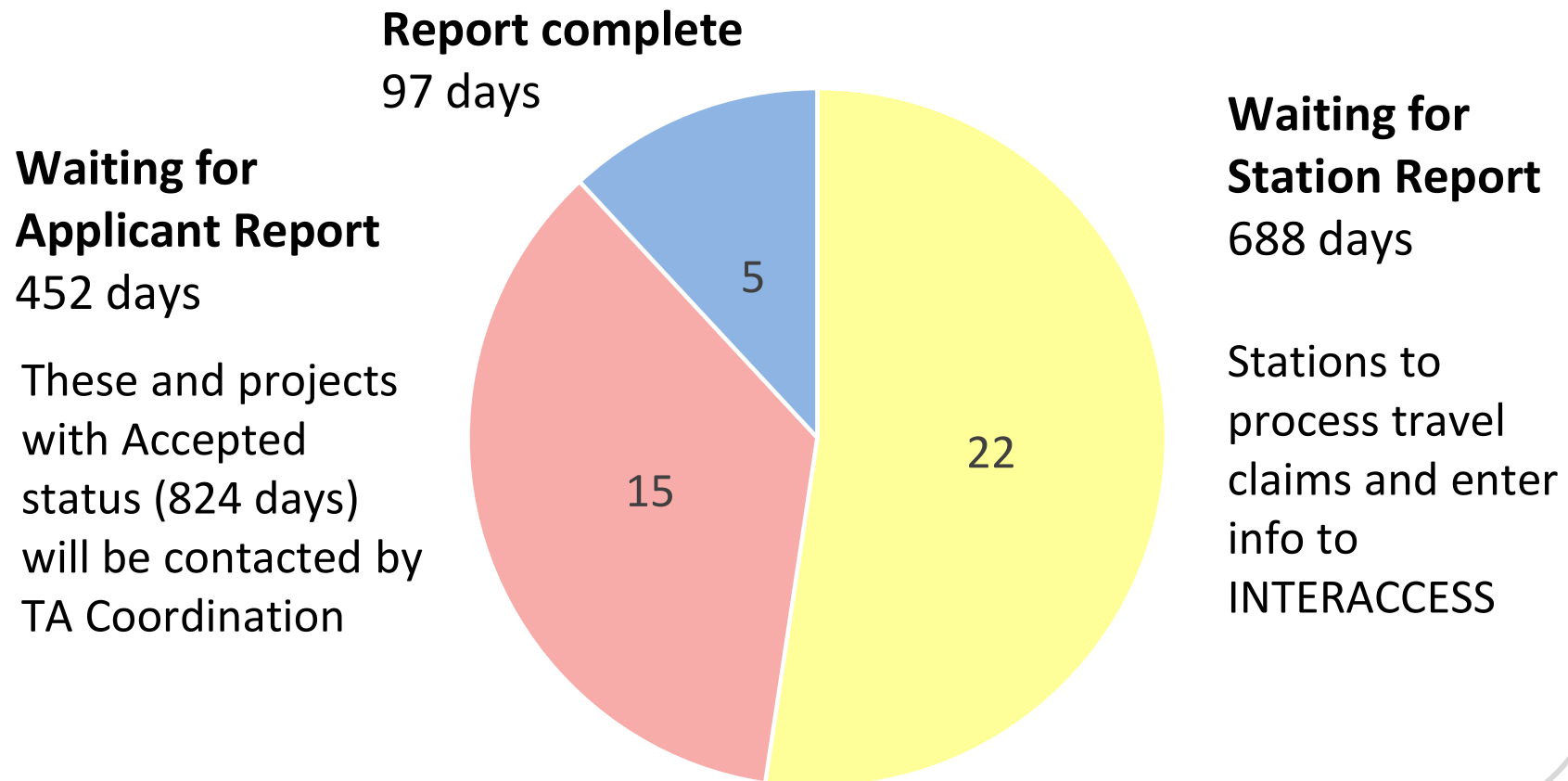
= Projects in the field in 2023

Access Days

Granted days (all projects)	Accepted	Granted/Used (Reporting)	Used (Reported)	Total "bound"
4811 (74% of offered)	874	1478	1781	4133 (85% of granted)

Current status of TA/RA Use

Projects with Reporting status (42 projects)



Significant amount of information –including the 26 projects still in Accepted status– is still missing from INTERACCESS!

