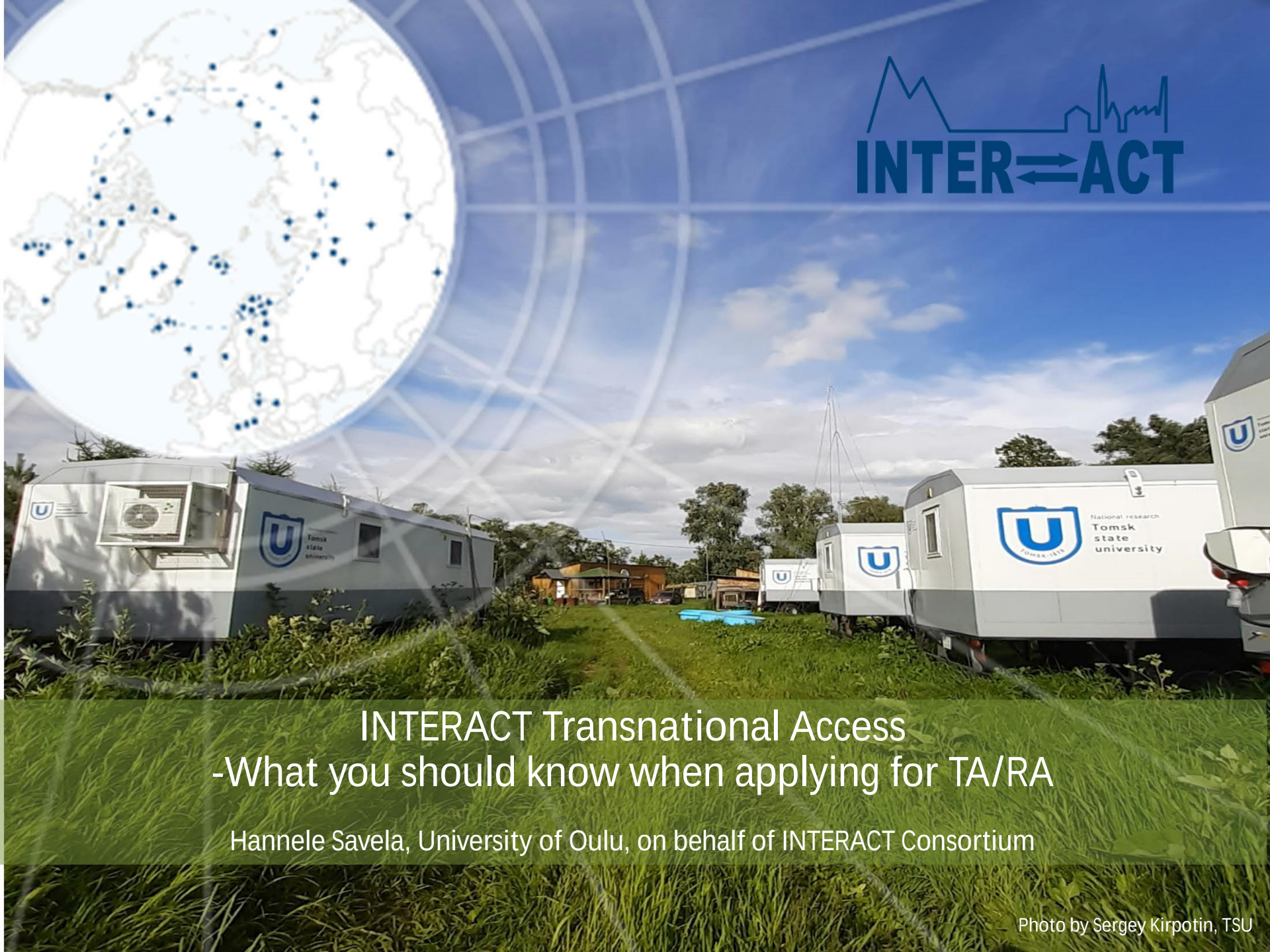


INTERACT Transnational Access
-What you should know when applying for TA/RA

Hannele Savela, University of Oulu, on behalf of INTERACT Consortium

Photo by Sergey Kirpotin, TSU

Content of the webinar

- INTERACT in a nutshell
- Transnational Access & Remote Access
- Eligibility of the applicant for TA/RA
  - Application process & INTERACCESS application system
  - Evaluation process & Selection priorities
  - Typical weaknessess in applications
- What happens after the TA/RA decisions?
- COVID-19 and granted access
- ”To-do-list” for the applicant
- Q&A

