

Project acronym: N2O-FLUX

Project title: Nitrous oxide exchange in a permafrost dominated region

Project leader: Ivan Mammarella, University of Helsinki, Finland

Discipline: Earth Sciences & Environment: Global change & Climate observation

Station(s): Abisko Scientific Research Station (Sweden)

Research on nitrous oxide (N2O) dynamics is still getting much less attention than research on carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4) in arctic region, even though evidence is mounting that N2O emissions can be high from permafrost-affected soils. The project N2O-FLUX aims at significantly advancing this field by establishing the first Arctic research site where N2O fluxes are measured continuously at high frequency using eddy-covariance technique. The measurements will provide also the first continuous data on N2O over the critical shoulder (spring, fall) and winter seasons from an Arctic site, which are known to be important in the annual N2O fluxes in northern soils. The site chosen (Abisko-Stordalen mire in Sweden) is strategically excellent hosting permafrost peatlands, the largest N2O emitters known from the Arctic, and it is an ICOS site, which bears the potential for long-term N2O observations over a thawing permafrost landscape. The project utilizes efficiently existing infrastructure, know-how and datasets. Nowadays it is important to deliver new scientific understanding and societal values with limited extra costs and infrastructure needs. The new dataset and results will be used to advance process-based models at regional and global scales and will contribute to clarify the role of northern permafrost regions in the global N cycle in present and future.