Progress since Sept 2022: 2nd Periodic Reporting

- **1885 days of access declared for 73 user groups** (ca. 520 000 EUR as Access Costs, ca. 449 000 EUR as Other Direct Costs)
- **184 users from 22 countries.** 43% females, 57% males. 54% early career, 26% senior. 81% universities, 18% public research institutions, 1% other. Earth Sciences & Environment (80%), Life Sciences & Biotech (13 %). Chemistry, Engineering & Technology, Physics (2), Mathematics (1%).
- **Feedback:** 90% of TA Users had excellent or good experience, 100% would recommend TA.
- **Only 12 publications** reported by TA Users (only five journal articles so far). COVID effect + lack in reporting publications? >> [SCITES.ai/ORCID](https://scites.ai/orcid) could help
- **ca. 129 000 EUR declared as VA** related costs (24 PM, ca. 120 500 EUR as Personnel Costs, ca. 8700 EUR as Other Direct Cost)

Expenditure of TA/RA budget so far

TA/RA projects	Access costs	ODC
Declared in 2nd PR	524 000 EUR	449 600 EUR
Projects 2023*	883 600 EUR	713 800 EUR
Total used/bound	1.407.600 (~90%)	1.163.400 (~60%)
TA/RA Budget INTERACT III**	1.559.008€	1.982 726€

**Incl. already reported costs when applicable and granted costs for projects where stations have not entered costs to INTERACCESS yet. Estimated costs of postponed projects from 2020-2022, conducted in 2023 also added here. >> OVERESTIMATION*

*** Total INTERACT III TA/RA Budget 4.037.416 € (incl. OH 25%)*

Progress since Sept 2022: TA User Community Activities

- TA User Community Meeting 2 at ASSW2023 20.02.2023
- Webinar for Data Managers 29.3.2023
- Webinar for Station Managers and Administrators 10.01. and 18.04.2023
- Webinar for TA/RA Users 25.04.2023
- INTERACT Arctic Research Blogs -layout updated
- Social media activities

Arctic Research Blogs



Watching the last remnants of sunlight bathe the mountain peaks in rouge alpenglow with my line in the water makes me nostalgic for my childhood summer days spent fishing on sylvan lakes.

Arctic Research Blogs

In the short time we have been here we have been fortunate enough to meet and be welcomed by many local people and talk with them about their Arctic home and their perceptions of pollution and climate change. We were treated to a traditional fire lighting ceremony from a local elder and throat singing from Kalinda and Victoria during a visit from the Canadian Minister for Northern Affairs, the honourable Dan Vandal.

Pausing, I rummage through my gear to find a large melt pool.

Stories from the field

Blogs on TA experience are posted by scientists that are using the opportunity to do field work through INTERACT granted Transnational Access. They explain their research activities, gives insights on the fieldwork procedures and describe the adventure of getting to remote areas and pristine locations to do their research.

[READ BLOGS FROM THE FIELD →](#)



Research findings

The 500+ projects granted by INTERACT resulted in outstanding scientific publications.

Learn more about scientific outcomes of worldclass level research on Arctic, Environment and Life sciences in the section *Research*.