The International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

86 research stations

EU-H2020 Infrastructures (10 M€), 2020-2023
63 consortium partners in 19 countries
Building capacity for monitoring, research and education throughout the Arctic

Transnational Access: support for world-class science
Station Managers' Forum: sharing best practices
International Networking: collaboration to build capacity
Joint Research Activities: extreme weather events, transport and communication, open data, improving education and awareness, documenting and reducing pollution, beneficts and impacts of Arctic tourism
Outreach: sharing information and experiences

HORIZON 2020

INTERACT

Transnational Access

Photo: Rúna Magnusson

Free access to research infrastructures and installations

53 research stations, 6495 person-days

Maximum TA is 90 days per user group in 2020-2023

What is realistic in terms of TA: 1-3 persons, 1-3 stations, 500 EUR – 15 000 EUR

Eligibility
>TA to User Groups, where majority of users is not from EU Member state or associated state is limited to 20% on the consortium level
>Trans-national; scientists are not eligible to their ”national infrastructures” located or operated by same country where they are working and residing

Remote Access

Photo: Jan Kavan

- Modality of Transnational Access
- Station staff collects the samples according to the research plan
- 33 stations, 670 staff-days
- Logistic costs reimbursed
- Same application and evaluation process with TA
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Suitable for multi-station and comparative approach, but requires simple set-up

INTERACT

Eligibility for TA/RA

Scientists are not eligible for TA to their ”national infrastuctures”

- Scientists working and residing in Denmark > not eligible to Greenlandic stations operated by Danish institutions
- Scientists working and residing in Czech Republic > not eligible to Czech Arctic Research Station in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in UK > not eligible to NERC Arctic Research Station in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in Poland > not eligible to Polish Polar Station in Hornsund in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in Germany > not eligible to Station Samoylov in Russia

Application process

Photo: Arctic Live Team / NERC UK AS

- Call open until 15th Oct for access taking place between April 2021 – March 2022 >> COVID-19 effect 52 stations for TA, 33 for RA
- Call annoucement and guidelines at www.eu-interact.org
- INTERACCESS on-line application system www.eu-interaccess.org
- Eligibility check, evaluation by TA Board
- TA Board makes TA recommendations
- Stations make TA decisions
- Decisions announced in Feb 2021

INTERACCESS

- Prepare and submit your application in INTERACCESS
- https://eu-interaccess.org
- Read the ”Information for Applicants” and ”Application Manual”
- Includes the whole TA application, evaluation and reporting process

INTER⇄ACT

Evaluation Criteria

- Each application is graded for several evaluation criteria: 1) Scientific quality of the planned research, 2) Scientific merits of the user group leader, 3) Relevance of the planned research for INTERACT goals, and 4) Value for money.
- Each criteria is scored from 1-5, where 1=poor, 2=satisfactory, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent.
- Ranking of applications is based on the total scores (max. 20)
- TA Board recommends user groups for TA to the research stations
- Stations make the TA decisions based on the recommendations, feasibility of the projects at the station, station strategy and focus areas etc.