[LEARN THE SCIENCE →](#)



Progress since Sept 2022: Virtual Access Provision

- **15 VA providers in Data Portal** (out of 25)
- **Two new VA providers**
 - Sonnblick Observatory (GeoSphere Austria)
 - Kainuu Fisheries Research Station (LUKE)
- **Adding of two new VA providers** in progress
- **VA promotion** campaigns (Sept-Oct 2022, new starting in autumn 2023)



Kainuu Fisheries Research Station



Sonnblick Observatory

<https://dataportal.eu-interact.org/>

WP3 Milestones

Milestone number ¹⁸	Milestone title	Lead beneficiary	Due Date (in months)	Means of verification
MS31	M3.1 INTERACCESS help-desk v2 operational and in use	4 - UOULU	1	Help-desk operational and in use
MS32	M3.2 TA User Group and access modality selection process refined in collaboration with SMF	4 - UOULU	3	Flow-chart on access modality selection completed
MS33	M3.3 Transnational Access in operation	4 - UOULU	4	First TA Call announced
MS34	M3.4 INTERACCESS system updates (TINDERACT – tool, Station Administrator Interface, Key Indicator statistics) operational and in use	4 - UOULU	9	System updates operational and in use
MS35	M3.5 TA Ambassadors nominated and in operation	4 - UOULU	12	TA Ambassadors nominated and in operation
MS36	M3.6 VA single-entry point v2 in place and operating	4 - UOULU	22	VA single-entry point v2 launched and in operation

M3.1-M3.6 reached already previously

WP3 Milestones

MS37	M3.7 TA User Community meeting 1	4 - UOULU	24	TA User Community meeting 1 arranged and minutes available
MS38	M3.8 INTERACCESS metadata description template/form ready and in use	4 - UOULU	24	Metadata description template operational and in use in INTERACCESS
MS39	M3.9 TA User-community meeting 2	4 - UOULU	26	TA User Community meeting 2 arranged and minutes available
MS40	M3.10 e-library of TA related materials (Q&A, info materials, webinar recordings) operational	4 - UOULU	12	e-library available for users on the INTERACT website

Reached in Feb 2023

M3.7, M3.8 and M3.9 reached already previously.



WP3 Deliverables

- **D3.1** TA and VA Quality Assurance Programme (M12) **DONE**
- **D3.2** How to get the data? INTERACT Metadata Tag Pilot Technical Manual (M23) **DONE**
- **D3.3** Virtual Access Assessment Report 1 (M24) **DONE**
- **D3.4** Virtual Access Assessment Report 2 (M48)
- **D3.5** Report on TA and Scientific Publications (M48)
- **D3.6** Report (unit) of Access Delivery (M48)
- **D3.7** Business plan for INTERACCESS commercial use (M48)

D3.4-D3.7 due in the end of INTERACT III. Timing depends on the possible extension of project period.



Next Steps and requirements from others: Stations offering TA/RA

Applying extension to INTERACT III for 12 months (until end of 2024)

Opening of TA/RA call for 2024 immediately if/when extension granted

>> Notify hannele.savela@oulu.fi by 30th Sept if your station will not attend the call.

Reporting of access used in 2023:

>> Remind TA/RA projects to submit their project reports from 2023 AND claim travel costs as soon as possible.

>> Add used days and reimbursed travel costs to INTERACCESS as soon as possible so that we know the real situation of access use and can utilize the Access Pool if extension is granted.

Thanks for your collaboration!

LET'S CONTINUE TO INTERACT!



www.eu-interact.org

<https://dataportal.eu-interact.org/>

Contact us:

Hannele Savela hannele.savela@oulu.fi

Vanessa Spadetto

Aim of WP3:

Offer free-of-charge TA, RA and VA to world-class infrastructures for world-class research

TA: Free of charge, trans-national access to research infrastructure for selected user groups, including the logistical, technological and scientific support usually provided to external researchers using the infrastructure.

RA: Infrastructure is conducting the study / collecting the samples / doing the monitoring for the user(s) according to their research plan.

VA: free and open access to data from infrastructures, without selection or evaluation process. Offered at ITERAC Data Portal, <http://dataportal.eu-interact.org/>





Current status of TA/RA Use

Projects with Reporting status (42 projects, s/s 2023)

Stations

Total No. of Stations: 29

Stations hosted TA User Projects so far: 24

Users

Total users: 129 (from the TA/RA user group listing of projects with reporting status)

Users actually travelling to stations: 101 (22 already visited)