Selection priorities

The evaluation of user groups is based on the evaluation criteria, but taking into account that priority should be given to user groups who…

- Have not previously used the installation
- Are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists >> justification asked
- Apply working at more than one location for generating comparative studies
- To early career scientists (≤ 5 years from a PhD degree)

Typical weaknesses in applications

- The application instructions have not been read/followed
  - Eligibility
  - Budgeting
  - Length and form of the required appendixes
- Applicant has not done his/her homework on what has already been done on the topic at the station/region
- The importance/novelty of the applied research is not clearly justified
- The feasibility of the applied study to the station has not been checked
  - Travel and logistic arrangements
  - Amount of days needed
  - Required facilities
  - Local conditions (phenology, species etc)

    >> You can contact the station to ask for the feasibility beforehand!!!

What happens after TA/RA decisions?

- TA/RA decisions are sent to applicants via INTERACCESS
  - Granted person-days of TA/RA
  - Amount of Travel and Logistic costs
  - Applicants Accept/Reject the granted access
- TA User Community
  - Webinar for information
  - TA User Group Facebook group for discussions and practical questions
  - TA User community meetings on-line and back to back with congresses etc.
- Before the TA visit
  - TA users make their travel arrangements, freight, licenses, permits, insurances, visa etc. themselves, but in consultation with stations and WP5
- After the TA visit
  - Project report submitted in INTERACCESS
  - Travel and logistic costs are reimbursed after the visit by the stations, based on actual direct costs

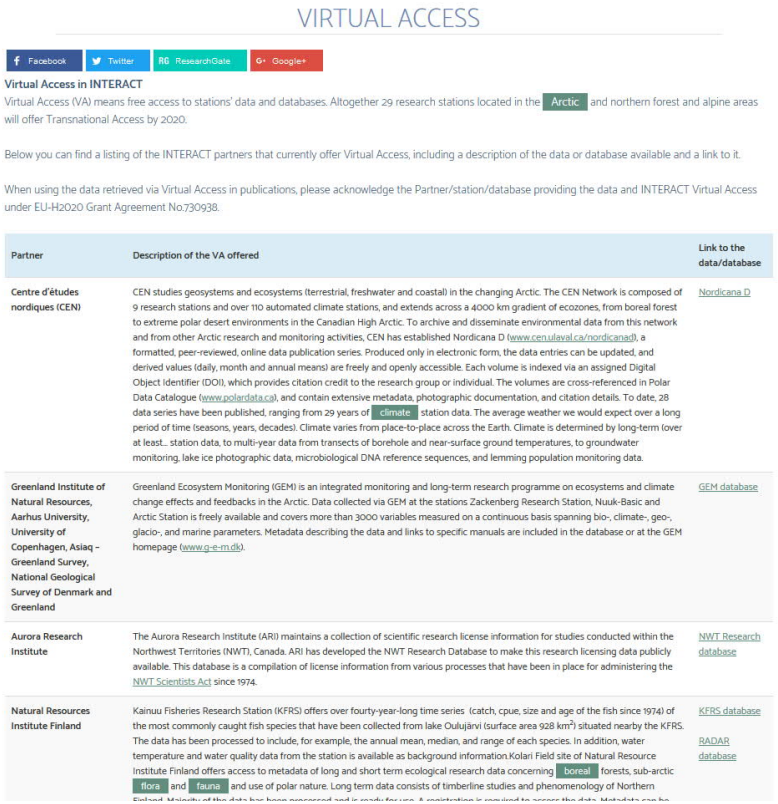
COVID-19 and TA

- Call, evaluation, and access decisions take place on a regular manner
- National/regional regulations on travel and safety followed
- If necessary, possible to postpone the granted access or negotiate a shift from physical TA to RA
  - Transferable/refundable flights
  - Travel insurance
- TA User contacts the station to agree on the possible postponement of shift of access modality with station
  - TA Coordination informed about the postponement and new estimated timing / shift of access modality from TA to RA

Applicant ”To-do-list”

1) Visit TA/RA Call pages at www.eu-interact.org > Read call information and instructions carefully
2) Register to INTERACCESS > Read Information for Applicants and Application Manual > Prepare and submit TA application
3) Find out information about the station, where you are applying to
   a) www.eu-interact.org > Field Sites (station info), Infrastructures (stations available for TA/RA)
   b) Contact the station manager to ask about feasibility and possibly required permitting etc.
4) Check your eligibility for TA to the station(s) where you plan to apply
5) Learn what has already been done on the topic at the station/region > build on that
6) Clearly justify the importance/novelty of the applied research
7) Check your budget > read budgeting info from ”Information for Applicants”

Virtual Access



VIRTUAL ACCESS

Facebook Twitter ResearchGate Google+

Virtual Access in INTERACT

Virtual Access (VA) means free access to stations' data and databases. Altogether 29 research stations located in the Arctic and northern forest and alpine areas will offer Transnational Access by 2020.

Below you can find a listing of the INTERACT partners that currently offer Virtual Access, including a description of the data or database available and a link to it.

When using the data retrieved via Virtual Access in publications, please acknowledge the Partner/station/database providing the data and INTERACT Virtual Access under EU-H2020 Grant Agreement No.730938.

Partner	Description of the VA offered	Link to the data/database
Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)	CEN studies geosystems and ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater and coastal) in the changing Arctic. The CEN Network is composed of 9 research stations and over 110 automated climate stations, and extends across a 4000 km gradient of ecozones, from boreal forest to extreme polar desert environments in the Canadian High Arctic. To archive and disseminate environmental data from this network and from other Arctic research and monitoring activities, CEN has established Nordicana D (www.cen.ulaval.ca/nordicanad), a formatted, peer-reviewed, online data publication series. Produced only in electronic form, the data entries can be updated, and derived values (daily, month and annual means) are freely and openly accessible. Each volume is indexed via an assigned Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which provides citation credit to the research group or individual. The volumes are cross-referenced in Polar Data Catalogue (www.polardata.ca), and contain extensive metadata, photographic documentation, and citation details. To date, 28 data series have been published, ranging from 29 years of climate station data. The average weather we would expect over a long period of time (seasons, years, decades). Climate varies from place-to-place across the Earth. Climate is determined by long-term (over at least... station data, to multi-year data from transects of borehole and near-surface ground temperatures, to groundwater monitoring, lake ice photographic data, microbiological DNA reference sequences, and lemming population monitoring data.	Nordicana D
Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen, Asiaq – Greenland Survey, National Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland	Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) is an integrated monitoring and long-term research programme on ecosystems and climate change effects and feedbacks in the Arctic. Data collected via GEM at the stations Zackenberg Research Station, Nuuk-Basic and Arctic Station is freely available and covers more than 3000 variables measured on a continuous basis spanning bio-, climate-, geo-, glacio-, and marine parameters. Metadata describing the data and links to specific manuals are included in the database or at the GEM homepage (www.g-e-m.dk).	GEM database
Aurora Research Institute	The Aurora Research Institute (ARI) maintains a collection of scientific research license information for studies conducted within the Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada. ARI has developed the NWT Research Database to make this research licensing data publicly available. This database is a compilation of license information from various processes that have been in place for administering the NWT Scientists Act since 1974.	NWT Research database
Natural Resources Institute Finland	Kainuu Fisheries Research Station (KFRS) offers over fourty-year-long time series (catch, cpue, size and age of the fish since 1974) of the most commonly caught fish species that have been collected from lake Oulujärvi (surface area 928 km^2) situated nearby the KFRS. The data has been processed to include, for example, the annual mean, median, and range of each species. In addition, water temperature and water quality data from the station is available as background information.Kolari Field site of Natural Resource Institute Finland offers access to metadata of long and short term ecological research data concerning boreal forests, sub-arctic flora and fauna and use of polar nature. Long term data consists of timberline studies and phenomenology of Northern	KFRS database RADAR database

- Free and open access to data and metadata
- INTERACT Virtual Access single-entry point
- Offered by 32 partners in INTERACT III (18 at the moment)
- No application process >> registration and acknowledgements
- Unique retrospective/historical data made available
- Can supplement data obtained with TA/RA

Apply INTERACT TA to conduct research at the coolest places of the North!

www.eu-interact.org

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